

Parables: Stories Jesus Told

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 10*.

❖ Jesus is the source of all truth, and all his life was a teaching. We come to know what Jesus taught through Scripture, Tradition, and the teachings of the Church.

PAGE 79

❖ Jesus commissioned his apostles to evangelize, to spread his Good News to all. We all carry on this ministry through teaching and our good example.

PAGE 79

❖ Bishops are the successors of the apostles. They have the right and the duty to teach all that Jesus has revealed. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, at work primarily in the pope and in the bishops in union with the pope. It is present in liturgy and in the practice of the faith—whenever doctrines contained in Scripture and Tradition are taught.

PAGE 79

❖ A doctrine is a belief the Church holds and teaches. It is Church doctrine that Jesus is God and that Mary was sinless. Dogma is doctrine that the Church identifies as revealed by God. Dogma is a belief that is labeled as an article of faith.

PAGE 79

❖ While truth does not change, the Church's understanding of truth may change. The Holy Spirit continually leads the Church to deeper understanding.

PAGE 79

❖ Jesus used parables, stories of everyday life, to teach about God and the Kingdom of God so that the ordinary people of his time could understand. Parables usually included an unexpected twist that helped listeners see the Kingdom of God through everyday images.

PAGE 80

❖ The parable of the workers in the vineyard teaches that even if we repent at the last minute, God will forgive us. See Matthew 20:1–16.

PAGE 81

❖ The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector teaches that we should not judge others. The parable can be found in Luke 18:9–14.

PAGE 81

❖ The parable of the persistent friend teaches us that when God doesn't answer our prayers right away, we should keep praying. Read the parable in Luke 11:5–8.

PAGE 81

❖ Kingdom parables help us understand the Kingdom of God, which Jesus proclaimed. All the kingdom parables are found in the Gospel of Matthew.

PAGE 81

❖ The parable of the wedding feast teaches us that the kingdom is open to all people. We are free to enter or not. The parable can be found in Matthew 22:2–14.

PAGE 81

❖ The parable of the sower illustrates how the Word of God lives or dies in the hearts of different people. Jesus uses farming to help people understand. You can read the parable in Matthew 13:3–9, 18–23.

PAGE 82

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