



**Why do you speak to the people
in parables? (Matt. 13:10)**

THE OVERCOMING CHURCH

- Fix your Eyes on Jesus
- Faith in Him
- Flow Together with Him

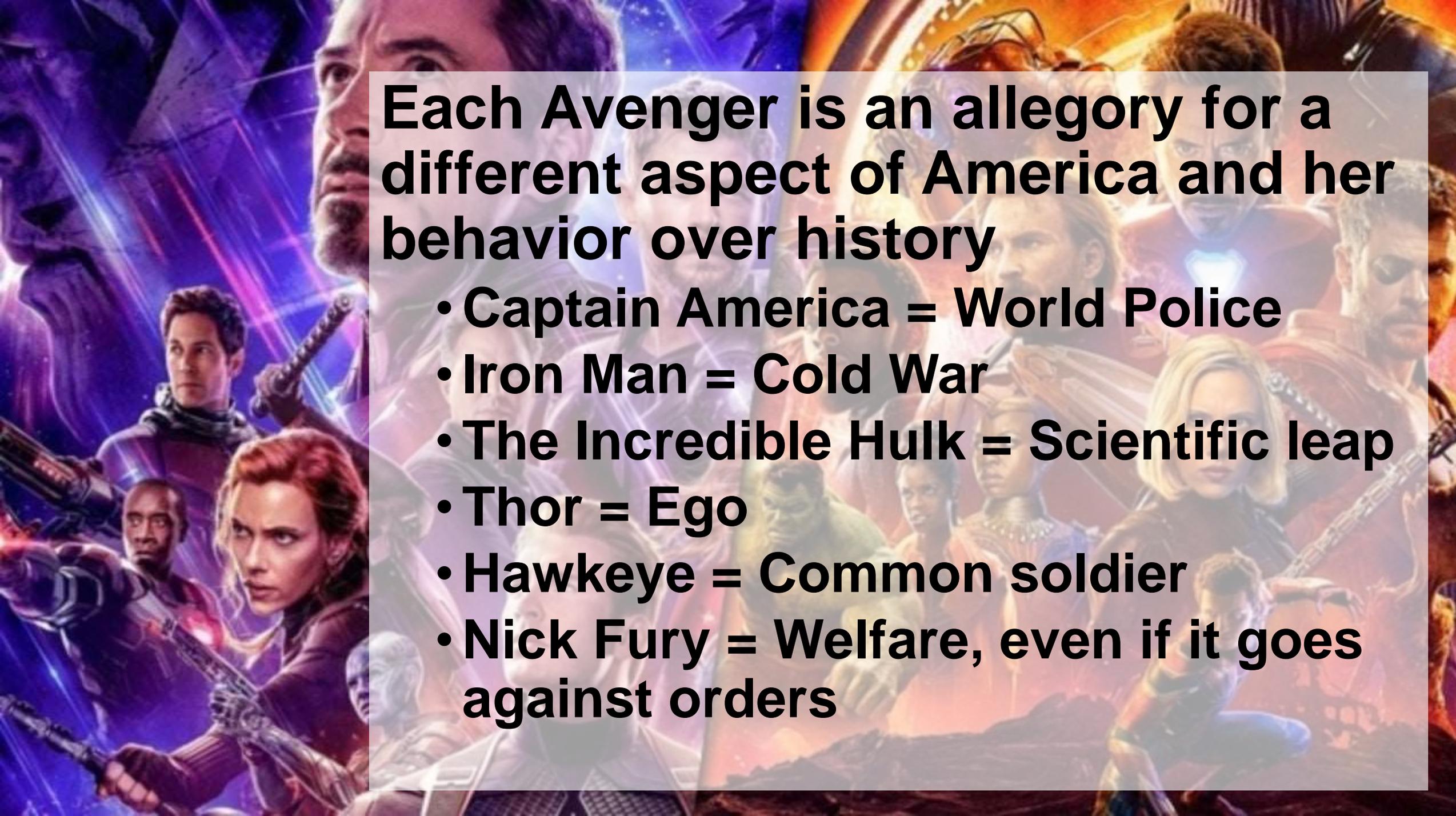
**Sunday Sermon
29-March-2020**

1. God cares for you and me
2. God chooses to use you and me

<https://youtu.be/Qpe2Po6vDG8>

Assumption

- **A Parable is a Riddle**
 - **Fact: it leave one helpless or unable to derive any life lesson**
- **A Parable is a Metaphor (eg. don't make a mountain out of a molehill)**
 - **Fact: it is not literally applicable**
- **A Parable is a form of Allegory**
 - **Fact: it contains hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one, and requires a deeper analysis.**



Each Avenger is an allegory for a different aspect of America and her behavior over history

- **Captain America = World Police**
- **Iron Man = Cold War**
- **The Incredible Hulk = Scientific leap**
- **Thor = Ego**
- **Hawkeye = Common soldier**
- **Nick Fury = Welfare, even if it goes against orders**

Parables..

- Jesus' teaching method in public (Mark 4:34)
- Useful life message in a way that will not be rejected
- Transmission of information in Biblical truth

Significance of Jesus' Parables

- O my people, listen to my teaching. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past. Psalms 78:1-2**
- The good shepherd Ez 34:11-12 cf Jn 10:17-18**
- The lost sheep Ez 34:16 cf Lk 15:4-7**
- Separate sheep from goat Ez 34:17 cf Mt 25:31-46**

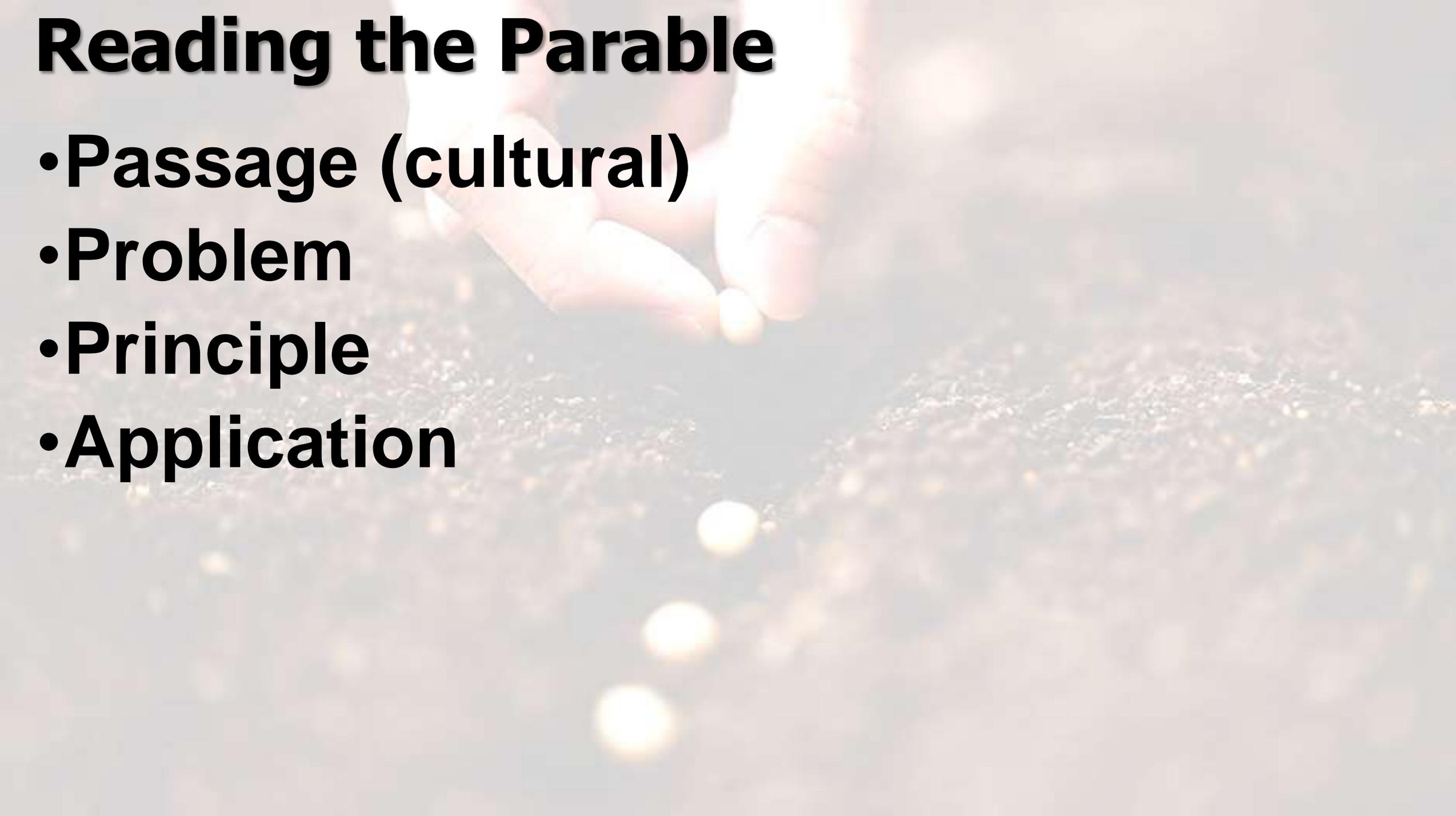
Why did Jesus speak in Parables?

- **An experience or event from daily life, so easy to understand and make connection (The lost coin, Lk 15:8-10)**
- **Easy to remember Biblical truth**
- **“Touches” people’s heart and resonate**

or simply..in plain language

- **Straight to the point**
- **Relevant to daily issues and struggles**
- **Unveil the mysteries on Kingdom of God**
- **Tools in sharing the Gospel**

Reading the Parable

A close-up photograph of a hand sowing seeds into dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned at the top center, with fingers gently holding a small, light-colored seed. The soil is dark and textured, with several other seeds visible in the foreground, some in focus and some blurred. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful, symbolizing the beginning of a journey or the sowing of ideas.

- **Passage (cultural)**
- **Problem**
- **Principle**
- **Application**

Parable on New Wine in Old Wine Skins

- And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, “The old is better”. Luke 5: 37-39 NIV
- And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins." . Mark 2:22 NIV



Parable on New Wine in Old Wine Skins

Passage	using back old wineskins to store new wine
Problem	the people then wanted to cling on to old tradition (“the old is better”, they said)
Principle	when one receives the Good News, transformation must happen, the old self must die.
Application	what is our old way of living that stops us from following and trusting Jesus faithfully?

Background of the Parables

- **Majority of Jesus' Parables are found in the 3 synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke)**
- **Themes**
 - **Kingdom of Heaven**
 - **Kindness**
 - **Value**
 - **Severity**
 - **Christian Living**
 - **Stewardship**
 - **Fruitfulness**
 - **Pray**
 - **Humility**
 - **Etc..**

Parables on the Kingdom of Heaven

- The Sower (Mt 13:3-8, Mk 4:3-8, Lk 8:5-8)
- The Weeds (Mt 13:24-30)
- The Growing Seeds (Lk 4:26-29)
- The Mustard Seed (Mt 13:31-32, Mk 4:30-32, Lk 13:18-19)
- The Yeast (Mt 13:33, Lk 13:20-21)
- The Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44)
- The Valuable Pearl (Mt 13:45-46)
- The Fishing Net (Mt 13:47-50)
- The House Owner (Mt 13:52)
- The Unmerciful Servant (Mt 18:23-24)

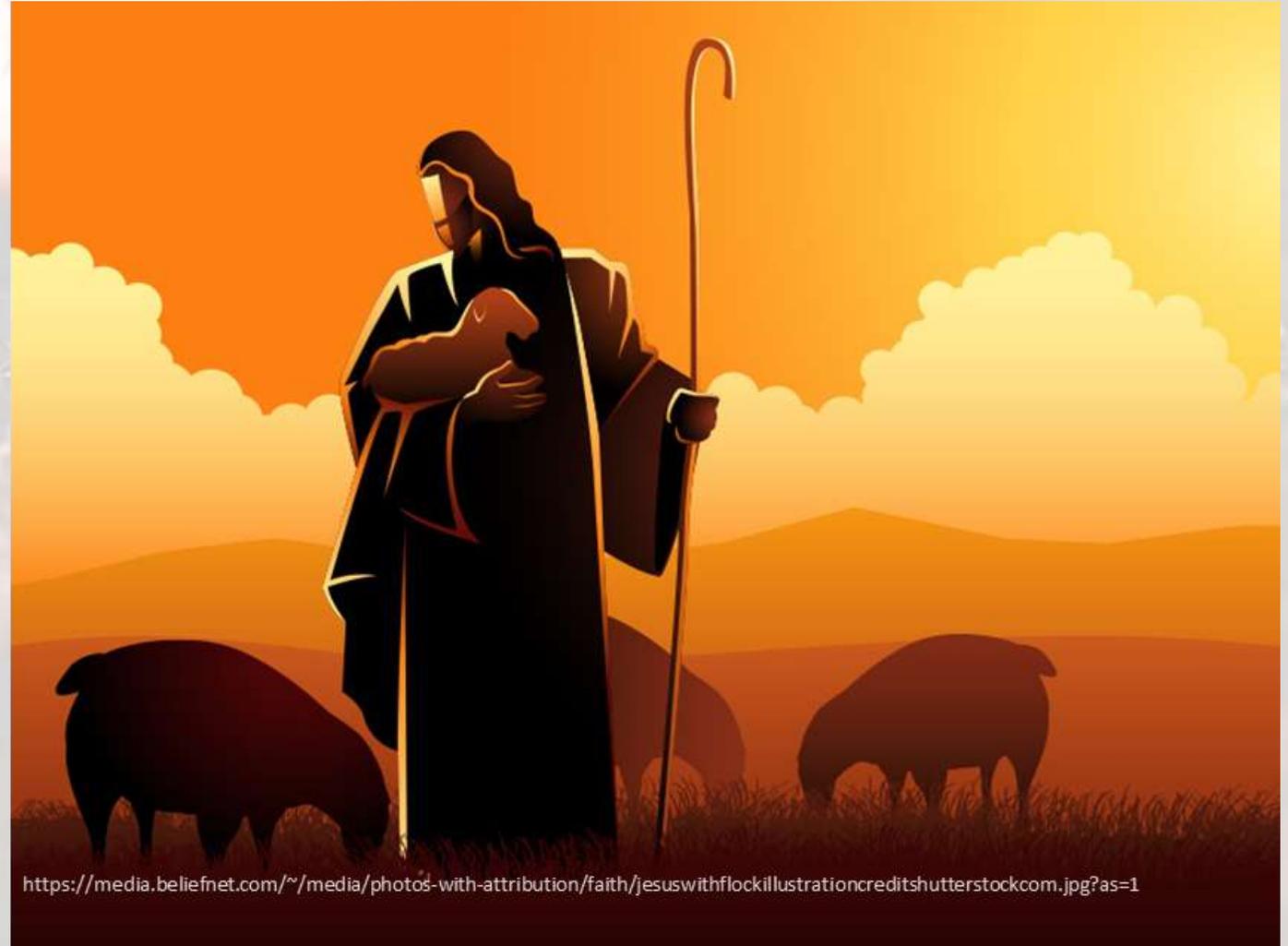
* Mt – Matthew, Mk – Mark, Lk - Luke

Message from the Parables on Kingdom of Heaven

- **Be a witness and God will do the rest**
- **Impact to the world, God's redemptive plan**
- **Willing to give up/surrender**
- **Stop judging, God will do the sorting**
- **There will be a sorting (judgement)**
- **Forgiveness towards one another**
- **Salvation by grace alone**
- **Cloth of righteousness**

Kingdom of God – The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

- God is seeking
- God is waiting



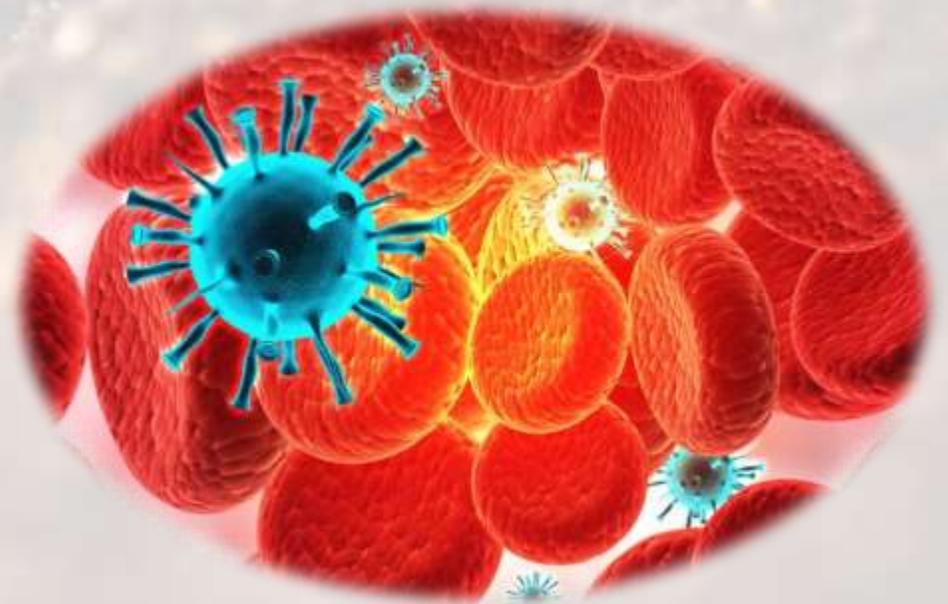
Relevancy of the Parables today

A close-up photograph of a hand sowing seeds into dark soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of light spots, creating a serene and hopeful atmosphere.

- Charity
- Forgiveness
- Greed
- Justice
- Perseverance
- Watchful
- Fruitful
- Humility
- Ask, Seek, Knock

4 Parables Lessons during current MCO

- **Houses on Rocks and Sand. Matthew 7:24-27**
- **The Persistent Widow. Luke 18:2-8**
- **The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37**
- **The Prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32**



Applications during current MCO

1. Build our foundation (family altar)

- **Houses on Rocks and Sand. Matthew 7:24-27**

2. Pray unceasingly

- **The Persistent Widow. Luke 18:2-8**

3. Kingdom mindset

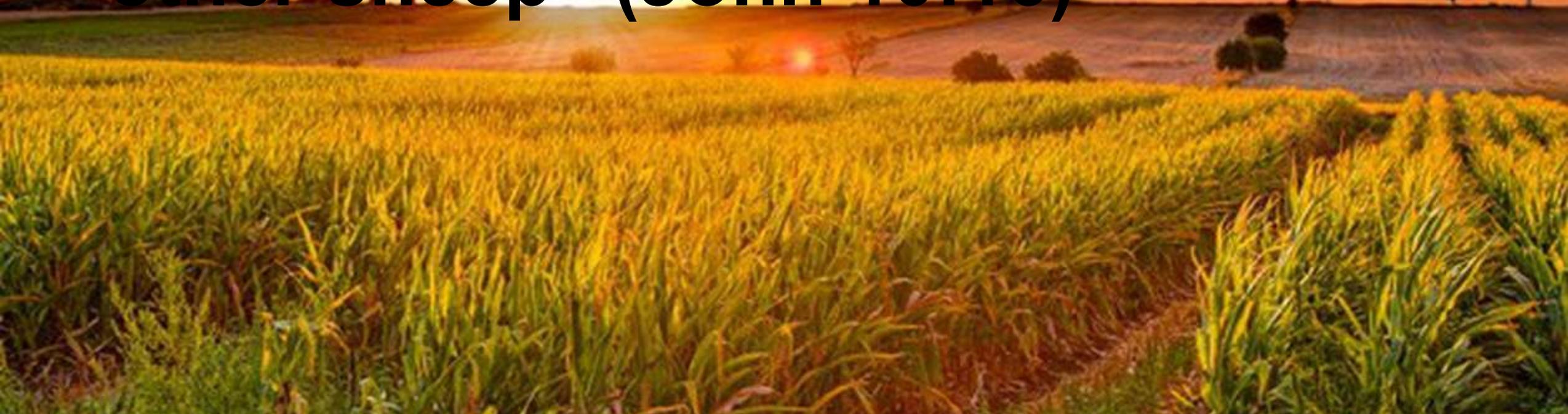
- **The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37**

4. GOD is our refuge

- **The Prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32**

The Great Commission

- “..teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20a, NIV)
- “other sheep” (John 10:16)



Palm Sunday

- **Jesus fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy that he was the Messiah**
- **Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey, even on a donkey's colt. Zec 9: 9b**
- **Hosanna (Please Save/Deliver Us!)**
- **The people were hoping Jesus could deliver them from oppression of the Romans**

However

- **In less than one week, Jesus was crucified, rejected by some of the people welcoming him during his triumphant entry into Jerusalem.**
- **They expected immediate result that Jesus will lead a rebellion and overthrow the Romans**
- **Disappointment -> Anger -> Rejection**

Palm Sunday - A reminder

- **Jesus willingly participated in God's redemptive plan, suffered and died on the cross for your sin and my sin.**
- **Jesus spoke many times on the Mysteries of Kingdom/God in the Parables**
- **A spiritual kingdom - in the hearts of people who put their faith in God.**



Our Current 'Oppression'

- **Are we shouting HOSANNA in our current situation, hoping Jesus will deliver and save us from “oppression” or suffering immediately?**
 - **Loss of freedom due to MCO?**
 - **Loneliness?**
 - **Health?**
 - **Worry over job, finance, children education, etc..?**
- **Do not be disappointed if God doesn't answer our prayer immediately**
- **Attitude of waiting upon the Lord to seek His face**
- **Take the opportunity to dwell on his Word**

One of Jesus' last Parable

- **The Sheep and the Goats Matt 25**
- **..he will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Matt 25:32b**
- **My sheep hears my voice; I know them and they follow me. John 10:27a**
- **Abide in him and follow him faithfully**

Holy Week Preparation

- **Prepare our heart as we enter the Holy Week**
- **Ponder on what Christ has done**
- **His suffering and the excruciating pain he went through**
- **The pain of our Heavenly Father, who sacrificed his own son so that non will perish**
- **Such amazing Grace is given to all mankind to reconcile with God**

Take away points

- *God cares for you and me*
- *God chooses to use you and me*
- **God has his own timing**
- **God's Kingdom is for everyone**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NIV