THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Week 2

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Recap

Parables:
- are meant to evoke a visceral reaction in the hearer.
- are meant to make the hearer do something in response to their message(s).
- use images from everyday life, but with a twist, so that the hearer's imagination is activated. (e.g. Nathan told David a moving and relatable story that convicted him by evoking a reaction.)

Parables are not thoroughgoing allegories but do contain allegorical elements.

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Going further (from Class 1)

- What do we need to keep in mind for interpreting, understanding, and preaching Jesus's parables?
- What contexts should we tune into for hearing the parables better?

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Going further

To help us be ready to hear the message(s) of the parables, we need to:
- Place them in the context of Jesus's wider ministry and mission.
- Recognize that their message is meant to convict and convert, and we may need to have our hearts opened.
- Learn more about the context of the ancient worlds in and to which Jesus taught.

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Going further

- What did Jesus mean when he proclaimed the "kingdom of God/heaven"?
- Why is this an important context to understand for hearing Jesus's teaching, and specifically his parables?

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The Parables of Jesus: Making the Familiar Strange - Week 2

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Going Further

- Why do you think we can "grow weary" or "lose heart" in prayer? What obstacles get in the way? How does this parable help to strengthen your resolve to "pray always" (Lk 18:1)? What else can help us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Th. 5:17)?

- Why is the Lord's Prayer a bold prayer? How is it rebellious to pray for God's kingdom and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, in the way suggested? What other rebellious prayers might we pray these days?

- In "The Weight of Glory," C. S. Lewis wrote that God "finds our desires not too strong, but too weak." Given the concluding" diagnostic, do you think our prayers are as big, or as strong, as God's vision is for this world? Do you think we could be more persistent, more bold, in our prayers?

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