Introduction

Jesus was a master storyteller.

He taught using parables. A parable can be:

- A story like the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son.
- An illustration like the new and old wineskins, the mustard seed or putting a lamp under a bowl.
- A saying or proverb like “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”
- 35% of Jesus teaching was done in parables.

The purpose of a parable is to capture attention and teach spiritual truth.

When interpreting a parable, don’t press all the details. Look for the main point.

Most of Jesus’ parables are about the kingdom of God.


It is like a wedding.

The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked him a question about fasting.

- They fasted two days a week.
- They prayed seven times a day.
- They avoided all contact with sinners and tax collectors.

John and his disciples also fasted, but John was the last of the OT prophets.

Then Jesus comes along. He goes to weddings. He eats with tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus answers their question with a parable. “Can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?”

What is perhaps more surprising is Jesus’ comparison of himself to the bridegroom.

“The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them.”

II. The Kingdom of God is dynamic and powerful. Luke 5:36-38

It cannot be contained in old forms.
Jesus gives them two examples (parables).

- New and old garments.
- New and old wineskins.

New wine must be poured into new wineskins.

Jesus’ point is that the new covenant is so different from the old that it calls for new ways of doing things.

Jesus wasn’t starting something completely new with no connection to the past.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5:17

- Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the Law by living a sinless life in obedience to the Father’s will.
- Jesus offered himself as the perfect Lamb of God, once for all, in fulfillment of the Law’s requirement to atone for our sin.

III. The Kingdom of God brings change. Luke 5:39

Jesus’ mission is a radical break from the old covenant forms of worship.

- No more animal or grain sacrifices.
- No more unclean foods.
- No more Sabbath restrictions.

We who believe in Jesus are now that temple where God dwells. I Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19-20

We have received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 and Romans 8:9

The New Covenant is better. There is freedom, joy, and forgiveness.

Some do not like that or want to change.

Conclusion

What matters most is our heart.

Forms of worship and evangelism may change, but the gospel never changes.

Live as kingdom people.

- With Joy
- With Power
- With the Holy Spirit’s leading.