

July/August
2014

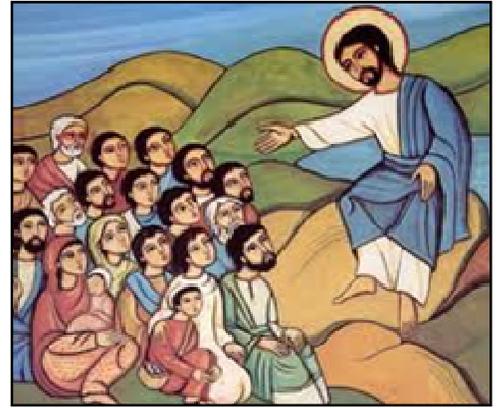


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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For those of you who are students of the Bible (I hope this includes all of you), I would like recommend the parables of our Lord for your reading pleasure this summer. We will be covering a number of them during July and August as our appointed Gospel lessons for Sunday morning worship, but I encourage you to read and meditate on them on your own as well. I have always been fascinated by these marvelous stories told by our "Great Teacher" and I particularly enjoy the way He uses examples from everyday life that the people of His day could readily understand.

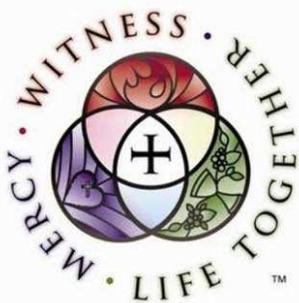


As an English teacher, I liked to use stories to get a point across and now, as a pastor, I still do the same. Many times a good story will explain something better than trying to concoct a sophisticated definition that most people will never remember. Nearly everyone I have met likes to hear a good story and most people like to tell one. Thus far in my life I have read and heard many stories told by many different people. It has been my experience that the story a person tells often tells you a lot about him. The parables of Jesus are no different. All of them tell us something about Him, with most of them illustrating His abundant grace shown to sinners, to us. This should come as no surprise to us, however, since Jesus is the embodiment of God's grace among us as St. Paul wrote in Romans 5(6-8):

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The stories of Jesus teach us many things, but first and foremost they bring joy to our hearts. In the parables of Jesus we find a loving and compassionate Lord who cares about us. May God grant you a blessed and restful summer.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton



Got a question about the LCMS?

Call 1-888-THE-LCMS (843-5267) or
infocenter@lcms.org

The LCMS Church Information Center is here to help you—the member in the pew, the church worker in a congregation, or the nonmember with questions about the church and its ministry—in any way we can.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross