

# Parables – college essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

A parable is a simple story which is designed to illustrate or teach some truth, a moral lesson, or a spiritual lesson to the reader. A parable is told by Jesus in the Gospels. The word “parable” comes from the Greek word “parabola” which means comparison, illustration, or analogy. The Greeks used the word “parabola” at first to describe any fictive illustration which was in the form of a brief narrative.

Later the Greeks changed the definition of the word “parabola” to mean a fictitious narrative, which was generally referred to something that might naturally occur that would cause spiritual and moral matters to be perceived by the reader. Jesus’ parables often tell about the kingdom of God and the nature of God. Parables were Jesus’ way of teaching controversial ideas without landing himself in trouble with the Religious Leaders.

What are three types of parables and examples for each: Explain what it means to say that parables are subversive devices: Parables allowed Jesus to teach controversial ideas without getting himself in trouble with Religious Leaders in that period of time. Jesus used parables to illustrate his points, it was a good way for him to be able to say things (without actually saying them) that possibly could have landed him in trouble with the Religious Leaders.

Enemies of Jesus were always watching for something they could use against him. By speaking in parables, Jesus made it difficult for them to accuse him of saying something that he wasn’t allowed to, as parables were hard to comprehend, and he couldn’t be arrested for telling good stories. Subversive

meaner to subvert, overthrow, or destroy an established government, institution, or belief.

So, I think that to say parables are aversive devices is to say that a parable is a device (illustration/story) which allowed Jesus to state and express his point whilst going against the beliefs of the Religious Leaders and society (of/at that time) without getting himself into trouble with the Religious Leaders, as a parable is a hard thing for people to understand/ comprehend. Give an example of a parable that demonstrates this and explain why it is subversive: The Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 29- 37.

I think that this parable is subversive because unlike the Priest and Temple Assistant, the Despised Samaritan helped the man even though the Samaritan himself was looked down upon by everyone else. By stopping to help the man he was doing differently to what the rest of society (The Priest and the Temple Assistant) were doing and not only soothed and bandaged the man's wounds, but stayed at an Inn with the man for a night to look after him and left the next day after paying the Innkeeper two silver coins to further more keep and look after the man for a while.

Explain another key teaching of Jesus and how it is relevant today: Another key teaching of Jesus is to love one another. In The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22 : 34 – 40) Jesus explains to the Pharisees what the greatest and second greatest commandments are; The greatest being “ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”. And the second greatest “ Love your neighbor as yourself”. In Love For

Enemies (Luke 6 : 27 – 36) Jesus says “ Love your who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.

If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”. By saying this Jesus has told people to love even those who maybe don't especially deserve your love. Jesus is basically saying treat others how you would want to be treated – with love and with your mercy. In Judging Others (Luke 6 : 37 – 41) Jesus states this: “ Do not Judge, and you will not be Judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you”. This also resembles the parable ‘ Love For Enemies’ as it is about treating others how you would like to be treated. I think that in all three of these parables there is the same message that is a key teaching of Jesus but it's just written and said in different ways; Love one another. This is relevant today because of the quote ‘ Love makes the world go round’, without love for yourself and love for everyone else there would be a lot of hate in all society and there would be not a lot of good. There would be violence, deaths, wars, etc.