

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

EPISODE 21: MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

PARABLES

CONTEXT

In this episode, we will discuss how the reader should approach any biblical text. As we continue to look at interpretation, we'll look at the last set of genres that will help you properly interpret a text.

Interpretation asks the question: What does it mean? (William Hendricks)

IMPORTANCE OF GENRES IN INTERPRETATION

- i. Literary Form or Genre
 - a) The Bible involves writings from various genres. Genres have rules for their interpretation. Just as it is important to understand genre for music or movies, it's important to understand biblical genre.
 - b) Biblical genres (con't)
 - 1) Covered so far-narratives, law, wisdom, poetry, prophecy, and gospels
 - 2) Will cover this episode-parables

PARABLES

- i. Parables-short, fictional stories that contain real life circumstances. Often involve illustrations to drive home larger points. Less threatening when addressing tough topics.
 - a) Generally, two levels of meaning-earthly story with a heavenly meaning
 - b) The word parable literally means to "throw alongside" (*para-ballo*).
 - c) How to interpret parables: find the truth the parable is trying to get.
 - d) Appear both in OT and NT (Example: Nathan's rebuke in 2 Samuel 12:1-15).
 - e) Jesus taught close to 50 parables in the New Testament. Over 1/3 of his teaching.
- ii. Keys to Interpreting Parables
 - a) Don't read TOO much into it.
 - b) What is the literary, historical, social, and cultural context (Atmosphere)?
 - c) Who is the parable directed at (Audience)?
 - d) How many points is it intended to teach?
 - e) What kind of repetition is in the parable?
 - f) How does it conclude? Often, the conclusion tells you why parable is significant.
 - 1) THE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE (Matthew 13:45-46)

- (1) Falls in a collection of parables Matthew puts together (Purpose of Jesus' Parables: Matthew 13:10-17-hides truth from crowds, conveys truth to disciples).
 - (2) *Cross-Reference*: Pearls before swines (Matthew 7:6)
 - (3) *Literary context*: No synoptic parallel. Right after hidden treasure parable. In that parable, accidental discovery. This one is different. Both cross-references refer to verse 44.
 - (4) *Cultural context*: Divers in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Indian Ocean looked for pearls all the time. Many died. Tied rocks to bodies to get to bottom.
 - (5) *Important word*: merchant (*emporos*, where we get the word emporium)
 - (6) *Repetition*: Sold all that he had...bought it.
 - (7) *Message(s)*: Everything pales in comparison to knowing Christ and his kingdom (see Philippians 3:7-8); The kingdom is hidden (see 1 Cor. 2:11); Different approaches to conversion (Paul vs. Ethiopian Eunuch)
 - (8) *Christ-Application (Where is Jesus?)*: Rubbing, friction, pearls, and Jesus.
- 2) THE NET (Matthew 13:47-50)
- (1) *Cross-Reference*: John 21:11 153 fish haul (The net doesn't discriminate.)
 - (2) *Key Theme in Matthew*: Judgment (remember his Jewish audience)
 - (3) *Literary context*: No synoptic parallel. Right after pearl of great value. Contrast: one thing to many things, valuable and invaluable, (fish) here.
 - (4) *Cultural context*: dragnets were much larger fishing nets. Floats and sinkers let one part drag on one stay on surface. Bad fish (Threw back shellfish!) (Lev. 11:9-12)
 - (5) *Repetition*: Weeping and gnashing of teeth (verse 42)
 - (6) *Important word*: Every **kind (vs. 47)** kind (*genos*, Greek word for nation)
 - (7) *Important word*: **Bad (vs. 48)** fish (*sapra*, rotten fruit elsewhere in Matthew 7:17-18)
 - (8) *Cultural context*: They **sat (vs. 48)** when they sort the fish. So will Jesus! (Matthew 25:31); Jesus sat in beginning of this chapter too, crowd on shore. Heard him, but didn't act/respond (Matthew 13:1-3)
 - (9) *Literary Context*: Reverse of Daniel 3:6 (decree to worship Nebuchadnezzar)
 - (10) *Message*: Not about evangelism, but sorting/separation/judgment.
 - (a) *James Montgomery Boice*: There are redeemed people in the church, but there are also those who are the devil's children. (Oops!)
 - (11) *Christ-Application (Where is Jesus?)*: Jesus sat in beginning of this chapter too, crowd on shore. Heard him, but didn't act/respond (Matthew 13:1-3); He's gonna be sitting again later (Matthew 25:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).