



Class Notes – Part 3

2.) Biblical Narrative

The Typical FORM of Biblical Narrative is:

- Introduction—*How does the beginning of the story prepare you to hear the “main point” of the narrative?*
- Spiritual Challenge begins—*What is the conflict, problem or challenge facing the main character(s)?*
- Spiritual Challenge continues—*What complications arise in the story? How is it developed?*
- Spiritual Challenge is resolved—*How is the conflict/challenge resolved and who resolves it?*
- Conclusion—*How does the story end?*

The Typical FEATURES of Biblical Narrative are:

- Reveals how God has W_____ and S_____ with mankind throughout human history.
- Reveals how mankind has R_____ to God throughout human history.
- Reveals how God continues to work His R_____ purposes throughout human history.

The Typical FUNCTIONS of Biblical Narrative are:

- Provides a character study of G_____.
- Provides a character study of M_____.
- Reveals God’s continuing plan of R_____.
- Teaches the consequences of S_____.
- Teaches the benefits of R_____.

Questions for Application:

- What does this narrative teach me about the character of God?
- What does this narrative teach me about the character of man?
- What does this narrative teach me about the redemptive plan of God?
- What does this narrative teach me about the consequences of sin?
- What does this narrative teach me about the benefits of righteousness?

3.) Law

The Typical FORMS of Biblical Law are:

- U _____ Laws
 - Laws that apply to all people, everywhere, at all times.
 - As such, these laws still apply to us today.
 - Example:

- C _____ Laws
 - Laws that guided the people of Israel in their worship of God (that is, the sacrificial system). These laws also foreshadowed the coming of the Messiah.
 - Because Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system, these laws do NOT apply to us today.
 - That said, we may certainly learn from the *principles* of the Ceremonial Laws.
 - Example:

- C _____ Laws
 - Laws that provided a case-by-case, practical application of the universal laws for the people of Israel to follow.
 - While these laws are not technically binding to us today, we may learn much from how God sought to practically apply the Universal Laws to their daily lives.
 - While certainly some of the Civil Laws presented in the Bible would not be helpful applications for us today, it is important to note that MANY of the “civil laws” presented in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures are absolutely still applicable to us today! (e.g. Matthew 5).
 - Other examples:

The Typical FEATURES of Biblical Law are:

- A statement of the Universal law followed by some specific Ceremonial/Civil laws.
- In other words, there is no Universal law given without some specific Ceremonial/Civil law offered as well. And no specific Ceremonial/Civil law was ever given that was not rooted somehow in a Universal Law.

The Typical FUNCTIONS of Biblical Law are:

- The purpose of Universal Laws is to provide general P_____ which should govern all basic areas in the life of the people of God.
- The purpose of the Ceremonial Laws was to teach the people of Israel how to rightly approach Him in worship. These also pointed to the coming M_____.
- The purpose of the Civil Laws is to provide specific A_____ of the Universal laws within the historical and cultural C_____ of the people of Israel.

Questions for Interpretation and Application:

- Is this law “timeless” in its application (Universal Law) or does it seem to reflect a time-specific understanding of a universal law (Ceremonial/Civil Law)?
- If it is a “Universal Law”, what specific applications can be made today?
NOTE: Be careful NOT to hold your “civil” law over someone else as if it were a universal law from God!
- Is this law specifically teaching the people how to worship God through the sacrificial system? If so, how might the principles of this "Ceremonial Law" apply to my worship of God today?
- Is this law specifically applying a Universal Law to the people of Israel's everyday life? If so, how might the principles of this "Civil Law" apply to my life of faith and obedience today?

4.) Parables

The Typical FORM of Parables is:

- The B_____ of the Parable—The Storyline
- The H_____ of the Parable—The Central Spiritual Truth
- The E_____ of the Parable (Optional)

The Typical FEATURES of Parables are:

- In general, there is usually only O_____ spiritual truth being taught in a parable. Thus, the details of the parable are present only to add color and interest to the story—NOT to be understood as an allegory, in which every detail has some particular spiritual meaning.

- Someone has suggested that there are three basic types of parables:
 - One Character/One Object parable
(e.g. The Mustard Seed, Matthew 13:31-32)
 - Two Character/Two Objects parable
(e.g. The Rich Fool, Luke 12:16-21)
 - Three Characters/Three Objects parable
(e.g. The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32)
- Typically the “main players” in the parables are:
 - God (or the Messiah)
 - The Believer
 - The Unbeliever
 - The Kingdom of God

NOTE: There may be more than one spiritual truth being taught in a parable depending on how many “players” there are in the parable, but each “player” should only have one lesson each.

The Typical FUNCTIONS of Parables are:

- To encourage self- R_____ and personal evaluation.
- To R_____ truth to those who are spiritually responsive and C_____ truth from those who are not.

Questions for Interpretation and Application:

- What seems to be the main point of the parable?
- Is the purpose of the parable explained at the beginning or the end of the parable?
- Who are the main characters or objects in the parable supposed to represent? (i.e. God, believer, unbeliever, etc.)?
- What seems to be the specific lessons for each “major player”?

Additional guidelines:

- Distinguish between the primary details which directly relate the main spiritual truth, and the secondary details which are present to simply add life and color to the storyline.
- Don’t over-spiritualize every detail of the story.
- Because parables can be easily misinterpreted, do NOT base a doctrine on a parable alone.
- An unusual doctrine based on a radical interpretation of a parable and which can be clearly contradicted by Scripture elsewhere is simply wrong.