Parsing Problematic, Perplexing Parables Properly

Another request we received was concerning Jesus's parables. Some of the parables are straightforward and easy to understand (we think). Others are confusing and downright frustrating (like Luke 16:1-13 or 18:2-8). How do we read parables? What do they mean? Why does it matter?

AUGUST 23, 2020

THE BIG IDEA

BEDFORD ROAD baptist church

67 Bedford Road Merrimack, New Hampshire http://bedfordroad.org (603) 424.9623 Erik DiVietro, Teaching Pastor

Creating environments where people encounter Jesus and journey together

We will begin our worship gathering with the observance of the Lord's Table. Please make sure you have the elements with you at your seat before the call to worship, as we celebrate and remember Christ together.

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

© 1997, Joachim Neander

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, The King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under His wings, Yes, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, Come now with praises before Him! Let the "amen" sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

HE REIGNS

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It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain It's the song of the forgiven drowning out the Amazon rain The song of Asian believers filled with God's holy fire It's every tribe, every tongue, every nation, a love song born of a grateful choir

It's all God's children singing - Glory glory hallelujah; He reigns He reigns

Let it rise above the four winds, caught up in the heavenly sound Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals to the faithful gathered underground Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation, some were meant to persist Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples, none rings truer than this

And all the powers of darkness tremble at what they've just heard 'Cause all the powers of darkness can't drown out a single word

TO GOD ALONE

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Can You take me by the hand? Can You use me as I am Break me into who You want me to be When the time is fin'lly right, Will You open up my eyes Show me ev'rything You want me to see. This life is not my own

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise Ev'rything I say and do, Let it be all for You The glory is Yours alone, Yours alone

Take the offering I bring, You want more than what I sing Can I give You every part of me Turn these pennies into gold. Take this life I call my own Until I'm running after Your heart, I'm needing to let go

We will rise and we will fall, but You remain after all You're glorious and beautiful. You're beautiful

AWESOME GOD

© 1988, Rich Mullins, CCLI#41099

When He rolls up His sleeves, He ain't just puttin' on the ritz OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD There is thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD And the Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood His return is very close and so you'd better be believin' THAT OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD

(Our) God is an awesome God! He reigns from heaven above! With wisdom pow'r and love, Our God is an awesome God!

When the sky was starless in the void of the night OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD He spoke into the darkness and created the light OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten THAT OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD