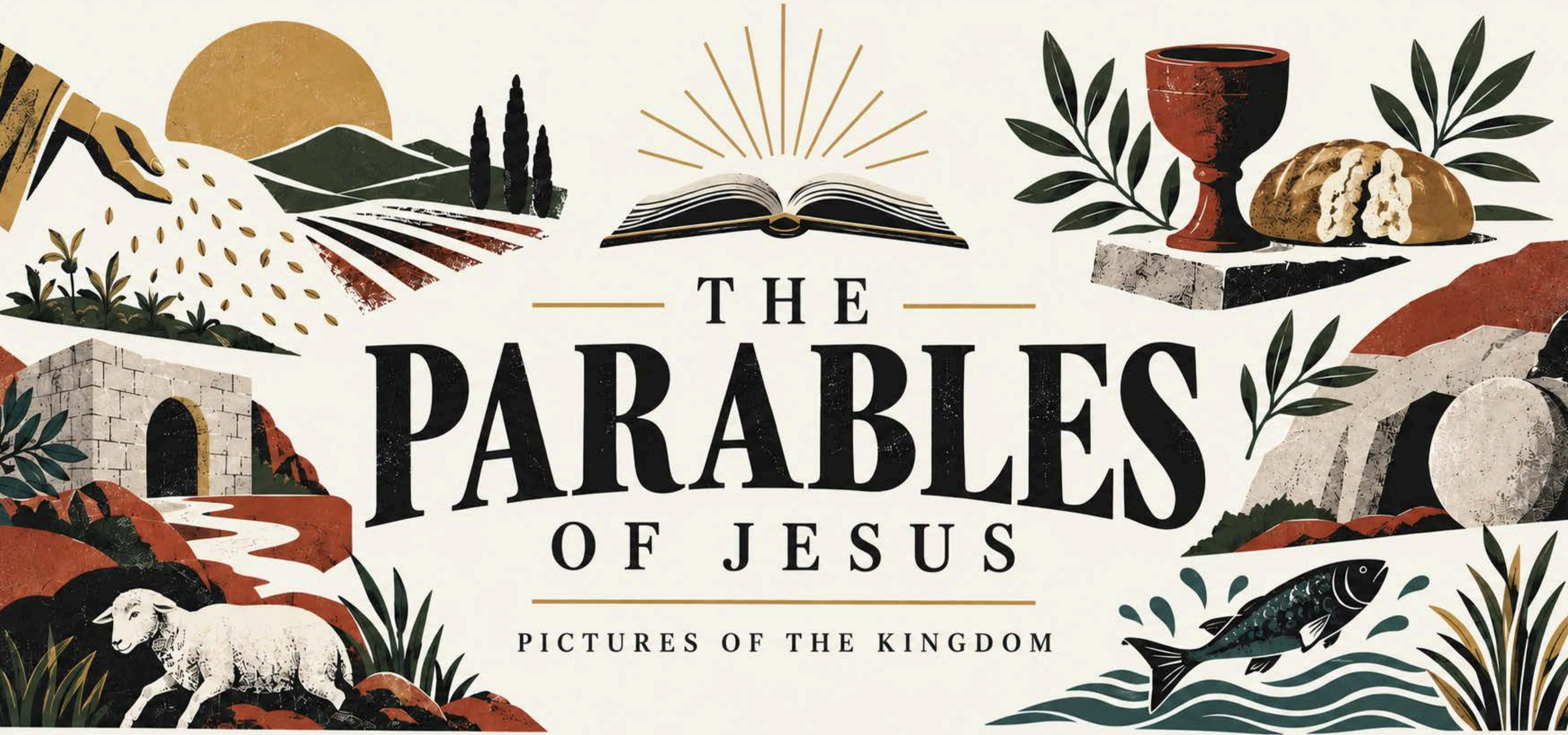

THE
PARABLES
OF JESUS
PICTURES OF THE KINGDOM

“

20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come,
he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can
be observed, 21 nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold,
the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

LUKE 17:20-21

“

26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

LUKE 17:26-27

“

28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

LUKE 17:28-30

“

31 On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

LUKE 17:31-32





THE PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW





And he told them a parable to the effect that they **ought always to pray** and **not lose heart.** 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

LUKE 18:1-8

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was **a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.** 3 And there was **a widow** in that city who kept coming to him and saying, **‘Give me justice against my adversary.’** 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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LUKE 18:1-8

“

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day
is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is
not slow to fulfill his promise **as some count slowness**, but is patient
toward you, **not wishing that any should perish**, but that all should
reach repentance.

2 PETER 3:8-9

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**

LUKE 18:1-8

PRAYER & GOD'S WILL

- **God's Conditional Will:** There are good things God wants to give his people, but he has chosen to give them only when they earnestly seek him in prayer.

- **God's Unconditional Will:** Some prayer requests conflict with God's unconditional will and therefore are not granted, regardless of how earnestly we pray.

“She was deeply distressed and **prayed to the Lord** and wept bitterly. 11 And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

“20 And **in due time** Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, ‘**I have asked for him from the Lord.**’”

1 SAMUEL 1:10-11; 20

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- **God's Unconditional Will:** Some prayer requests conflict with God's unconditional will and therefore are not granted, regardless of how earnestly we pray.

39 And going a little farther **he fell on his face and prayed**, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; **nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”**

MATTHEW 26:39



LIVE THE TEXT

- **Establish** a habit of consistent prayer.
- **Work to align** your prayers with God's will.
- **Refuse** to interpret God's silence as indifference.
- **Accept** God's answers when they differ from your requests.
- **Pray** for justice while we await Jesus's return.
- **Consider** what your prayer life reveals about your faith.

LIVE THE TEXT