

# “He Told Them A Parable”:

## Jesus’ Life-Changing Stories

### Florida College Dry Creek Camp

### 2023

Stories are foundational to human life. Much of our time is spent with stories. Whether in telling our friends about what we did the night before, telling our spouse about our workday in the evening, telling our children about the family’s history, reading books, or watching movies, stories are how we make sense of our lives. When you want to get to know someone, you say to them “tell me your story.”

We think in terms of stories. Our Creator knew this about us, which is why, even though His law and will could have been swiftly and efficiently delivered to mankind in concise list of rules (“do this,” “don’t do that”), His complete revelation is a large book, largely filled with stories about the mighty acts of God on behalf of His people, and His people’s frequent failure to respond with long-term faithfulness. And then the Apostle Paul came along and reminded us that we gain spiritual wisdom by thinking about these stories that God has given us (1 Cor. 10:11).

So, it is no surprise that a hallmark of Jesus’ teaching style was telling stories—Scripture calls them parables. But Jesus’ stories were not told simply to entertain or amuse, but to deepen our understanding of God, of Jesus Himself and His mission, of the kingdom of heaven, of ourselves—human nature and what we do, of the nature of the God-centered moral life—and what it looks like in actual daily living. And then, sometimes Jesus would hit his listeners with the devastatingly personal question: “What do you think?” (Matt. 17:25; 18:12; 21:28).

The five parables for the week are:

Monday	<b>The Sower:</b> <i>How Is Your Heart?</i> (Mark 4:1-20)
Tuesday	<b>The Talents:</b> <i>What Do You Have?</i> (Matt. 25:14-30)
Wednesday	<b>The Prodigal Son:</b> <i>Where Is Your Home?</i> (Luke 15:11-32)
Thursday	<b>The Good Samaritan:</b> <i>Who Do You Serve?</i> (Luke 10:25-37)
Friday	<b>The Ten Virgins:</b> <i>When Will You Prepare?</i> (Matt. 25:1-13)

As we teach these lessons to our campers, let’s strive to make these old parables come alive to a new generation. And at the end of the week, we want them to go home with these stories as something to live by.

Jeff Wilson