



Stories Jesus Told

"Again, Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables..." Mark 4:1,2(NIV)

He did not say anything to them without using a parable." Mark 4:30-34(NIV)

A parable invites you to discover truth.

"So, the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: 'There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.' David was furious. 'As surely as the Lord lives,' he vowed, 'any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! **6** He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.' Then Nathan said to David, '**You are that man!**'" 2 Samuel 12:1-7(NLT)

"Tell all the truth but tell it slant...The Truth must dazzle gradually, or every man be blind." – Emily Dickinson (Poem 1263)

"He did not say anything to them without using a parable." Mark 4:34(NIV)

We Think > We Decide > We Act

We Want > We Do > We Defend

A parable is a story that reveals what we love and invites us to love something better.

"Again, he said, 'What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.' With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. **He did not say anything to them without using a parable.** Mark 4:30-34(NIV)

Information > Reason > Better decision > Better people

"If anyone **loves Me, he will follow** ... The one who **does not love Me does not follow**..." John 14:23, 24(NASB)

Baptism is the story we're invited to step into, where old stories end and new stories begin.