

Jesenia Aguilera
Dr. R. Steven Notley
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Richard N. Longenecker (ed.), *The Challenge of Jesus' Parables* (McMaster New Testament Studies; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000). Pp. xii + 324. \$28

This is the fourth volume of the McMaster New Testament Studies series that is edited this fourth volume in the MNTS series focuses on the parables of Jesus as presented in the Synoptic Gospels. The McMaster New Testament Studies is about telling you the main themes that have happened to Biblical Scholarship and Biblical Theology. This NT has a concern to Christians today. This is written in a way that is easy for many people that are in different studies. While reading this you're going to have many thoughts on the many writings of the parables of Jesus because of the several points of view from people that have been written about Jesus in articles, journals, or even forms of essays. The parables of Jesus allow us to see that journey he had in his travels from one place to another. Each volume will show us a different path and part as a servant of God. The faith he had and the point of view of many people and their thoughts on Jesus. We will hear from many scholars and their thoughts on the parables of Jesus.

In the volume, the first main section of the reading of "History" by Klyne R. Snodgrass (pages 3-29), Genre by Robert H. Stein (pages 30-50), and Parallels of each parable by Craig A. Evans (pages 57-75). It gives us an overview of what is going on and the meaning through it during those times and what was happening to give us an idea. When Klyne R. Snodgrass tells us his part of History it gives us an idea of that period of time and gives us an insight of a modern time. His overview was about the way things were handled and from being handled what was taken from that to allow it to be seen overall by many people to see the study of the New Testament. As you read on (page 10) "Since about 1970 a mood has prevailed among New Testament scholars that feels the historical, eschatological approaches of people like Dodd and Jeremias to be insufficient." Many people had mixed feelings about the history and took the idea of what it was to them. Robert H. Stein's insight of Genre had an overview of it. His thought on this was that he saw there were things that related to Snodgrass because they both have an understanding of the parables in which they are criticized and have a way of people not taking part of it. On page 38-39 "... On the other hand, if we seek to define the genre more objectively along the lines of how such classical writers as Aristotle or Quintilian understood a parable, we will again arrive at somewhat arbitrary definitions..." There have been issues that have created concerns about the parables that they contain both descriptive and perceptual. Craig A. Evans' insight about the parallels of each parable, but the one he focuses on was the Old Testament in which he gives his opinion and tells us the views on Jesus. There are parables that explain what are the same and what parables are different, as you can see on page 57 "This parable is similar to the one told for David by the woman of Tekoa..."

In the second volume, it speaks about each kingdom: Mark's parables of the Kingdom (pages 79-101) (Mark 4:1-34) by Morna D Hooker, Matthew's Parables of the Kingdom (pages 102-124) (Matthew 13:1-52) by Donald A. Hagner, and Luke's parables of the kingdom (pages 125-147) (Luke 8:4-15; 13:18-21) by Richard N. Longenecker. Morna D. Hooker speaks on Mark's parables as being the shortest parable of all of them. Mark has the less stories of Jesus's teaching on page 83 "Mark does not contain a great deal of sustained teaching by Jesus it does set out two main blocks..." This parable shows the Jesus of healing and teaching what is clean and what is unclean. We need to take charge of our lives and allow ourselves to create our salvation with God. Donald A. Hagner speaks out on Matthew's parables. This Parable reflect on dealing with purpose of the parables because this allows us to see the negative and the positive messages that Jesus gives to us. From there it creates the Sower and the Seed, that is what is built to start the ideas happening for we can start forming a major idea of what Jesus wanted for the Gospel. What need to be understood is that it has to be used as today's currents. Richard N. Longenecker talks about Luke's parables, in which has shown that Luke creates 30 percent of the New Testament. You can see that Luke and Mark are similar to one another because of the wording on the main climactic statement of the parable because in Mark 4:9 it says "The one who has ears to hear, let that person hear" and so does Luke say the same. At the end all three parables are use in the same way because all three are similar to each other but said in different form of way of speaking

In the third volume, it speaks about Produce Fruit Worthy of Repentance: Parable of Judgement against the Jewish Religious Leaders and the Nation (Matthew 21:28-22:14 par; Luke 13:6-9) (pages 151-176) by Allan W. Martens and On Being Ready (Matthew 25:1-46) (Pages 177-195) by Richard T. France. Allan W. Martens was explaining the fruits of the leadership that they had in this parable you can see that Martens says on page 152 "A similar judgement is directed against the religious leaders of Jesus' day in the three highly polemical parables.... least by extension, the Jewish nation as well." In which it means that it seeking to understand the message being told here is what you give shall be received allowing it to be a cycle that goes on to the next person from what you give (meaning produce fruit worth of repentance). Richard T. France parable reaches out on the moments of Jesus and his glories theme. As you read it speaks about the sensible and foolish bridesmaids, the successful and unsuccessful traders, and the sheep and goats. Each one has a story to tell from the opposites of the other one because that how people are specialty now and days coming from the past to the present and future into what is to happen. Many don't understand that these things will have a cause and effect to what you do, but you must allow yourself to understand what is going on to be prepare.

And on the final volume fourth, tells us Parables on God's Love and Forgiveness (Luke 15:1-32) (pages 199-216) by Stephen C. Barton, Parables on Poverty and Riches (Luke 12:13-21; 16:1-13; 16:19-31) (pages 217-239) by Stephen I. Wright, Parables on Prayer (Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-14) (pages 240-262) by Walter L. Liefeld, Strange Neighbors and Risky Care (Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 14:7-14; Luke 10:25-37) (pages 263-285) by Sylvia C. Keesmaat, and "Everyone Who Hears These Words of Mine" Parables on Discipleship (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; Luke 14:28-3; Luke 17:7-10; Matthew 20:1-16) (pages 286-305) by Michael P. Knowles. Stephen C. Barton introduces the parable of a Cheap Grace, it's about the forgiveness of sins because God teaches us that love is the truth to him so that you may receive the glory of him in your heart.

That parable in this chapter allows us to see the Gospel that God has for us. Even though we sin Jesus still sat himself next to all those sinners around him to be an example of God's love for even the worst to be around. Jesus wants to show everyone around him that sinners are human beings just like them. Stephen I. Wright writes his thoughts on the parable of poverty and riches. As you can see each parable speaks upon with the phrase "a rich man." As you go on the reading (Page 218) "... The parables of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) and the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) ..." Somehow you can see that being the type of person with so much money can create the mind to be greedy and think so oneself instead of sharing what God has given to you with others. Walter L. Liefeld, speaks about three parables of Jesus in prayer. These three talks about how one is a Tax collector that give their justification of Jesus's death and resurrection. Sylvia C. Keesmaat, reading has to deal with the parable of the banquet (Luke 14:7-14), this speaks about Israel and the expectation on them. The kingdom of God shows that Jesus was out preaching the message of his father and this allow people to get to the point of killing Jesus. Many didn't like the way Jesus was sending out his message of the love and faith of his father to those that needed it. Many like the king thought Jesus was trying to gain power over their lands and thrones, in which he wasn't even thinking of that at all, but greed has a way of taking over the mind of a human being. Michael P:47-49), the unworthy servant (Luke 17:7-10), the laborers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). This parable addresses the situation on how one should live or be an example of Jesus's follower(s). Jesus had a role of showing the world the Faith he had towards his Father with the message he had for the world. He was not just a Messenger but a teacher that taught he followers and non-followers this love that he carried, even after death and the pain he went through showed the faith he had. That Jesus died for our sins.

I can say that each chapter had an author that dedicated themselves into writing such detail information about each parable that allowed oneself to understand their work. Their ideas were to send out the messages in ways that we could understand and get to the point to the audience. All of the articles written gave you an overall look, but many of them were very difficult to understand because it was such a hard article to get unless you put your full attention on it. Each communicated in ways that benefited in to this book of parables. They have a task into getting the message through the reader no matter if it was a student, teacher, church or etc., but as long as the message got to point A to point B for that person to get it, it created that faith and believing to what needs to get done. I can say that this reading wasn't easy to get through because you need to put one hundred percent of your time into understanding the messages that have been placed into each parable from each chapter. I would recommend this book to someone that want to learn the parables of Jesus but that has the time for it. If they allow themselves to get deep into this reading then they will be able to understand what is being told to them to get into their mind