

# CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS



July 22, 2018

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### *The Parable of Mr. Nobody* Luke 16:19-31

#### **Luke 16:19-31**

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup> and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup> And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup> And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ <sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup> He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

#### **The Point of the Parable**

*“...this parable is not, as often supposed, a description of the afterlife, warning people to be sure of their ultimate destination.... The reality [of the story] is uncomfortably different... rather what was happening to both rich and poor in the present time.”*

N.T. Wright

The parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, lost sons, the dishonest manager, and the parable of Mr. Nobody – every one of them is Jesus' response to the religious leaders who were grumbling about the warm embrace he was showing towards sinners and outsiders.

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* **Luke 15:1-2**

## The People of the Parable

### Practicing the Parable

All of Jesus' teaching was meant to be practical. That is, they are teachings designed to put into practice.

*If you have ever felt like a nobody, think again...*

*If you have ever treated someone like a nobody, think again...*

*If you have ever thought that becoming a Christian is a matter of making minor adjustments to your life, think again...*

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### Digging Deeper into the Kingdom of God

This week's passages:

Monday – The Parable of the Lost Sheep: Luke 15:1-7

Tuesday – The Parable of the Lost Coin: Luke 15:8-10

Wednesday – The Parable of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32

Thursday – The Parable of the Dishonest Manager: Luke 16:1-13

Friday – The Parable of Mr. Nobody: Luke 16:19-31

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Each of these parables are related. They each are making a similar point and that is, that in Jesus, something has taken place that has reversed the fortunes of people. Jesus is reversing the way things are. Take special note of what the passage says about God, and his Kingdom. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).