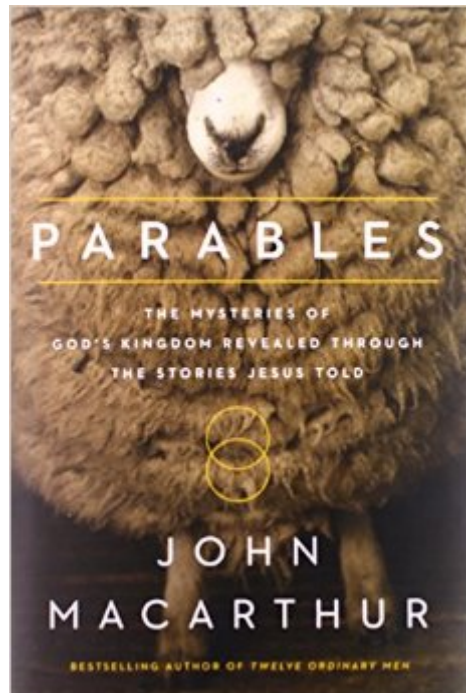


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# Parables: The Mysteries Of God's Kingdom Revealed Through The Stories Jesus Told



## Synopsis

Pastor-teacher John MacArthur helps readers understand Jesus's parables and how they relate to the whole of His message. Jesus was a master storyteller, and the parables He told were ingeniously simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons. Understanding the parables is a crucial matter for followers of Jesus. Jesus told parables so His people might comprehend His message about the kingdom of God clearly. Master expositor and Bible commentator John MacArthur has spent a lifetime explaining the Word of God in clear and comprehensible terms. In *Parables* he helps Christians understand the essential lessons contained in the most famous and influential short stories the world has ever known.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John MacArthur is a study in consistency. Through more than forty-five years of public ministry he has simply taught the Bible. And the more he simply teaches the Bible, the more his audience and his influence grow and expand. In those years he has taught (and written commentaries) on every book of the New Testament while publishing dozens of bestselling books. His most recent book, *Parables*, is vintage John MacArthur. This new book shows how Jesus used parables to reveal the unfolding mystery of God's kingdom. MacArthur does this by teaching through a series of Jesus's most prominent and powerful parables (though, because he has already written an entire book on Jesus's best-known parable, he passes over *The Prodigal Son*). In each case he describes the context in which Jesus delivered the parable, he explains what Jesus meant to

accomplish, and he shows what it teaches about God and his kingdom. It is just what MacArthur doesâ€”sound, helpful, quality Bible teaching. But before he does any of this, he invests some up-front effort in helping the reader understand the very literary form of the parable. What is a parable? We probably know one when we see one, especially in the gospels. But how many can define it? The most distinct marker of a parable is that it uses illustration and comparison to teach a spiritual lesson. MacArthur says, â€œA parable is an ingeniously simple word picture illuminating a profound spiritual lesson.â€• A parable always makes a comparison between something commonplace and some truth in the spiritual realm. Jesus did not invent the form, though certainly he mastered it like no one else before or since.

Parables, by John MacArthur, promised a look at Jesus's storytelling approach to teaching and how the parables relate to his overall message. I jumped on board as part of my 2016 #onelittleword (which happens to be "seek"). But this is one of those books that I'm not sure how to react to. I liked the way this book approached the discussion of Jesus' parables: by topic/theme rather than by book and verse. It's a slightly different way of looking at it, and sometimes different makes all the difference. The thing I liked best about the book was the explanation of why Jesus used parables--why he would have wanted to wrap the truth in such a way that it would be hidden from some people and not from others (see Matthew, chapter 13). MacArthur clearly lays out the fault of false belief and purposely hardened heart that the pharisees were guilty of and how it relates to their reception of the truth Jesus came to share. Thumbs up on that! In general, however, I don't think the book was a good fit for me. It's not a bad book--it's well written, has solid information, and is an engaging read. But the author seems to be speaking mostly to readers who teach and preach rather than the average man or woman. The introduction of the book is entirely focused on traditional (and according to the author, inadequate) ways of teaching the parables--if you decide to read the book, you can safely skip ahead. Later, as the parables themselves are talked about, the author stays away from direct life application and instead provides a lot of contextual information--great if you're going to teach a parable in a sermon or class, merely interesting otherwise.

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