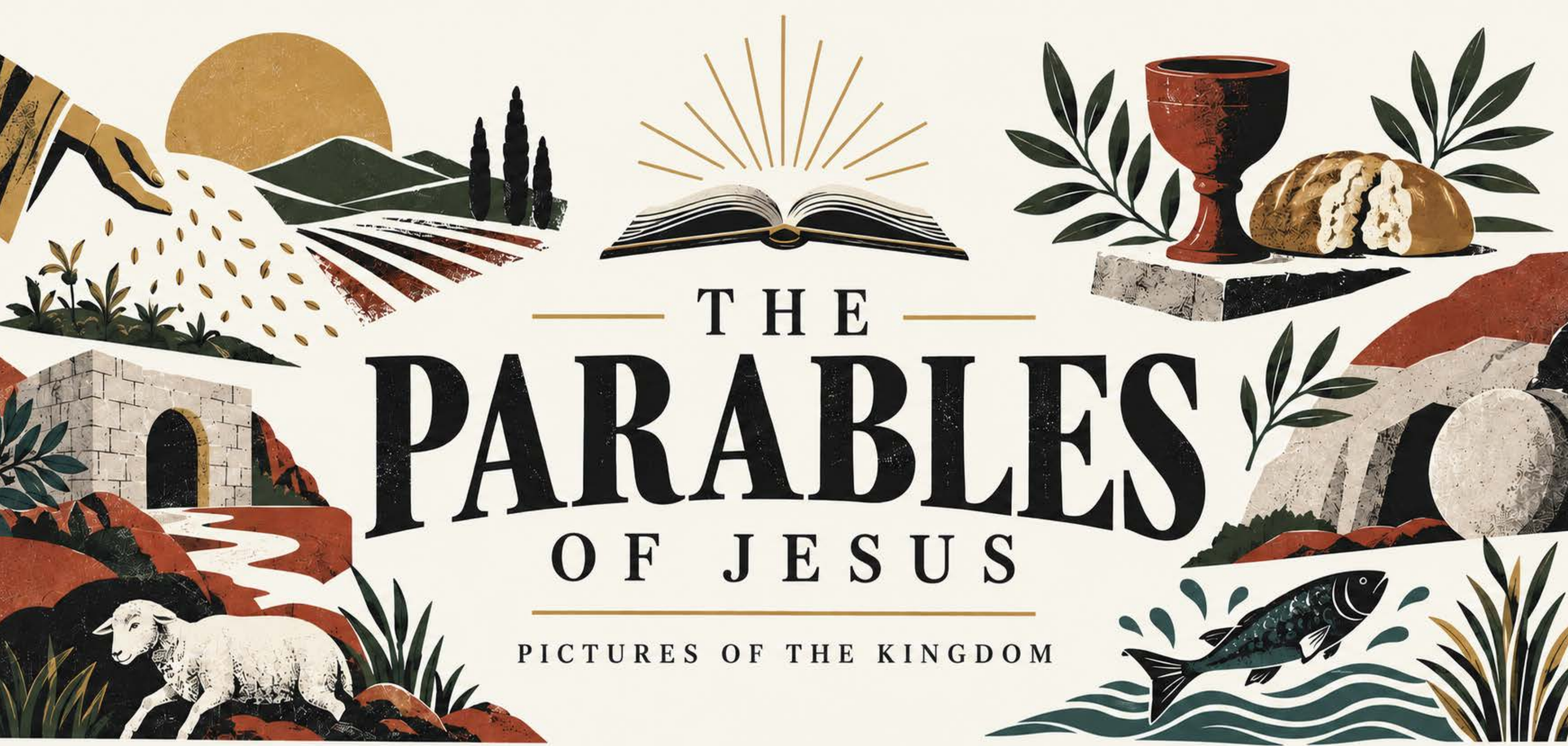




THE
PARABLES
OF JESUS

PICTURES OF THE KINGDOM



Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.**

LUKE 13:10-13

***parable* //:** a story from everyday life used to illustrate a moral truth. It is the primary method Jesus used to teach about the kingdom of God.

WILLIAM D. MOUNCE

COMPLETE EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF OLD & NEW TESTAMENT WORDS

“

Can a blind man lead a blind man?
Will they not both fall into a pit?

LUKE 6:39



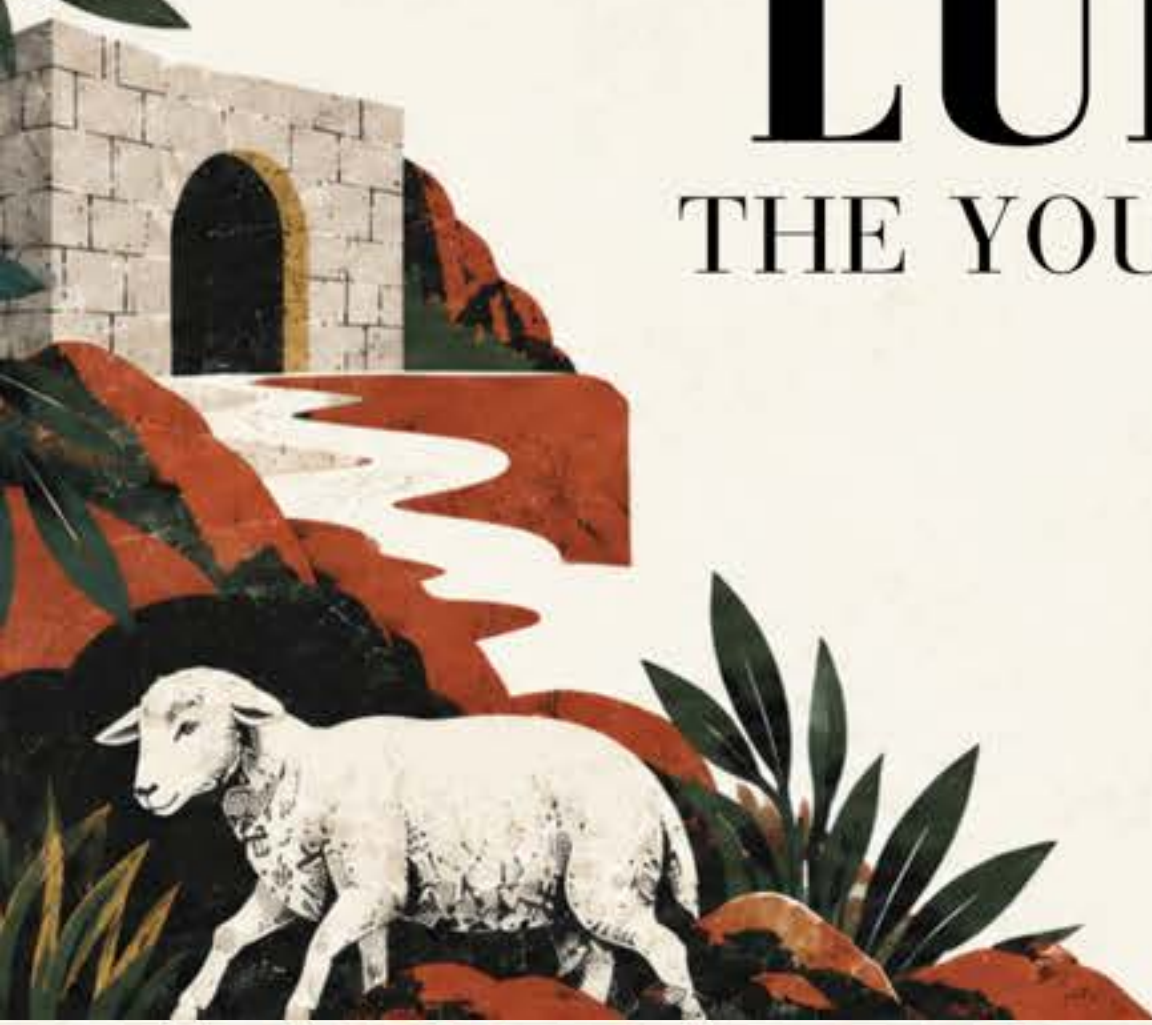
Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

LUKE 6:41-42



LUKE 15:11-20A

THE YOUNGER SON'S DEPARTURE & RETURN



¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

LUKE 15:11-16

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.” ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father.

LUKE 15:17-20A

Just as the prodigal could repent and return home, every sinner, no matter how wicked, may confess his sins, turn to God in repentance, and be received by him.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE #1



LUKE 15:20B-24

THE FATHER'S WELCOME



But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

LUKE 15:20B-24

Just as the father went to great lengths to reconcile with the prodigal, God offers lavish forgiveness to all people, no matter how undeserving, if they are willing to receive it.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE #2



LUKE 15:25-32

THE OLDER SON'S REACTION



²⁵ “Now his older son was **in the field**, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ **But he was angry and refused to go in.**

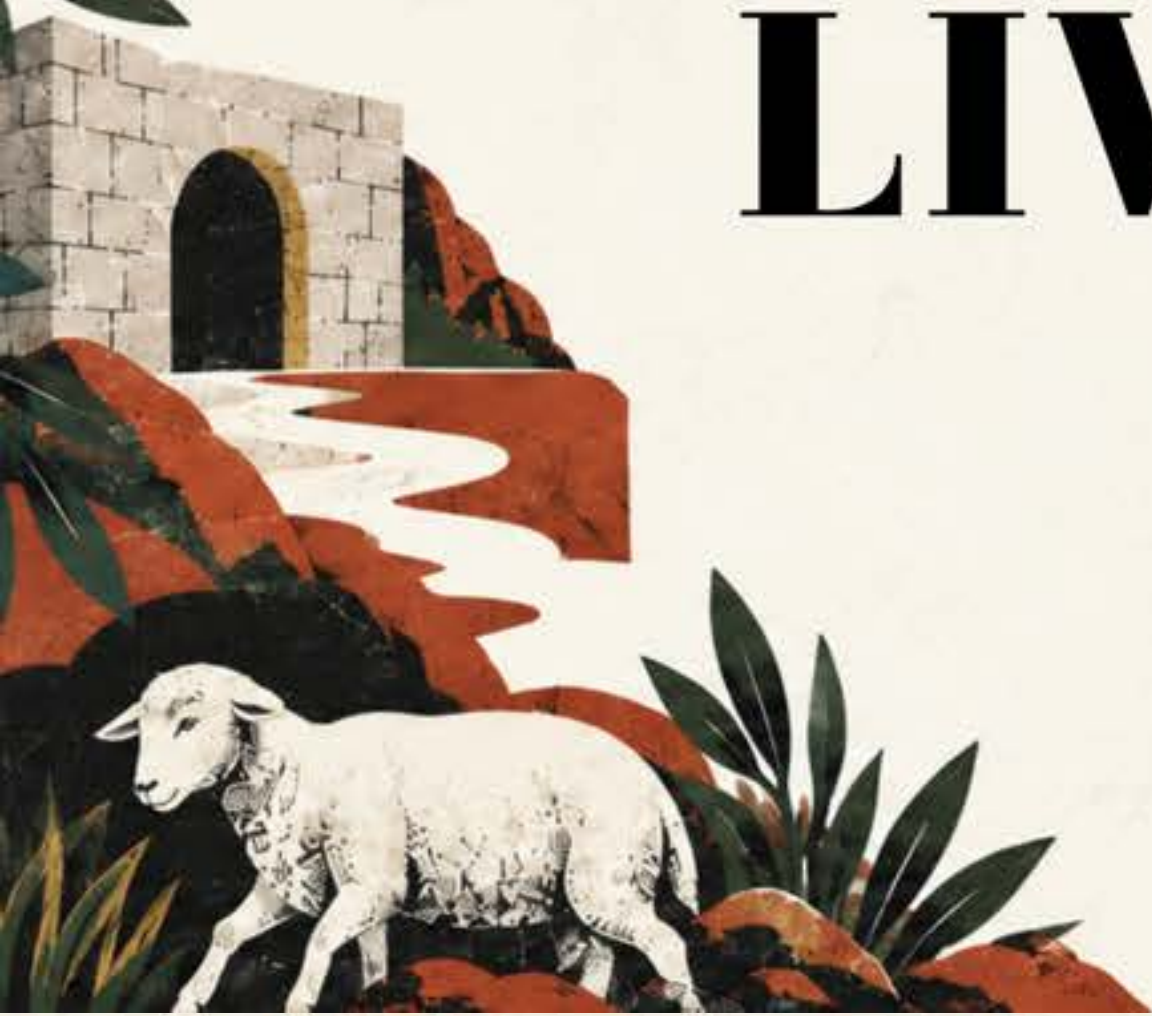
LUKE 15:25-28A

His father **came out** and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, **Look,** these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, **and all that is mine is yours.**’ ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

LUKE 15:28B-32

Just as the older brother should have rejoiced when his brother was restored, God's people should rejoice rather than resent it when he extends his grace to those who seem most undeserving.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE #3



LIVE THE TEXT





1. **Repent** and come home to God.

2. **Trust** God's mercy rather than your worthiness.

3. **Confess** your sin without excuses.

4. **Guard** against resenting God's grace toward others.

5. **Rejoice** when sinners repent and are restored.

6. **Welcome** restored sinners as brothers and sisters.

LIVE THE TEXT