

The 'Parable' Deception

In **Afrikaans** the word used for 'parable' is gelykenis - which is correctly understood as 'louter waarheid spreek' = speak pure truth.

H.A.T. Woordeboek :- Sinnebeeldige verhaal uit die daaglikse lewe om 'n Godsdienstige waarheid of morele les tuis te bring = Symbolic account from daily life to illustrate and teach a religious truth or moral lesson.

In **English** the modern meaning of the word 'parable' has been changed to - Narrative of **imagined / fictitious / non literal events** used to represent by type, foreshadow, example of, to embody the characteristics.

The true meaning of 'parable' is :-

A placing beside - to compare meaning of the wisdom of a maxim, proverbial saying, allegory, with an illustration by using parallel cases.

A parable is a proclamation with authority, a prophetic figurative discourse, an authoritative teaching, a collection of sentences of ethical wisdom, or the praise of wisdom.

Vine's explanation of 'parable' – 'parabole' in Greek, denotes 'a placing beside', 'to throw' or 'lay beside to compare'. It signifies 'a placing of one thing beside another' with a view to comparison. It is generally used of a somewhat lengthy utterance or narrative drawn from nature or human circumstances, the object of which is to set forth a spiritual lesson.

"Such a narrative or saying, dealing with earthly things with a spiritual meaning, is distinct from a fable, which attributes to things what does not belong to them in nature".

"Christ's 'parables' most frequently convey truths connected with the subject of the kingdom of God. His withholding the meaning from His hearers as He did from the multitudes (Matthew 13:34) was a divine judgement upon the unworthy." (Vine)

It occurred to me that a parable has to be true, if it is going to be used to compare, illustrate and explain a truth. I believe the modern understanding of the word deceives the reader and misrepresents it's true meaning.