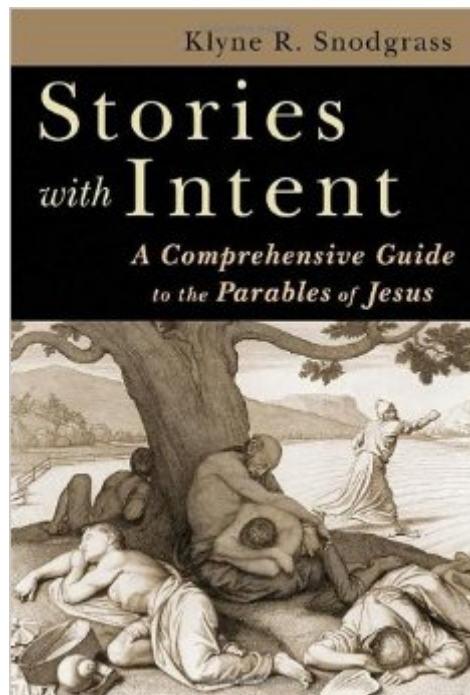


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# Stories With Intent: A Comprehensive Guide To The Parables Of Jesus



## Synopsis

Stories with Intent offers pastors and students an accessible and comprehensive guide to Jesus's parables. Klyne Snodgrass explores in vivid detail the context in which these stories were told, the purpose they had in Jesus's message, and the ways they have been interpreted by the church and modern scholarship. While holding a consciously evangelical approach, Snodgrass deals throughout with a broad spectrum of opinions and interpretations. He begins by surveying the primary issues in parables interpretation. Offering both a new, more functional classification system for Jesus's parables and guidelines for interpreting them, he provides an overview of other parables -- often neglected in the discussion -- from the Old Testament, Jewish writings, and the Greco-Roman world. The remaining chapters group the longer and more important parables of Jesus thematically and give a comprehensive treatment of each, including background and significance for today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Klyne Snodgrass has done this decade and maybe the next two the favor of condensing 35 years of teaching the Parables of Jesus into "just" 800 pages or so, in Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus. This is the book almost every seminary graduate will wish he or she had had when studying the parables. I do, and I wish I had had it the past 40 years. There are classics on the Parables, to be sure, such as the one by Jeremias The Parables of Jesus 3rd revised edition (simplified in his Rediscovering the Parables), but none were as comprehensive as

this one. Two features make *Stories with Intent* remarkably easy to read. First, all the chapters on the parables themselves follow the same basic outline, but it is the vertical white space that makes the outline stand out and the discussion particularly easy to follow. Secondly, all the advanced discussion is in the end notes, so that the reader who needs to follow up can and the reader who prefers not to can just keep reading. In addition, the chapters on the parables themselves end with a section called "Adapting the Parable" (just before "For Further Reading). The former describes the significance of the parable for today, in somewhat wider ways than mere "application," though that it included, too. Often Snodgrass makes a pithy remark--almost a wisdom saying in its own right--to end that section.

Since I'm now preaching a short series on *The Parables of Jesus*, I recently purchased and started reading Klyne Snodgrass's *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. Comprehensive it is. This book is 846 pages long (though over 300 pages of this are bibliography and notes)! But though it is comprehensive, it is written with preachers in mind. As Snodgrass admits in his preface, "This is unapologetically and quite consciously a selfishly motivated book. This is what I want when preparing to teach or preach on the parables" (p. xi). It's what I want, too, and I'm glad Snodgrass gave in to his selfish ambition! Snodgrass begins, of course, with an "Introduction to the Parables of Jesus," in which he covers (these are the subheadings): Necessary History; What is a Parable?; How Should Parables Be Classified?; What about Allegory?; Characteristics of Jesus' Parables; Distribution of the Parables; How Should Parables Be Interpreted?; and NT Criticism - Assumptions and Hesitations, Method and Procedure. He lists eleven characteristics of Jesus' parables: 1. Jesus' parables are first of all brief, even terse. 2. Parables are marked by simplicity and symmetry. 3. Jesus' parables focus mostly on humans. 4. The parables are fictional descriptions taken from everyday life. 5. Parables are engaging. 6. Since they frequently seek to reorient thought and behavior . . . parables often contain elements of reversal. 7. With their intent to bring about response and elements like reversal, the crucial matter of parables is usually at the end, which functions something like the punch line of a joke. 8. Parables are told into a context.

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