

# Summer Confirmation Assignment

It is always worthwhile for people to make connections between their life and the life of Christ. Jesus knew that a good way to communicate God's point of view with people was to tell them parables, that is, simple stories that emphasize moral or spiritual lessons. To help you think deeply over the summer about the moral lessons of Christ and how they affect you and the people in your life, your summer task is to write a *modern parable*.

You will find an explanation of how to write a parable below. To encourage you to write the very best parable you can, monetary prizes will be given to the writers of the top two best parables. They will be read anonymously and judged by Fr. Bill, Fr. Norbert, Michelle, and Geri. Winners will receive recognition and awards at the first Confirmation preparation class on August 8. With the author's consent, the winning essays will be posted online at [www.stmichaels.com](http://www.stmichaels.com) in the Confirmation documents section.

## Directions:

Throughout the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, there are about 46 parables, some of which are told multiple times from different viewpoints. Please choose one of these parables to re-write in a modern setting. It should be a simple story that pertains to recent events or imagery from modern times rather than ancient events or imagery. And it is essential that it illustrates a moral lesson, that is, a lesson that clearly tells us about morally acceptable behavior. It should be in story format no longer than one double-spaced page, or it can be handwritten. You can use the list of parables in chronological order to help you decide what story you'd like to rewrite.

The following questions may help you develop your parable.

1. Why are some parables repeated? Is there an important moral lesson in these?
2. While each parable tells a story or gives a comparison, what is the lesson that seems to speak to my life?
3. Have I encountered a situation where I can apply this lesson?
4. Can my version be told simply without losing the lesson?
  - **Due Date:** Your essay should be submitted by **Sunday, July 29** so that winners can be chosen by the first Confirmation class of the new school year, August 8.
  - **This assignment is mandatory for all Confirmation candidates.**
  - **If you turn it in late, it will be accepted but you will no longer be eligible for a prize.**

You may find it helpful to refer to <http://www.bible-stories-library.com/modern-parables.shtml> for pointers on how to create modern parables, but please, make sure it is your own story.

Parables may be left with Michelle, sent via email, regular mail, or left at the Parish office to the attention of: Geri Murray. Email parables to: [murragg@gmail.com](mailto:murragg@gmail.com)

Parables of Jesus in Chronological Order				
	Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1	New cloth on an old coat	9:16	2:21	5:36
2	New wine in old wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38
3	Lamp on a stand (also see #6)	5:14-15		
4	Wise and foolish builders	7:24-27		6:47-49
5	Moneylender forgives unequal debts			7:41-43
6	Lamp on a stand (2 <sup>nd</sup> time, see #3)		4:21-22	8:16, 11:33
7	Rich man foolishly builds bigger barns			12:16-21
8	Servants must remain watchful (also see #44)			12:35-40
9	Wise and foolish servants (also see #42)			12:42-48
10	Unfruitful fig tree			13:6-9
11	Sower and four types of soil	13:3-8, 18-23	4:3-8, 14-20	8:5-8, 11-15
12	Weeds among good plants (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:24-30, 36-43		
13	Growing seed (Kingdom of Heaven)		4:26-29	
14	Mustard seed (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
15	Yeast (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:33		13:20-21
16	Hidden treasure (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:44		
17	Valuable pearl (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:45-46		
18	Fishing net (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:47-50		
19	Owner of a house (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:52		
20	Lost sheep (sheep as children, also see #29)	18:12-14		
21	The sheep, gate, and shepherd	(John 10:1-5, 7-18)		
22	Master and his servant			17:7-10
23	Unmerciful servant (Kingdom of Heaven)	18:23-34		
24	Good Samaritan			10:30-37
25	Friend in need			11:5-8
26	Lowest seat at the feast			14:7-14
27	Invitation to a great banquet			14:16-24
28	Cost of discipleship			14:28-33
29	Lost sheep (sheep as sinners, also see #20)			15:4-7
30	Lost coin			15:8-10
31	Lost (prodigal) son			15:11-32
32	Shrewd manager			16:1-8
33	Rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31
34	Workers in the vineyard, early and late	20:1-16		
35	Persistent widow and crooked judge			18:2-8
36	Pharisee and tax collector			18:10-14
37	King's ten servants given minas (also see #45)			19:12-27
38	Two sons, one obeys one does not	21:28-32		
39	Wicked tenants	21:33-44	12:1-11	20:9-18
40	Invitation to a wedding banquet	22:2-14		
41	Signs of the future from a fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-29	21:29-31
42	Wise and foolish servants (2 <sup>nd</sup> time, see #9)	24:45-51		
43	Wise and foolish virgins	25:1-13		
44	Servants must remain watchful (2 <sup>nd</sup> time, see #8)		13:35-37	
45	Three servants given talents (also see #37)	25:14-30		
46	Sheep and goats will be separated	25:31-46		