



Greek Exegesis: Parables (NTGK6323)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Fall 2022
NOLA2U Flex and In-class options

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

An advanced course giving consideration to text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis in a variety of genres (The Parables of Jesus for this specific course). The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying the text in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat the course for non-reduplicating books. Prerequisites: NTGK5351 Greek 1 and NTGK5352 Greek 2.

Student Learning Outcomes

The Student Learning Outcomes for this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the state of research related to the parables of Jesus
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of the parables
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of the Greek language and of the parables to a sound interpretation of the text

Textbooks

1. *The Greek New Testament*, UBS 5th ed., Nestle-Aland 28th, SBL GNT, or the THGNT
2. Kenneth Bailey, *Poet and Peasant* and *Through Peasants' Eyes*
3. Craig Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*, 2nd edition

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, on-line resources, book reviews, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

Course Requirements

1. Complete the assigned translations and readings according to the schedule.

Translation will be graded based on class participation when called upon for those attending the class sessions (whether in person or online) and will be based on written translations being submitted with all verbs located for those using only the NOLA2U Flex option for the class. If

questions arise on this, please email the professor. Questions on the readings from the textbooks will be included on the exams. (10%)

2. Sectional exams cover the Greek text, assigned readings, and all class material studied up to the time of the exam. Each exam includes short answer & exegesis questions. The exams will be posted online and are to be taken on the scheduled day in the course schedule or at least before the next class session if the NOLA2U option has been chosen for the class (15% each)

3. The final exam will only cover the material studied since the last sectional exam. It will be given as scheduled by the Seminary and made available online for those using the NOLA2U option. The exam must be submitted by the end of the scheduled time as per the seminary schedule for final exams. (20%)

4. Each student will select a background study from the attached list. A typed study about 3 to 4 pages in length will be presented in class, with digital copies submitted via Canvas. The presentation is on the date assigned for the parable. For those using the NOLA2U option this means that a recorded presentation must be posted prior to the class session in which the presentation is due. For those in the class session live, the presentations will be given as part of the class sessions on the respective days. 15%)

5. Each student will select a parable and prepare a rewrite of it in a modern setting, seeking to be faithful to the original “punch” and focus of the parable. The rewrite will be presented in class on the date assigned, with digital copies submitted via Canvas prior to the scheduled class session. (5%)

6. Each student will prepare an exegetical paper on one of the parables or a topic that applies to several parables. The paper topic must be approved by the professor ahead of time. The paper should be a formal research paper about 15 to 20 pages double-spaced in length according to Turabian on form and style. The papers will be submitted via Canvas and are due on **Tuesday, November 29, 5 pm.** (20%)

NOLA2U FLEX STUDENTS: If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.

You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through sending an email to the professor and PhD assistant (email addresses are above) after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.

All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.

Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Translations & Participation	15%	Sectional Exams	30% (15% each)
Final Exam	15%	Exegetical Paper	20%
Rewrite	10%	Background Study	10%

Attendance Policy

Traditional and NOLA2U Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

(KB1 = Bailey, Poet & Peasant, KB2 = Bailey Through Peasant Eyes, CB = Blomberg)

Week 1:	Introduction to the course		
Aug. 16, 18	Intro. to the Parables	Mk. 4:10-12	CB:13-25, 29-69
Week 2:	Day 1: Intro. to the Parables	KB1: 27-43	CB:165-72, 213, 255
Aug. 23, 25	Day 2: Intro.: The Sower	Mk. 4:1-9, 13-20	CB:226f
	Children in the Market	Mt. 11:16-19; Lk. 7:31-35	CB:208f
Week 3:	Day 1: The Wheat and the Tares	Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43	CB:197f
Aug. 30,	Day 2: The Two Sons	Mt. 21:28-32	CB:186f
Sept. 1			
Week 4:	Day 1: The Midnight Visitor	Lk. 11:5-8	CB:274f; KB1:119-41
Sept. 6, 8	Day 2: A Publican and a Pharisee	Lk. 18:9-15	CB:256f; KB2:142-56
Week 5:	Day 1: A Lost Sheep, A Lost Coin	Lk. 15:1-10	CB:179f; KB1:142-57
Sept. 13, 15	Day 2: A Prodigal Son (Elder Son)	Lk. 15:11-32	CB:172f; KB1:158-206
Week 6:	Day 1: The Unfaithful Steward	Lk. 16:1-13	KB1:86-118

Sept. 20, 22	Day 2: The Rich Man and Lazarus	Lk. 16:19-31	CB:203f
Week 7: Sept. 27, 29	Day 1: SECTIONAL EXAM Day 2: The Rich Fool	Lk. 12:16-21	CB:266f; KB2:57-73
Oct. 4, 6	FALL BREAK		
Week 8: Oct. 11, 13	Day 1: The Persistent Widow Day 2: The Banquet Guests	Lk. 18:1-8 Mt. 22:1-14,	CB:271f; KB2:127-41 CB:233f
Week 9: Oct. 18, 20	Day 1: The Good Samaritan Day 2: The Faithful Servant	Lk. 10:30-35 Lk. 12:42-48, Mt. 24:44-51	CB:229f; KB2:33-56 CB:190f
Week 10: Oct. 25, 27	Day 1: Two Debtors, A Master and his Servant Day 2: SECTIONAL EXAM	Lk. 7:41-43, Lk. 17:7-10	CB:184f; KB2:1-21 CB:260f; KB2:114-26
Week 11: Nov. 1, 3	Day 1: The Ten Virgins Day 2: The Talents	Mt. 25:1-13 Mt. 25:14-30; Lk.19:12-27	CB:193f CB:214f
Week 12: Nov. 8, 10	Day 1: The Wicked Tenants Day 2: Workers in the Vineyard	Mk. 12:1-12 Mt. 20:1-16	CB:247f CB:221f
Week 13: Nov. 15, 17	Day 1: The Great Banquet Day 2: Pearls, Treasure & Leaven	Lk. 14:15-24, Mt.13:33,44-47 Lk.13:20-21	CB:233f; KB2:88-113 CB:279f

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: Day 1: Figs, Harvest & Mustard Seeds Lk. 13:6-9, Mk 4:26-32. CB:268f, 284f
Nov. 29 **MAJOR PAPERS DUE ON THIS DAY, NOV. 29, BY 5 PM.**

Week 15: FINAL EXAMS

REWRITES & BACKGROUND TOPICS: (1st c. Palestine unless otherwise noted)

The Sower	Climate and Agriculture in Palestine
The Children in the Market	The Daily Life of Children in Palestine
The Wheat and the Tares	Wheat and Tares, Figs, and Harvest Time
The Two Sons	Scribes & Pharisees: Social Status, Scribal Work, Diversity, Political Affiliations, and Authority
Who Has a Friend	Jewish Friendship relationships: with whom & protocol
A Publican and a Pharisee	Personal Prayer Practices among Jews Publicans and Tax Collectors in Palestine
A Prodigal Son (Elder Son)	The Family Status of Sons in Judaism
The Rich Fool	Living Conditions among the Wealthy
The Rich Man and Lazarus	The Concepts of Hades and Abraham's Bosom
The Banquet Guests	Banquets, Celebrations and Hospitality Rules
The Persistent Widow	Widows: Status, Rights and Economic Security Local Judges and Justice in Palestine
The Good Samaritan	Highway Robbers/Robbery in Palestine

The Faithful Servant	Samaritan--Jew Relations in Palestine
Two Debtors,	Landowners and Tenant Farmers in Palestine
A Master and his Servant	Loans, Payments, and Collection Practices
The Ten Virgins	Gentile & Jewish Slaves/Servants in Palestine
The Talents	Wedding Practices in Judaism
The Wicked Tenants	“Banking” in the first century
Workers in the Vineyard	Expectations of tenants in the first century
The Great Banquet	Migrant Farm Workers in Palestine
Pearls	Hospitality rules in the first century
Treasure, and Leaven	Land Ownership and Sales in Palestine
	Cooking practices in the first century

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Archaeological Finds	Pseudepigrapha	Josephus	LXX
Dead Sea Scrolls	Apocrypha	Philo	Rabbinic Literature
Nag Hammadi	Targums	Suetonius	Church Fathers

Secondary Sources:

Bible Dictionaries:

Anchor Bible Dict., IDB, ISBE (rev.), ZPEB, Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (incl. the 20th Century E. of R. K. supplements), Hasting’s Dict. of the Bible, etc.

Books on Parables:

Bailey, *A Poet and a Peasant and Through Peasants’ Eyes*

Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*, 2nd ed.

Dodd, *The Parables of the Kingdom*

Hultgren, *The Parables of Jesus*

Jeremias, *The Parables of Jesus*

McArthur and Johnston, *They Also Taught in Parables*

Scott, *Hear then the Parable*

Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*, 2nd ed.

Biblical Backgrounds Books:

Lohse, *The New Testament Environment*

Hengel, *Judaism and Hellenism: Studies in Their Encounter in Palestine during the Early Hellenistic Period* (in 1 vol., formerly 2 volumes)

Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*

Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: NT*

Matthews, *Manners and Customs in the Bible*

Theissen, *Sociology of Early Palestinian Christianity*

Meeks, *The First Urban Christians*

Meeks, *The Moral World of the First Christians*

Sanders, *Jesus and Judaism*

Stambaugh and Balch, *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*

Wilkins, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*

Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the NT