

Joseph Diaz

Professor Dr. R. Steven Notley, Ph.D.

BIB 336: Parables (NO)

April 12, 2023

Book Review

Richard N. Longenecker, *The Challenge of Jesus' Parables* (McMaster New Testament Studies; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).

When I looked at the book called *The Challenge of Jesus Parables*, I noticed that it has thirteen contributors trying to accomplish something. The book has four sections and in section one and two has three chapters, and section three it has three chapters and section four has five chapters. In each one the contributors, gave their point of view about the parables of Jesus. The contributors are, Stephen C. Barton, Craig A. Evans, Richard T. France, Donald A. Hagner, Morna D. Hooker, Sylvia C. Keesmaat, Michael P. Knowles, Walter L. Liefeld, Richard N. Longenecker, Allan W. Martens, Klyne R. Snodgrass, Robert H. Stein, and Stephen I. Wright. In this book the thirteen New Testament contributors provided their knowledge and understanding to the original context and meaning of Jesus' parables. The intent is to give a fresh look for Christians, Pastors, and teachers a better understanding of Jesus parables.

In section one "History, Genre, and Parallels," includes three chapters: "From Allegorizing to Allegorizing: A History of the Interpretation of the Parables of Jesus," by Klyne R. Snodgrass, "The Genre of the Parables," by Robert H. Stein, and "Parables in Early Judaism," by Craig A. Evans. The chapters by Snodgrass and Stein teach us about the introduction to the history of knowledge of the parables and the way the parables are summarized. In the "Parables

in Early Judaism,” Evans chapter offers a selection of modified texts from Judaism. I believe that all three chapters in these sections embrace the Jewish context parables, but they unfortunately refuse to admit that the synoptic Gospels merge biblical patterns.

In section two, "Parables of the Kingdom," also includes three chapters: "Mark's Parables of the Kingdom," by Morna D. Hooker, "Matthew's Parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:1-52)," by Donald A. Hagner, and "Luke's Parables of the Kingdom (Luke 8:4-15; 13:18-21)," by Richard N. Longenecker. The clearness and awareness of the chapters by Hooker and Longenecker make them valuable introductions to the book of Mark and Luke Parables of the Kingdom, well beneficial counselors.

In section three, "Parables of Warning and Preparedness," includes two chapters: "'Produce Fruit Worthy of Repentance': Parables of Judgment against the Jewish Religious Leaders and the Nation (Matthew 21:28-22:14, Luke 13:6-9)," by Allan W Martens, and "On Being Ready (Matthew 25:1-46)," by Richard T. France. Martens' helpful chapters examine and study the book of Matthew and Luke improvement, both "delicate" and "unconcealed," showing how early Christians felt an amount of liberation to conclude Jesus' words, sometimes in quite critical ways.

In section four, "Parables of the Christian Life," includes five chapters: "Parables on God's Love and Forgiveness (Luke 15:1-32)," by Stephen C. Barton, "Parables on Poverty and Riches (Luke 12:13-21; 16:1-13; 16:19-31)," by Stephen I. Wright, "Parables on Prayer (Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-14)," by Walter L. Liefeld, "Strange Neighbors and Risky Care (Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 14:7-14; Luke 10:25-37)," by Sylvia C. Keesmaat, and "'Everyone Who Hears These Words of Mine': Parables on Discipleship (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; Luke 14:28-33; Luke 17:7-10; Matthew 20:1-16)," by Michael P. Knowles. One thing I noticed about all the

chapters is the important to comprehend the parables within their own reexamination within our present day. The last five chapters (by Barton, Wright, Liefeld, Keesmaat and Knowles) focus on the instant importance of the parables today, like forgiveness, love, poverty, riches, prayer, strange neighbors, risky care, and discipleship.

Clearly, the fact that the study is not been done by one author but shows us that it has different and variety of interpretations. However, it is a very easy to read the section of chapters which will prove to be a formal presentation to the parables and pointers to areas of further profitable study for Christians, Pastors, and teachers. When reading this book and all the interpretation I really recommend reading the last section of all five chapters because this is what Jesus is trying to get across to the hearers in all His parables.