

(Vincent van Gogh, the Sower)

ANDREASCOURSE-7

Week 7: ´Parables from Jesus´
Parables in the Gospel according to Luke.

Leafing through the Gospel

If you skim through the Gospel according to Luke briefly, you will notice how many remarkable events happen following the appearance of Jesus in Israel around the year 30. We find many stories about healing, the recovery of people from sickness and bondage, 'picture-stories' Jesus told (parables), and important parts of the lessons he gave as a rabbi (itinerant teacher).

Luke, by the way, is the only evangelist who tells something about the youth of Jesus: his visit to the temple when he was 12 years of age (Luke 2: 39-52). Besides that we hardly know anything about his early years. In the 2nd and 3rd century different, so-called apocryphal Gospels appeared, which deal with the early years of Jesus. These books, referred to in 'the DaVinci code', a book written by Dan Brown, were rejected by the early church because they contained too much fantasy. The focus of all the Gospels is on the birth of Christ and the period of 3 years when he travelled through the country.
Luke emphasizes the suffering and dying that awaits Jesus in Jerusalem in the second half of his Gospel. The description of the last journey Jesus takes to Jerusalem starts at Luke 9: 51.

It is tempting to go into detail about all the events concerning Jesus, and to explain parables (not always that easy…), but it's more valuable to find out more about them on your own. We will make a start with the parables.

A selection of the parables of Jesus.

Below are the passages where we'll find the most important (but not all) parables. Chose one or two and let them 'travel' with you for the next week, reading and rereading, putting question- and exclamation marks in the text. If you need more specific questions, on the following page there are 5 more questions to give you a better focus on the parables of your interest. You may bring 'your' parable to the group discussion on the next course evening.



Rembrandt van Rijn: 'The prodigal son'

1. Luke 8: 4-15 The seed in the good and bad soil.
2. ,, 10: 25–37 The good Samaritan;
3. ,, 12: 13–21 The rich fool;
4. ,, 14: 15–24 The invitation to the feast;
5. ,, 15: Three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal and his brother;
6. Luke 20:9–18. The wicked tenants.

More about Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke:

´Questions about Jesus´
'Who do men say that I am?'

At one time Jesus asked the disciples: 'Who do people say that I am?' and then He asked: 'But who do you say that I am?' (Luke 9: 18). Think about the question Jesus asked his disciples as if the question were put to you.

Miracles in the Gospel according to Luke (a selection)

Luke 5: 1 –11 Miraculous catch of fish, Jesus calls the First disciples;
,, 8: 22–25 Jesus calms a storm;
,, 13:10–17 Jesus heals a crippled woman;
,, 17:11–13 Jesus cleanses ten lepers;

Special moments in the teaching of Jesus (a selection).

Luke 6:17–31 Part of the Sermon of the Mount;
,, 9:18–27 Who is Jesus? The first announcement by Jesus of His suffering.
,, 9:57–62 How to follow Jesus;
,, 11:1–13 How to pray;
,, 13:22–30 The narrow door;
,, 14:25–35 Again about how to follow Jesus;
,, 18:18–30 About coping with poverty and wealth;
,, 19: 1–10 The turnaround in the life of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector.

Below five questions you can ask yourself when you read text passages from the Gospel. If possible pray for concentration and clarity. Look for connections with you own life.

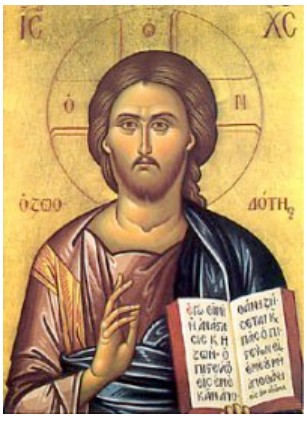
1. What does this passage tell you about people?

2. What does this passage tell you about Jesus?

3. Does this passage tell you (implicitly) anything about God or the Holy Spirit??

4. What is the parable about in your opinion? Why do you think it is being told?

5. Where does this passage touch you, where do you find connections with your own life?



Who is Jesus...?

