



THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Week 3

12



Recap

Parables:

- use images (sometimes allegorical) from everyday life, but with a twist
- to evoke a visceral reaction in the hearer
- to make the hearer do something in response to their message(s).

To help us 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.

13

Recap

When Jesus proclaimed the “kingdom of God/heaven”

- He was announcing the arrival of the long-prophesied intervention of God
- He wasn’t just talking about a place (Israel) but the state of affairs whenever and wherever God reigns (all of creation)
- It is not a far-off concept off but a near, powerful, down-to-earth revolution

In the Parable of the “Pesky Widow”

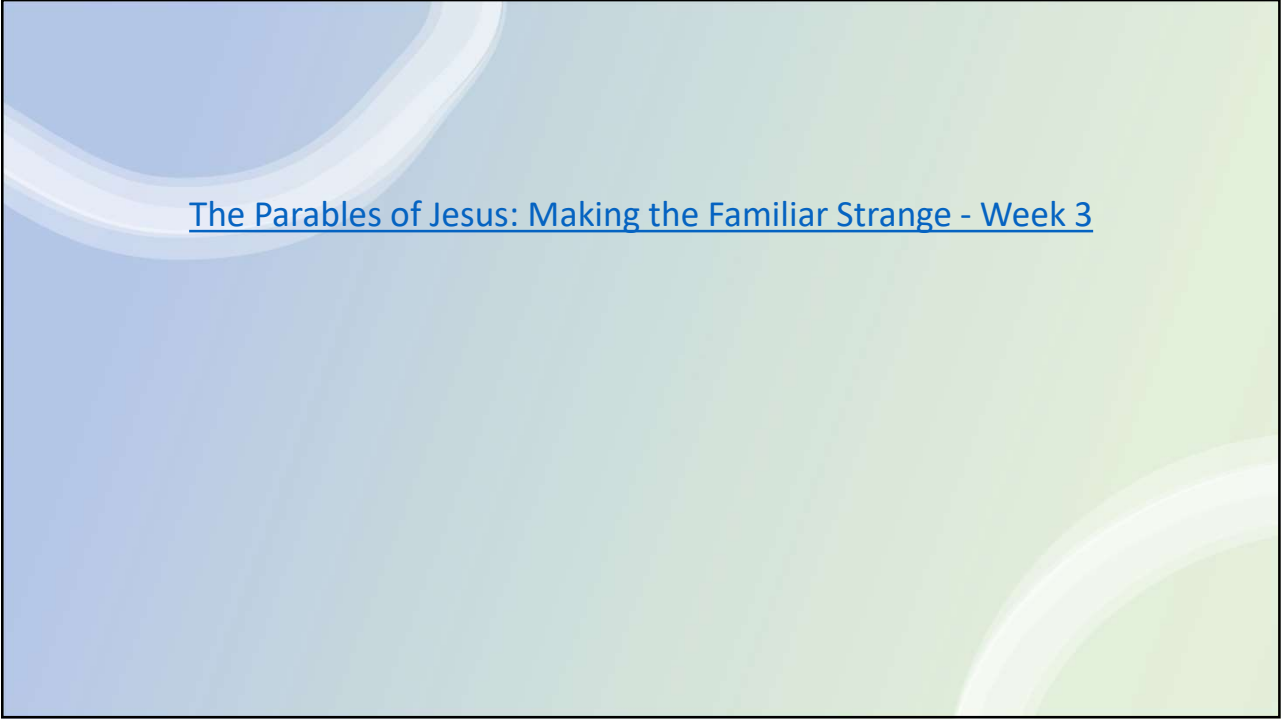
- God is not like the unjust/unrighteous judge, and if someone like the judge can be moved to justice, how much more God
- God is like the judge in that he is keen for his own glory (that which is fitting for God alone) by hearing and responding to our prayers for our good
- We are encouraged not to not grow weary and lose heart but to be bold that Jesus may find such persistent faith in us when he returns

14

Going Further

- 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?

15



The Parables of Jesus: Making the Familiar Strange - Week 3

16



Going Further

- Do you think of yourself as an “all-day” worker, an “eleventh-hour” worker, or somewhere in between? How does recognizing ourselves as “eleventh-hour” workers help us to appreciate God’s generosity within this parable and within our own lives today?
- How does the “respectable sin” of envy crop up in your life? What other “respectable sins” might we find ourselves guilty of? How might the character of God, especially as exhibited in this parable, help us recognize and overcome such faults and be better laborers for God’s kingdom?

17