The Parable of Our Lives

God, in His infinite wisdom, made the *heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky displays what his hands have made. One day tells a story to the next. One night shares knowledge with the next without talking, without words, without their voices being heard. Yet, their sound has gone out into the entire world, their message to the ends of the earth. He has set up a tent in the heavens for the sun, which comes out of its chamber like a bridegroom. Like a champion, it is eager to run its course. It rises from one end of the heavens. It circles around to the other. Nothing is hidden from its heat.*”[[1]](#endnote-1)

God made the earth to shout His glory and show us His ways. He gave us nature and life cycles to show us Who He is. *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain to it.[[2]](#endnote-2)* Creation and all God’s works, the things which comprise our lives and all around us, are real and relatable parables to draw us closer to Him, so that we can **relate** to Him and know Him more intimately, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear what He is saying through them.

A parable is defined as *a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson…*  The word *parable* in the Greek is #3850 in Strong’s Dictionary, which is defined as *a similitude,… (symbolic) fictitious narrative (of common life conveying a moral), apothegm or adage: comparison…*

Jesus spoke to us in parables because Jesus wanted us to *seek* in order to *find.[[3]](#endnote-3)* He laid everything out for us in relatable form in order to challenge us to think deeply, to *incline* our ears to wisdom, and apply our hearts to understand; to cry out for insight and understanding, to seek wisdom as for silver and search for skillful and godly wisdom as for hidden treasures, **then** we will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God*.[[4]](#endnote-4)*

Jesus answered His disciples concisely wshen they asked why He spoke in parables: *Jesus answered, “Knowledge about the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you. But it has not been given to the crowd. Those who understand these mysteries will be given more knowledge, and they will excel in understanding them. However, some people don’t understand these mysteries. Even what they understand will be taken away from them. This is why I speak to them this way. They see, but they’re blind. They hear, but they don’t listen. They don’t even try to understand. So they make Isaiah’s prophecy come true: ‘You will hear clearly but never understand. You will see clearly but never comprehend. These people have become close-minded and hard of hearing. They have shut their eyes so that their eyes never see. Their ears never hear. Their minds never understand. And they never return to me for healing!’ Blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear.[[5]](#endnote-5)*

So we can *look at the night skies: Who do you think made all this? Who marches this army of stars out each night, counts them off, calls each by name—so magnificent! so powerful!—and never overlooks a single one?*[[6]](#endnote-6)

*Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God![[7]](#endnote-7) GOD is magnificent; he can never be praised enough. There are no boundaries to his greatness.[[8]](#endnote-8)*

*Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?[[9]](#endnote-9)*

That’s why I **love** parables! His works and wonders, His ways are seen like a picture book; we can see everywhere we turn in everything we do—if our eyes and hearts are open.

Our life as a parable can teach us if we pay attention to all that is there in each part of the parable of our lives. One parable begins when we are born. Children are to be loved not because of their great accomplishments or because they worship their parents. They are loved based on the nature and the capacity of their parents to love. Knowing God **is** love, we can rest in the love of a Heavenly Father and we can personally know you are *by Him as one brought up with Him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; rejoicing in the habitable parts of His earth.[[10]](#endnote-10)* I can know first-hand that *…all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.[[11]](#endnote-11)*

As children, we first hand *See what [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!...[[12]](#endnote-12)* Our Father rejoices over us with joy, he will rest in his love, he will joy over you with singing![[13]](#endnote-13) Our Father’s mercy and lovingkindness reaches to the skies, and his faithfulness to the clouds; His steadfast love is precious, and we can take refuge and put our trust under the shadow of His wings.[[14]](#endnote-14) Our Father loves us with an everlasting love, and draws us with lovingkindness.[[15]](#endnote-15) We learn of a Father that pardons transgression and doesn’t stay angry, because He delights in mercy,[[16]](#endnote-16) in fact He is described as **rich** in mercy *in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love…* with which He loves us.[[17]](#endnote-17)

We learn that our Father delights in our way and *He busies Himself with [our] every step…* If we fall, we won’t be cast down, *…for the Lord grasps [our] hand in support and upholds [us].[[18]](#endnote-18)* We realize we can cast **all** cares, anxieties, worries, and concerns on Him, *for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.[[19]](#endnote-19)*

As babies, we crave and desire the *milk of the word.[[20]](#endnote-20)* As *little children* we learn to comprehend, that our sins are forgiven—and how much the Father loves us.[[21]](#endnote-21) Then, we progress from the *milk* of the Word to the ***meat.*** We begin to understand knowledge and doctrine, and be *weaned.[[22]](#endnote-22)* Jesus said, *My* ***meat*** *is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.[[23]](#endnote-23)* God wants us to progress, and when the time comes that we should be *teachers,* we should be able to handle the meat of doing the will of God and finishing His work.[[24]](#endnote-24) *Young men* are expected to be *strong* with *the Word of God* abiding in them, able to overcome the wicked one.[[25]](#endnote-25)

Then, unless called to singleness, God intends for us to move on to perceptualize His love for and relationship with His Church. Most references to marriage, the bride and the bridegroom pertain to the union of Christ and His church. Christ is the Bridegroom and his church is the Bride! Scripture shows us that marriage is a "parable" of what our relationship to Christ is to be.

Through marriage, we understand the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory.[[26]](#endnote-26) We learn that although we have mutually submitted to each other out of reverence for Christ,[[27]](#endnote-27) wives submit and adapt themselves to their husband *as [a service] to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the Church…[[28]](#endnote-28)* Husbands love their wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.[[29]](#endnote-29)*

Ephesians chapter 5 describes the relationship between husbands and wives, then states *this is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church…[[30]](#endnote-30)*

We become stewards of these mysteries we come to know first-hand: *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of* [*Christ*](http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/ebd/ebd082.htm#000)*, and stewards of the mysteries of God.[[31]](#endnote-31)*

The end of His purpose in our sharing in showing His mysteries to the world in our parables is laid out expressly: *…to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord…[[32]](#endnote-32)*

As parents, having been freely loved, we are free to love.[[33]](#endnote-33) Having been forgiven much, we are free to forgive.[[34]](#endnote-34) Having learned to follow, we are equipped to lead.[[35]](#endnote-35) Having been given things so freely, we are free to give.[[36]](#endnote-36) We are ready to look not only to ourselves, but for the good of others,[[37]](#endnote-37) as we sacrificially demonstrate the love that God has for us.[[38]](#endnote-38)

Usually, it is not a mentality of *lack* that inspires us to have children, but of *abundance.* People don’t decide to have children because they want someone to serve or worship them, they aren’t on a power trip looking to lord over someone, but they want a recipient of their love, favor, kindness, and provision.

God’s desire is to give us His power to work *within us,* and to *do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]...[[39]](#endnote-39) God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.[[40]](#endnote-40)*

Instead of parents investing into their lives and modeling God’s role in their lives as Father, many parents are so distracted by building storehouses for possessions that won’t ultimately matter, delegating the care and training of their children to teenagers and daycare centers. It is challenging for children to comprehend how much God loves them when fathers and mothers are so busy accruing *things*. When parents come home, they are exhausted and distracted with their own agendas; there is no time to impart wisdom and principles or invest and train their children so that they are *equipped* for every good work and so that they are given the statutes, commandments, precepts, and ordinances needed to *refresh the soul*,[[41]](#endnote-41) so that they are able to *withstand the attacks* of the Devil[[42]](#endnote-42) and recognize his counterfeit ways that lead to ruin and destruction rather than life. It takes time to teach children about the things of the Lord *…speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.[[43]](#endnote-43)* Otherwise, the promise that follows that kind of living is unattainable: *That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.* Take heed to the admonition to *make sure you tell your children, and your children tell their children, and their children their children. Don’t let this message die out.[[44]](#endnote-44)*

Parables are a great way to communicate because parables join deep truths that apply across multiple situations, which makes them personal. Parables also encourage us to investigate more deeply than a casual inquiry. After Jesus spoke in parables, His disciples waited until they were alone with Him and asked Him to explain the parables in more details. If parables cause us to ask the Lord to explain them to us, it will bring us closer to Him. Because parables apply to different situations, it makes the ways you can apply them to your life unlimited.

Because our lives are parables to show us the wonders of God and the family is a parable to show us what the family of God is supposed to be, the Devil is at all-out war against families. It is much more difficult to conceptualize the love that a Father has for his child if we don’t have a good father. It becomes more difficult to realize what it means to be *accepted in the beloved,[[45]](#endnote-45)* to be comforted *as a mother comforts her children[[46]](#endnote-46)* if you haven’t felt accepted or comforted in your family. Because Satan has twisted and perverted parents through anger and abuse, it is difficultto understand that *the Lord disciplines everyone he loves,…* and *[y]ou must submit to and endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons… Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God’s children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all].[[47]](#endnote-47)* Abuse in the area of discipline and correction has given us a generation that is hesitant to correct, discipline, and train their children, resulting in undisciplined, unruly children that grow up not respecting authority and doing what is right in their own eyes.

*Given the fact that social problems correlate more strongly with fatherlessness than with any other factor, surpassing race, social class, and poverty, father absence may well be the most critical social issue of our time. In fatherless America, David Blankenhorn calls the crisis of fatherless children ‘the most destructive trend of our generation.’[[48]](#endnote-48)*

When our marriages aren’t a reflection of the beautiful relationship Christ has with His Church, it is difficult for people to perceive the relationship Christ wants to have with His Church as the Bridegroom.

Remember, our relationships are a *shadow* of the relationship we have with God as our Father and Christ as our Bridegroom. A reflection is *nothing* compared with the real thing. The moon demonstrates this principle. By itself, the moon is dark. All objects in space have what is called an albedo, which measures how they reflect light. The moon’s albedo is low—like coal. The moon does not produce its own light, but reflects the light of the sun in accordance with its orbit. The large amount of debris on the surface of the moon contributes to its reflectivity. Reflecting the sun, the moon becomes the secondary sphere of light we have on earth.

Let us now look at parenting the way God intended us to: as a *reward,* and as a mirror to see and realize His love for us as our lives demonstrate the power of God to the world, *to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody.[[49]](#endnote-49)*

The potential of living this parable are so unlimited that each reader, as they comprehend the expanse of what they know of God is possible to be lived out in their daily lives, will be led by the Holy Spirit to different analogies He wants each of you to individually live out to show His unlimited glory to the world in your own families.

As we look at the exciting possibilities for our families, don't be discouraged. We are going forward and endeavoring to bring our parenting standards up to where God intended them to be. We will look at where the possibilities are…then we have to continue to work at what we can do to apply God’s Word to different areas of our lives to get there. As we *apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God’s devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it]; [That you may really come] to know [practically through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]![[50]](#endnote-50)*

As we reflect on the parable of being a child of God, there are certain traits and parenting skills I learned from my heavenly Father that impacted my life monumentally. Realizing how much I needed to know these principles to correctly relate to God, and for my own growth and development, I became passionate about helping my children learn the same principles early in their lives. The list of things I learned is by no means exhaustive. You may be inspired to look at things that you needed to know about God, things that helped you grow as a person, so you can brainstorm on how to train your children to learn the same things at an earlier age as well.

1. Appendix A

 Psalm 19.1-6 (GW) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Psalm 139.6 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Matthew 7.7; Luke 11.9 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Proverbs 2.2-5 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Matthew 1311–16 (GW) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Isaiah 40.26 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Romans 11.33 [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Psalm 145.3 (MSG) [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Job 26.13 (NASB) [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Proverbs 8.30-31 [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Romans 8.14–17 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. 1 John 3.1 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Zephaniah 3.17 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Psalms 36.5-7 [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Jeremiah 31.3 [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Micah 7.18 [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. Ephesians 2.4 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Psalm 37.23-24 [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. 1 Peter 5.7 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. 1 Peter 2.2 [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. 1 John 2.12-13 [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. Isaiah 28.9 [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. John 4.34 [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. Hebrews 5.12; 1 Corinthians 3.2 [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. 1 John 2.13 [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. Colossians 1.27 [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. Ephesians 5.21 [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. Ephesians 5.22-23 [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
29. Ephesians 5.25 [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
30. Ephesians 5.32 [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
31. 1 Corinthians 4.1  [↑](#endnote-ref-31)
32. Ephesians 3.9-11 [↑](#endnote-ref-32)
33. 1 John 4 [↑](#endnote-ref-33)
34. Ephesians 4.32; Colossians 3.13; Matthew 18.21-35 [↑](#endnote-ref-34)
35. 1 Corinthians 11.1 [↑](#endnote-ref-35)
36. Matthew 10.8 [↑](#endnote-ref-36)
37. Philippians 2.4 [↑](#endnote-ref-37)
38. John 3.16; Romans 8.32 [↑](#endnote-ref-38)
39. Ephesians 3.20 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-39)
40. 2 Corinthians 9.8 (NLT) [↑](#endnote-ref-40)
41. Psalm 19.7 [↑](#endnote-ref-41)
42. Ephesians 6.13 [↑](#endnote-ref-42)
43. Deuteronomy 6.7; 11.19 [↑](#endnote-ref-43)
44. Joel 1.3 [↑](#endnote-ref-44)
45. Ephesians 1.6 [↑](#endnote-ref-45)
46. Isaiah 66.13 [↑](#endnote-ref-46)
47. Hebrews 12.6-8 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-47)
48. *Father Absence, Father Deficit, Father Hunger, The Vital Importance of Paternal Presence in Children’s Lives,* Psychology Today, May 23, 2012, https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/co-parenting-after-divorce/201205/father-absence-father-deficit-father-hunger [↑](#endnote-ref-48)
49. 1 Corinthians 3.2 (AMP) [↑](#endnote-ref-49)
50. Ephesians 3.18-19 [↑](#endnote-ref-50)