

## Questions

1. What is one feature according to Silva one of its most significant distinctives of the biblical faith?
2. What is the reason many students of the Bible believe they can downplay the historicity of the New Testament narratives?
3. Why is there no reasonable doubt to interpret the parable historically?
4. What is the number one goal of the authors gospels had in mind?
5. What is the point or mean by Jesus used the parables as weapons of warfare?

## Answers

1. Unlike other religions, historical character provides its very foundation of the biblical faith.
2. Some biblical scholars downplay the historicity of the New Testament to support the modern pattern of the historical writing.
3. Parables unlike other narratives in the gospels are presented in a stylized fashion that the reader or hearers are aware that they belong to a different genre.
4. The one common goal for authors of the four gospels is for readers to know and learn about the work of Jesus, and the good news of Jesus to change the lives of the hearers. \
5. It means that parables have to be understood historically, meaning, one needs to examine the specific situations in which they were used.

## Terms

Historicity: historical factuality, truth, how truthful is to the actually occurrence.

Modern historiography: facts and events that stresses clear and strict chronological sequence

Legalism: a religious outlook that sees people as morally self-reliant

## Summary

Gospels and other books in the bible are not history books as we today understand it. One needs to view gospels with open expectations that historical gaps will exist. The purpose of the gospels is to present inspired presentation of truths to convey God's message in most persuasive and efficient way. Parables are often used to address and identify the daily reality of the hearers to make it relevant to them to make a point in the context of Jesus' mission. While one doesn't want to get lost in its details and should keep the big picture in mind, one must also not overlook the historicity of the bible.