

## **KNOW YOUR FAITH XII**

### **PARABLES**

Parables were an ancient form of teaching and in the First Testament are called *mashals* which were stories with a message and sometimes used as riddles. The parables of Jesus are found in the synoptic (Syn-optic = seen together) gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. They are not found in John. The gospel of Luke has the most parables. The parables have been grouped into six major categories:

- Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

- Parables of Loss and Redemption

- Parables of Love and Forgiveness

- Parables of Prayer

- Parables of Eschatology (Last Days)

- Other Parables

“Jesus parables are seemingly simple and memorable stories, often with imagery, and all convey messages. Scholars have commented that although these parables seem simple, the messages they convey are deep, and central to the teachings of Jesus. Christian authors view them not as mere similitudes which serve the purpose of illustration, but as internal analogues in which nature becomes a witness for the spiritual world. Many of Jesus’ parables refer to simple everyday things.....Yet they deal with major spiritual themes.” (Wikipedia)