

In this week's lecture, the discussion began with introducing the professor's background and how he began his journey with parables. Within the discussion numerous questions and points were raised. One of the questions that came up was what is a parable. Professor answered the question by saying that it is the comparison of two things either a theological message, moral, or literary metaphor. A parable also includes sublime ideas and the act of putting the message in everyday earthly ideas. There was an emphasis that the professor made that it is primarily a metaphor. One thing that was mentioned is that Jesus' parables can be summarized in 7 or 8 points. Also, the theology of the gospel is found in parables.

One of the main goals of this class is to approach parables from a Jewish perspective. The discussion of what to expect in this class was also brought up. As the class continued, professor Notley began to go through the syllabus. Within the discussion of the syllabus, it was mentioned that all textbooks are provided electronically. Regarding our grades in the class, we will be required to tell professor Notley what grade we want. According to the grade you give that will determine what assignments you have to do. If you don't do the work for the grade you said you will be penalized.

Another discussion began regarding parables being spoken in Hebrew. Professor said that in Judaism you will always hear the parables in Hebrew. There were three languages spoken on land and they were Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. These were taught in the land of Israel. 95% of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in Hebrew. Parables are about speaking to life, it raises the question of how we should live out our life. It

represents wisdom literature and how we understand God and what he expects from us in this world according to the Professor.

Going back into the syllabus, it was mentioned that all assignments are due at 11:59 on Wednesdays. The last thing that resonated with me from this lecture was the mentioning of interpreting the parables. We have to raise questions such as what is Jesus saying? How am I going to understand his parable? Professor Notely said “we need to have 1st century ears and 21st century hearts”. We have to remember that sometimes it is only applicable to that time, not everything he says has equal relevance to our world or time. Some questions we have about certain situations that are not addressed in the bible so we have to figure it out on our own.

