

Parables of Jesus : questions to get you thinking

Read the parable aloud as many times as you can in different translations.

If the parable is recorded in more than one place, make a note of :-

- the different words used to tell the story in each of the passages
- words that are the same in each of the passages
- how much agreement there is between the passages

Suggested questions

1. What came before the parable and prompted Jesus to tell it?
2. What do you know about the real people listening to the parable and the type of people used in the parable?
3. Consider the historical context. Which cultural, social or religious customs at that time relate to this particular parable?
4. How would the original hearers have identified with the parable?
5. What is unexpected in this parable?
6. Write down anything you do not understand.
7. What are the promises in this parable?
8. What does the parable tell you about the kingdom of God?
9. What response was the parable looking for?
10. What is your practical response to the parable now?

If you have time:-

Try to rewrite the parable for today using modern points of reference.