

COURSE SYLLABUS

Unlocking the Parables of Jesus

Course Lecturer: Craig L. Blomberg, PhD
Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary

Course Description

In this course, Dr. Craig Blomberg explains the interpretive frameworks we can use to better understand the meanings of the parables. Beginning with the parable of “The Prodigal Son,” you will explore dozens of the stories Jesus told about the Kingdom of God and what it means to follow Him.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe the different structures found in the parables and identify each parable’s structure.
- Discuss problems with some approaches to interpreting the parables.
- Discuss interpretations of each of the parables.
- Understand the importance of the scriptural, historical, and cultural setting of each parable.
- Identify and explain non-canonical parables.
- Explain the themes, theology, and Christology of the parables.

Course Lecturer



Craig L. Blomberg, PhD

Education:

- University of Aberdeen in Scotland, PhD
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, MA
- Augustana College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor of New Testament, specializing in New Testament Studies, Denver Seminary
- Senior Research Fellow, Tyndale House in Cambridge, England
- Professor, Palm Beach Atlantic College
- Visiting professor, Petersburg Christian University, Russia; ACTS in Canada; the Seminario Teológico Centroamericano in Guatemala; the Irish Bible Institute in Ireland and at the Wiedenest Bibelschule in Germany

- Special guest lecturer or visiting professor at numerous universities in Australia and New Zealand

Other Career Highlights:

- Ordained Baptist minister, teaching, preaching, and speaking at a variety of churches and educational institutions both at home and abroad
- Helped train church leaders through conferences across the Pacific Rim
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Active member and regular contributor to the Evangelical Theological Society

Publications:

- Articles in several periodicals, including *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Trinity Journal*, *The Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, and *Themelios*
- Author or editor of several books, including *Interpreting the Parables*, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*, *Making Sense of the New Testament*, and *From Pentecost to Patmos*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet & Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes: A Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*. Combined ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Preaching the Parables*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

Burge, Gary M. *Jesus, the Middle Eastern Storyteller*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2009.

Carson, D.A. *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

Hultgren, Arland J. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary (The Bible in Its World)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.

Kistemaker, Simon J. *The Parables: Understanding the Stories Jesus Told*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1980.

Snodgrass, Klyne R. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008.

Wenham, David. *The Parables of Jesus (The Jesus Library)*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989.

Wright, Stephen I. *Jesus the Storyteller*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.

Young, Brad H. *The Parables: Jewish Tradition and Christian Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
 - **Lectures:** 50-60 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.