

THE CITADEL GLOBAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES NUGGETS
SUNDAY, November 8, 2026

THE PARABLE OF THE DEBTORS

By Pastor Stephen Olusa

2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- The parables of Jesus can be grouped into three categories based on their themes. The first category focuses on the **nature of God's Kingdom**, including the parables of: **the Sower** (**Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 8:5-15**), the **Wheat and the Tares** (**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**), the **Mustard Seed** (**Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19**), and the **Leaven** (**Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21**). These parables reveal the character, growth, influence, and final triumph of God's Kingdom.

- There are also parables that reveal the **character of God**, including the parables of the **Lost Sheep** (**Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:3-7**), **Lost Coin** (**Luke 15:8-10**), **Prodigal Son** (**Luke 15:11-32**), and **Workers in the Vineyard** (**Matthew 20:1-16**). Together, they portray God's love, mercy, grace, and commitment to restoring the lost.

- We also have parables that speak to **God's expectations of us**, including the parables of the **Great Banquet** (**Luke 14:15-24, Matthew 22:1-14**) and the **Unprofitable Servants** (**Luke 17:7-10**). These parables teach faithfulness, humility, obedience, accountability, and the need to respond to God's invitation.

- In **Luke 7:40-43**, four characters emerge. The first is **Simon the Pharisee** (**Luke 7:40, Matthew 23:5, 13, 15**), and the second is **the Lord Jesus Himself**. Though the Pharisees were deeply flawed, Jesus accepted their invitation because they were not beyond redemption. The conversion of **Nicodemus** shows that even a Pharisee could be saved (**John 3:1-16; 7:50-52; 19:39-40**).

- The third character is the **sinful woman**, often regarded as the town harlot (**Luke 7:36-38, 40-49**). Though viewed as the worst of sinners, she came

to Jesus in repentance, faith, and humility. Recognising her need for mercy, she received forgiveness, and the Lord testified that she loved much because she had been forgiven much (**Luke 7:47-50**).

- The presence of **Jesus** did something to **Simon**. It attracted to his house the very kind of person he did not want there. If Jesus is truly in your life, you will not always be able to choose the people He brings your way. In this case, the house of **Simon the Pharisee** became a place where a town harlot was drawn to the presence of Christ (**Luke 7:36-39**). What Simon saw as an intrusion, Jesus saw as an opportunity for repentance, forgiveness, and restoration (**Luke 7:47-50**).

Lessons from This Parable

- **Sin is a debt.** It is not merely something you did but something you owe (**Luke 7:41-42**). Like debt, sin enslaves (**Matthew 6:12, Luke 11:4, 2 Kings 4:1, John 8:34**), and only God's grace can cancel its debt through forgiveness (**Colossians 2:13-14**).

- **Even though the size of sins is not equal, the aftermath is equal.** The debtors owed different amounts, yet both were unable to pay (**Luke 7:41-42**). Likewise, sins may differ in degree, but all stand guilty before God and in need of His forgiveness (**Romans 3:23**). Since **the wages of sin is death** (**Romans 6:23**), every sinner needs God's mercy, regardless of the size of the sin (**Numbers 27:1-3**).

- **Irrespective of the size of your debt or sin, you cannot pay it.** The debtors owed different amounts, but neither could pay (**Luke 7:42**). The redemption of a soul is beyond human ability (**Psalm 49:7-8**). Forgiveness and redemption come only through God's grace and the precious blood of Jesus (**Ephesians 1:7, Acts 20:28**). Salvation, therefore, is by grace, not human effort.

> **God has done so much for us. He has saved us and broken the power of sin in our lives.** Like the sinful woman, we should respond with love, worship, and gratitude for His mercy, never losing our sense of wonder at His grace (**Luke 7:36-38, 40-49**).

- **You cannot love and appreciate God beyond your perception of your reality.** The more you understand your sinfulness and God's forgiveness, the more you will love and appreciate Him (**Luke 7:42-43, 47**). Those who trust in their own righteousness fail to value God's grace (**Luke 18:9**), but a true view of oneself produces humility, gratitude, and deeper love for God.

- **If you have a wrong perception of yourself and do not see yourself the way God sees you, you cannot love God as you should.** If you think your sin is small, you will appreciate His forgiveness less and, therefore, love less. But when you recognise the depth of His mercy, your love, gratitude, and devotion to Him will increase (**Luke 7:47; 18:9-14**).

- **If you realise that what you consider a small sin is big enough to destroy you, you will love God more and appreciate His mercy more.** Such an understanding will keep you from condemning others, knowing that you need the same grace and forgiveness they do (**Luke 7:47 , Romans 3:23 , Luke 18:9-14**). True humility comes from seeing yourself as God sees you and recognising that salvation is entirely by His grace.

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PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, we pray that the labour of Your word upon us will never be in vain, both as individuals and as a community, in the name of Jesus.

2. I will not be barren in my knowledge of the Lord. God has brought His knowledge to me time after time, and I will not be barren concerning the things that have been taught to me, in the name of Jesus.

3. Lord, I pray that You will have mercy on me, and that I will not receive Your grace in vain, in the mighty name of Jesus.

4. Lord, I pray in the name of Jesus that You will receive commensurate returns on Your investment in my life. May my life produce results that bring glory to Your name.

5. In the name of Jesus, every unit, every department, every ministry, every affinity group, and every expression of our ministry will produce. May there be gain everywhere. May the School of Government and every expression of this ministry produce in the name of Jesus.

6. Our pastors will produce. Our elders will produce. Our ministers will produce. Every layer of our ministry will produce, in the name of Jesus. And Your name will be glorified in all that we do, in the name of Jesus. Amen.