



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BSCM4355-0030: Parables of Jesus

Fall 2015

Monday: 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

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The mission of Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Mission Focus*:

“We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local Church and its ministries.”

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to Jesus’ teachings in parables. After an examination of introductory matters, the class time will be devoted to the interpretation of selected parables as they are found in the New Testament. This interpretation will include an examination of the use of the parables in the gospels, the life situation of the parables, an exegesis of the text, and the application of the parables for today.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the synoptic problem and its relationship to the interpretation of the parables.
 2. Understand the use of parables in the New Testament.
 3. Be able to interpret the parables according to their context and life situation.
 4. Be challenged to apply the truths from the parables to their own lives.
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Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1990.
Stein, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1981.

The following textbooks are optional:

Blomberg, Craig L. *Matthew*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
Brooks, James A. *Mark*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.
Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Participation/Quizzes: The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. Students should come to class prepared to discuss and interact with the material assigned for each class session. Students will be evaluated as to their active participation in class each week. This includes quizzes over the reading.

1. The student is required to read the assigned material before coming to class. For each parable studied, the student must read the section in Stein and Blomberg dealing with the parable. Students should take pertinent notes from the texts for the notebook. The reading log attached to the syllabus must be completed and turned in the last day of class to demonstrate the completion of this assignment.
2. Each student will prepare a modern day parable based upon one of the following parables: Weather Signs (Lk. 12:54-56), Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), Mustard Seed (Mk. 4:30-32). The student should be careful to be faithful to the original purpose and focus of the parable. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on September 10th.
3. Each student will write a parable brief concerning one of the following parables: Marriage Feast or Lost Sheep. The brief will contain an explanation of the context of the parable as found in the gospels, pertinent information concerning the situation in life, an exegesis of the parable, and the main point of the teaching as well as secondary points. The brief is due on October 15 in the Leavell College office. A five point late penalty will be assessed for everyday late.
4. Each student will find a journal article about one of the parables to be discussed in class and write an article summary. The summary should be one page single spaced and should include a brief summary, strengths, and weaknesses of the article. The article review is due at the beginning of class November 19th.
5. The student will turn in class notes to be checked for completeness. The notebook should contain notes from the texts and class and is to be turned in on the last day of class. The notebook will be returned to the student on the same day.
6. Each student will complete a final on December 10th.

Course Evaluation/Grading

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- 10% Class participation
- 10% Modern day parable
- 10% Class notebook
- 15% Journal article review
- 15% Final Exam
- 20% Reading log
- 20% Parable brief

NOBTS Grading Scale

- A 93100
- B 8592
- C 7784
- D 7076
- F 69 or below

Course Outline

August 27th

Introduction to the course Synoptic problem Introductions to the Gospels
Stein, pp. 1-72; Blomberg, pp. 1-69 (must be read by the night of first class)

September 3rd

Introduction to the Parables
The Good Samaritan Lk. 10:25-37
Parable of the Soils Mk. 4:1-9, 13-20
Stein, pp. 72-81

September 10th

Lamp Under a Bushel Mk. 4:21-23
Parable of the Measure Mk. 4:24-25
Stein, pp. 72-81

September 17th

The Great Supper Lk. 14:15-24
Wedding Feast and Fasting Mk. 2:18-20
Patch and Wineskins Mk. 2:21-22
Mustard Seed Mk. 4:30-32
Leaven Mt. 13:33
Stein, pp. 82-97

September 24th

Weather Signs Lk. 12:54-56
Divided House Mk. 3:22-27
Hidden Treasure and the Pearl Mt. 13:44-46
Unjust Steward Lk. 16:1-18
Stein, pp. 98-114

October 1st

Marriage Feast Mt. 22:1-14
Gracious Father Lk. 15:11-32
Gracious Employer Mt. 20:1-16
Stein, pp. 115-129

October 8th

Wheat and the Tares Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43
The Great Net Mt. 13:47-50
Sheep and Goats Mt. 25:31-46
Stein, pp. 130-147

October 15th

Lost Sheep Luke 15:4-10
Lost Coin
Stein, pp. 130-147

October 29th

The Two Debtors Lk. 7:41-50
The Two Sons Mt. 21:28-32
Faithful and Unfaithful Servants Mt. 24:45-51

November 5th

Ten Virgins Mt. 25:1-13
Rich Man and Lazarus Lk. 16:19-31
Children in the Marketplace Mt. 11:16-19

November 12th

Talents and Pounds Mt. 25:14-30
Unforgiving Servant Mt. 18:21-35
Evil Tenants Mk. 12:1-12

November 19th

Pharisee and Publican Lk. 18:9-14
Rich Fool Lk. 12:13-21
Friend at Midnight Lk. 11:5-13

December 3rd

December 10th
Final Exam

Additional Course Information

Attendance: The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. The class will adhere to the attendance policy stated in the seminary catalog. Any student missing more than nine hours will automatically fail the class, unless excused by the Dean of Leavell College. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Appropriate Online/Classroom Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in the classroom setting as well as online in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the academic environment.

Computer/Phone Usage Policy: Laptops are to be closed or used appropriately during class, and phones are not to be used unless directed by the professor.

Academic Honesty Policy: All NOBTS students are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies when a student is taking quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Schedule: Course schedule is subject to change during the semester. The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule and course requirements as needed for the purpose of enhancing the student learning process

If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Selected Bibliography

- Black, David Alan, and David R. Beck, eds. Rethinking the Synoptic Problem. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Blomberg, Craig L. Interpreting the Parables. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1990.
- . Matthew. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Brooks, James A. Mark. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.
- Dungan, David L. A History of the Synoptic Problem: The Canon, the Text, the Composition and the Interpretation of the Gospels. New York: Doubleday, 1999.
- Jeremias, Joachim. The Parables of Jesus. 2d rev. ed. Trans. S. H. Hooke. New York: Scribner, 1972.
- Kistemaker, Simon J. The Parables of Jesus. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1983.

- Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Scott, Bernard Brandon. Hear then the Parable: a Commentary on the Parables of Jesus. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Stein, Robert H. An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1981.
- . Luke. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Wenham, David. The Parables of Jesus. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989.