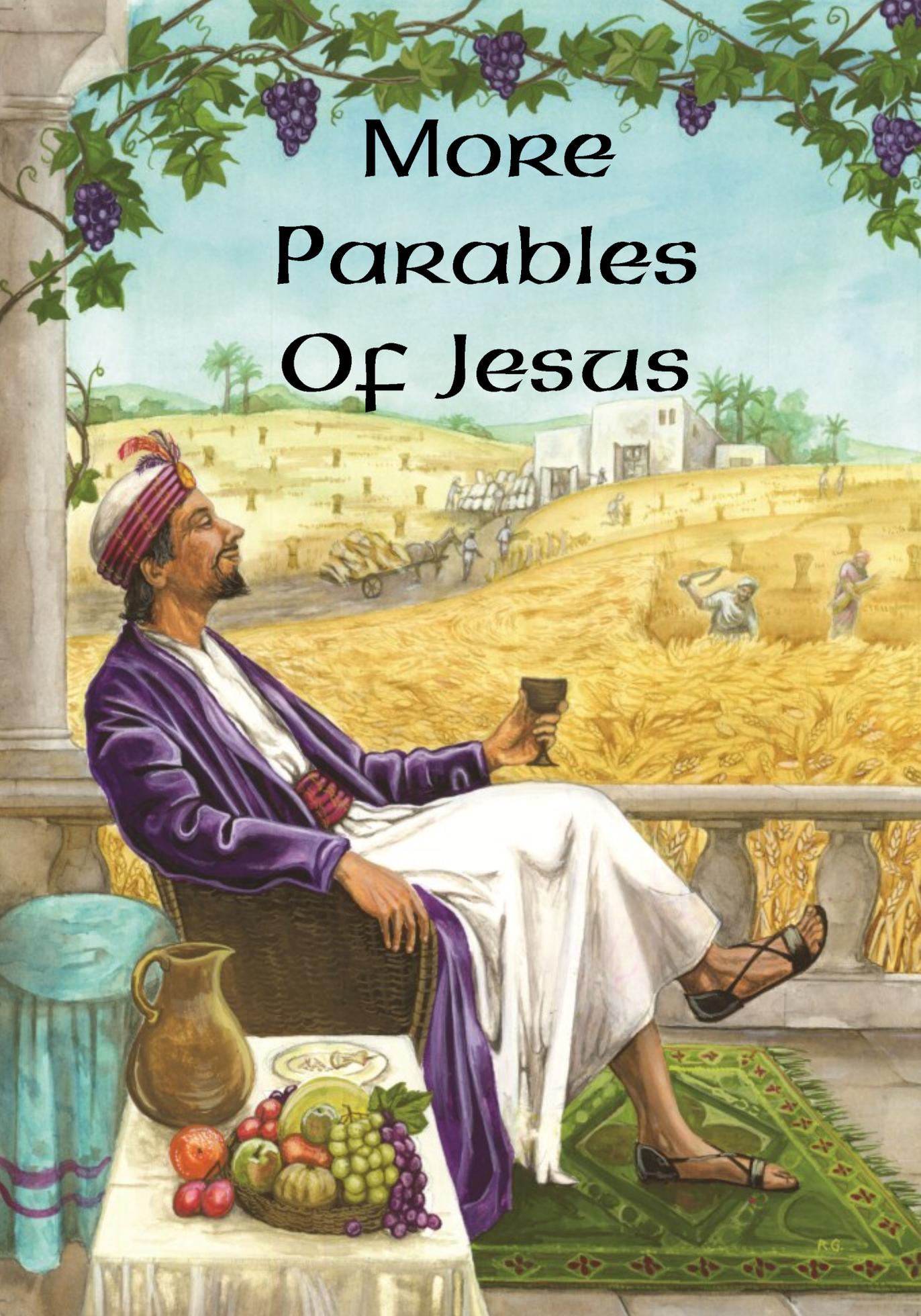


More Parables Of Jesus



Published by:
Gospel Standard Trust Publications

1989

ISBN: 0 903556 81 2

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GOSPEL STANDARD TRUST PUBLICATIONS

1989

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The Foolish Farmer

Have you ever been out into the fields when it is harvest time? Whichever way you look you can see the lovely golden corn growing. It is a beautiful sight.

There was once a farmer who had many fields of corn. Wherever he looked he could see his corn growing, ripening for harvest. He was a very rich man.

But he was worried. He just did not know where he would keep all his corn when it was gathered in at harvest time. He had not nearly enough room.

So he began to think. And then he had a good idea. He would pull down all his little barns, which were too small, and build really big ones instead.

That was a good idea, wasn't it? Well, the rich farmer thought so!

Then he thought of what a good time he would have. Plenty of money. Plenty to eat and drink. A merry life!

But do you know what happened? The very day he was thinking these things, he died. And what of all his corn, and his fields, and his money, and his barns? Somebody else would have them.

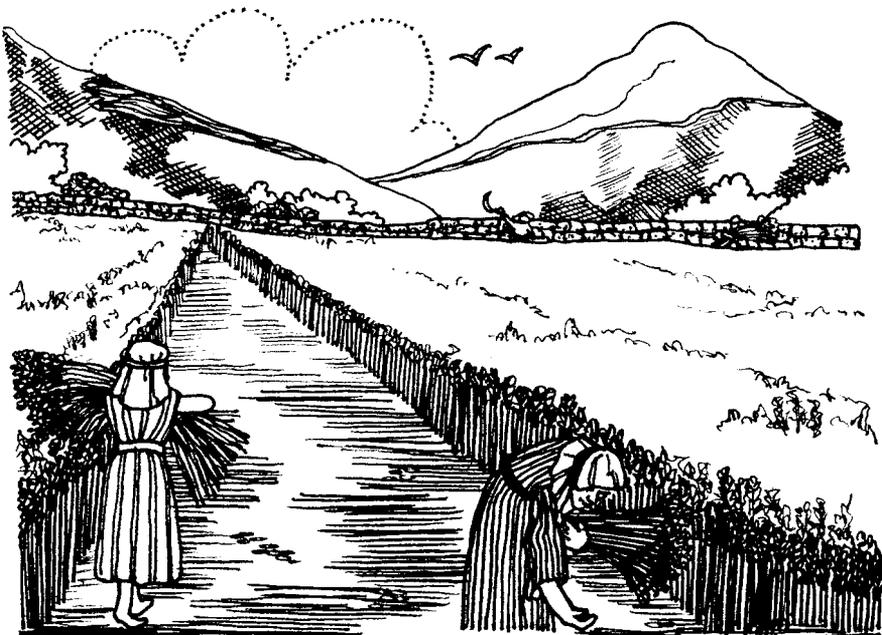
Jesus said what a foolish man the rich farmer was. He was getting ready to do all sorts of things – but he was not ready to die! He never thought about God.

Jesus spoke a solemn word: “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

You can read this story in Luke chapter 12, verses 16 to 21.

There is a little prayer. May God teach you to pray it:

Prepare me, gracious God,
To stand before Thy face;
Thy Spirit must the work perform,
For it is all of grace.



The Lost Coin

One day a woman sat sadly in her house. She had lost a silver coin. It was worth a lot. No wonder she was sad.

Perhaps some of you girls and boys have lost something you really like – and how you long to find it! You cannot be happy till you do.

Now altogether this woman should have had ten silver pieces – so she still had nine left. Her friends might have said to her, “Stop worrying! You still have plenty left!”

But no! How could she? She knew that her lost coin must be somewhere. So she started to search the house for it.

Houses in Bible times were always dark, which made it harder for her. Also the floors were usually covered with rushes (like we have a carpet). So she lit a candle to help her to see, and she took up a broom to sweep through the house.

She kept at it. She would not give up. And at last – there it was! Her lost coin!

She was so pleased that she ran out of her house and told all her friends and those who lived nearby. She said, “I have found the piece of money which I had lost.”

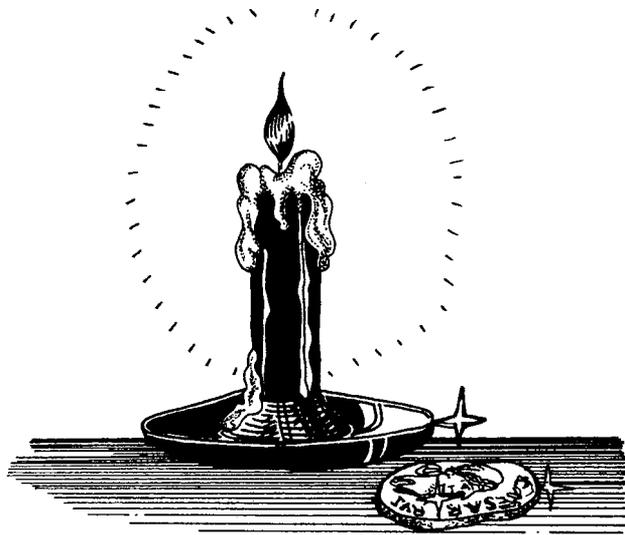
Girls and boys, we too are LOST – lost through our sin. And we need the Lord Jesus to seek us out and



find us.

Did you know that He once said, “The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost”? That is why He came from heaven to earth to die. And how pleased He is when He finds those He came to save!

You can read this parable in Luke chapter 15, verses 8 to 10.



The Wedding Garment

I wonder how many of you have ever been asked to a wedding. If you have, then there is one thing I know you did. You wore your best clothes. Perhaps you even had a new suit or a new dress for the wedding. Afterwards there was a lovely meal.

The Lord Jesus once spoke about a very special wedding. It was the wedding of a prince. All sorts of people were invited — but they made sure that for such a wonderful occasion they were wearing wedding clothes. Only the very best!

Afterwards there was the lovely meal. It *would* be lovely (wouldn't it?) if it was made ready by the king. We do not know everything that they had to eat, but we are told one thing. They had roast ox!

And then the time they were waiting for arrived. The king himself came in. He walked round to see the guests.

But what is happening now? The king has stopped going round. He seems angry. He is talking to one man.

Well, it is no wonder that the king is angry. Look what the man is wearing! Just his ordinary clothes. He is different from all the others who are there. Did you ever see a person at a wedding in old clothes? And this was a royal wedding.

Now, it was not that the man was so poor that he

had no wedding clothes, and couldn't afford to buy any. Don't think that! At a royal wedding in Bible times a lovely wedding garment would be provided free of charge. But this man didn't want one! He thought his own clothes were quite good enough.

At last the king speaks. He asks him what he is doing there, dressed as he is. It is an insult to the king, the prince, and to everyone else.

And, do you know, the man could not answer a word. He just did not know what to say. He was speechless.

But then the king spoke again, and told his servants to take the man, and to throw him out. He was not allowed to stay there a moment longer.

How important it is that we do not trust in anything of our own before God, anything we are or have done! Our very best, in God's sight, is just like a bundle of dirty rags. We need to be washed in the blood of Jesus and the spotless robe of His righteousness put upon us.

You can read this parable in Matthew chapter 22, verses 11 to 14.

The Pharisee and the Publican

In Jerusalem there was a beautiful, big temple. The Jews loved it. It was such a lovely building, and it was there that they worshipped the great God, who made heaven and earth.

Jesus told us of two men inside that beautiful temple. Both of them had gone there to pray to God. But look at them! What a difference!

One of them is standing there very boldly. What a fine man he is, and how proud! Everyone admires him. He is wearing a long dress with tassels and a fringe at the bottom, and a golden tablet on his forehead. He is a Pharisee.

But now look at the other! He seems afraid. He is standing out of sight in a corner. He is looking at the ground. No one likes him. He is a tax collector or publican (and usually they were greedy and not honest).

Now listen to the Pharisee praying. What a wonderful man he is! He tells God all the good things he has been doing – giving money away, never acting wrongly. But wait a moment! We do not hear him asking for anything. It seems that there is nothing he wants God to do for him. And doesn't he talk unkindly about the publican?

How different the poor man in the corner! But what is he doing? He is beating on his chest, just



where his heart is. He feels so troubled inside.

But at last he speaks – and what a short, simple, beautiful prayer: “God be merciful to me a sinner”!

He knew God is holy and good. He felt that he himself was wicked and bad. If only this great God would forgive him! So he cried out for mercy. He didn’t deserve it – but perhaps God would show pity on him.

He would know that in this wonderful temple there used to be a place called “the mercy seat.” It was precious, made of pure gold, and once a year blood was sprinkled on it. And he knew God had promised to meet His people there.

Would God be like that mercy seat to him?

“Mercy, through blood, I make my plea;
O God, be merciful to me.”

Now hear the Lord Jesus Himself speak. He said that when the poor publican went home that day, he was the one that God loved and had forgiven. One day he would go to heaven.

Girls and boys, may God teach you each to pray the publican’s prayer: GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER.

You can read this parable in Luke chapter 18, verses 9 to 14.