

## NT5/712 - The Parables of Jesus Instructor

Dr. Stephen Black, **Contact:** [rector@sthilda.ca]

**Purpose:** In this course we will look at the Parables of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (and occasionally in the Gospel of Thomas). Our goal will be to uncover surprising subversions that hide within these too familiar little images and stories. We will explore important methodologies that have been used to understand the parables (form criticism, source criticism, narrative criticism, etc.). More importantly, we will spend time discussing specific parables as a class. In conversation, students will learn to explore possible fields of meaning latent in the parables and will also begin to identify the exegetical/hermeneutic decisions that have been made that give make these meanings possible. This class will be valuable to anyone who wishes to deeply engage the parables. It will also be useful for those who will preach/teach.

**Format:** Monday-Friday July 6-10 2021, 2pm-5pm. Seminar format.

**Identification of the levels at which the course can be taken:** Audit, Certificate, Basic (Diploma/MA/M.Div) or Advanced (Th.M).

**Required texts, available in print and e-book format from amazon.ca and chapters.ca:**

**Please pre-read before class begins**

Levine, A.-J. (2014). *Short Stories by Jesus*. Harper Collins.

### Select Bibliography

Blomberg, C. L. (2012). *Interpreting the parables* (2nd ed.). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

Crossan, J. D. (1992). *In Parables*. Polebridge Press/Westar Inst.

Crossan, J. D. (2002). The parables of Jesus. *Interpretation*, 56(3), 247 - 259.

Crossan, J. D. (2012). *The Power of Parable*. Harper Collins.

Dibelius, M. (1971). *From Tradition to Gospel* (Library of Theological Translations). Cambridge: James Clarke.

Dodd, C. H. (1978). *The Parables of the Kingdom* (Revised ed.). [London]: Fount Paperbacks.

Funk, R. W., & Scott, B. B. (2006). *Funk on P: collected essays*. Santa Rosa, Calif.: Polebridge Press.

Funk, R. W. (1966). *Language, Hermeneutic, and Word Of God; The Problem of Language in The New Testament and Contemporary Theology*. New York: Harper & Row.

- Funk, R. W. (1982). *Parables and Presence: Forms of the New Testament Tradition*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
- Jeremias, J. (1972). *The Parables of Jesus* (2nd ed.). New York: Scribner's Sons.
- Kingsbury, J. D. (1971). Major trends in Parable Interpretation. *Concordia Theological Monthly*, 42(9), 579 - 596.
- Scott, B. B. (1990). *Hear Then the Parable: a Commentary on the Parables of Jesus* (1st paperback ed. ed.). Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Scott, B. B. (2001). *Re-imagine the World: an Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Santa Rosa, Calif.: Polebridge Press.
- Via, D. O. (1974). *The Parables: Their Literary and Existential Dimension*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
- Wilder, A. N., & Breech, J. (1982). *Jesus' parables and the War of Myths: Essays On Imagination in the Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

**Assignments:** For all students:

- Attendance in accordance with VST policies
- Thoughtful, engaged participation in class discussion and activities
- Completion of assigned readings

***For Certificate-level students:***

- One 1000–1500-word reflection paper (3-4 pages) demonstrating engagement with course material.

***For Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS):***

- A 1500–2000-word paper (6-8 pages) on a topic of the student's choice, engaging a parable, and comparing of interpretations within history (5 sources beyond the assigned course readings).

***Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M.):***

- A 3000–3750-word research paper (12-15 pages) on a topic of the student's choice, engaging a parable, comparing and evaluating of interpretations within history, and explicit identification and analysis of methodologies being used (10 sources beyond the assigned course readings).

**Prerequisites:** None.