

Parables of Luke Bible Study

October 3 - November 21



This year, for our annual fall Bible study, the worship committee chose to take a closer look at some of the parables found in the book of Luke. Our last series on *Seeking Justice* began with Luke 4 and Jesus' proclamation that the Spirit of the Lord had anointed him to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release and recovery.

The parables of Luke are one way of answering the question: What does justice look like in the Kingdom of God? It looks like mustard seeds and dishonest managers, lost sheep and persistent widows. How might these familiar stories sound different to us in this moment? Amy-Jill Levine, in her book "Short stories by Jesus" writes, "Too often we settle for easy interpretations, we should be nice like the good Samaritan, we will be forgiven as will the prodigal son, we should pray and not lose heart like the importuning widow..." If we stop with the easy lessons, we lose the way Jesus' first followers would have heard the parables, and we lose the genius of Jesus' teaching. We might be better off thinking less about what they "mean" and more about what they can "do": remind, provoke, refine, confront, disturb..." How might the parables of Jesus help us to see the world in a different way, to be challenged and perhaps even indicted? What might they reveal to us about the Kingdom of God? And how can we playfully hear these stories anew?

We will continue to worship at 9:30am in the parking lot for this series as long as the weather is tolerable. Sunday school for youth and children will begin after worship, and will last for 30 minutes. Adults are encouraged to stick around and drink coffee during Sunday school.

If the weather prevents us from meeting in the parking lot, the worship service will be livestreamed on Zoom at 9:30, and Sunday school will still happen at the meetinghouse from 11-11:30am.

During our church retreat at Camp Friedenswald on Oct 10, all are welcome to join us for outdoor worship under a tent at 10:30am. If you plan to join for lunch at camp, or any other meals Saturday or Sunday, or you want lodging, please register by Sept 26 using this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/W5s8n9siy9iGtaB88>

Date	Text	Theme	Homily	Extras
10/3	Luke 14:16-24	Feast Parable	Lora Nafziger	Surprise Luncheons World Communion Sunday
10/10	All the parables		No preacher	Camp Friedenswald, 10:30 a.m.
10/17	Luke 18:1-8	The Widow and the Judge	Karl Shelly	
10/24	Luke 10:25-37	Good Samaritan	Jon Zirkle	

10/31	Luke 16:19-31	A Rich Man and Lazarus	Scott Coulter	All Saints Remembrance
11/7	Luke 15	Lost Coin, Lost Sheep, Lost Son	Tobias Magatti	
11/14	Luke 16: 1-13	The Dishonest Manager	Anna Yoder Schlabach	
11/21	Luke 13:18-19	The Mustard Seed	TBD	Pledges Due Thanksgiving