Using the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes to “work out the problem of being” in the Bible Lesson on Life 7/15 — 7/21/2024

**Problem:** a difficult question proposed for discussion or solution; a riddle; a scientific topic for investigation. From the root word meaning “to throw”

**Parable:** a saying or story in which something is expressed in terms of something else. Same root word as problem, meaning “to throw”

The parables included in *Godspell* (in show order), CedarS Musical Theatre production for 2024:

- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14, the last parable),
- Gifts at the altar (Matt. 5:22–24)
- Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
- Sheep and Goats (Matt. 25:31–39)
- Good Samaritan
- Rich Man and Lazarus
- Sower
- Prodigal Son

**PURPOSE OF PARABLES:**

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which
ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear and have not heard them. (Matt. 13:10–17)

And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. (Mark 4:10–12)

And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (Luke 8:9, 10)

**Spiritual teaching must always be by symbols.** (SH 575:13–14 Spiritual)

**Our Master taught spirituality by similitudes and parables.** As a divine student he unfolded God to man, illustrating and demonstrating Life and Truth in himself and by his power over the sick and sinning. (SH 117:15–19)

If men understood their real spiritual source to be all **blessedness**, they would struggle for recourse to the spiritual and be at **peace**... (SH 329:26–29 If (to ;))

**BEATITUDES FROM AMPLIFIED BIBLE**

3 “Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are the poor in spirit [those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].”

4 “Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God’s grace] are those who mourn [over their sins and repent], for they will be comforted [when the burden of sin is lifted].”

5 “Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect] are the gentle [the kind-hearted, the sweet-spirited, the self-controlled], for they will inherit the earth.”
6 “Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied.”

7 “Blessed [content, sheltered by God’s promises] are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

8 “Blessed [anticipating God’s presence, spiritually mature] are the pure in heart [those with integrity, moral courage, and godly character], for they will see God.”

9 “Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor] are the makers and maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God.”

10 “Blessed [comforted by inner peace and God’s love] are those who are persecuted for doing that which is morally right, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].”

11 “Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness] are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things against you because of [your association with] Me. 12 Be glad and exceedingly joyful, for your reward in heaven is great [absolutely inexhaustible]; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

—AMP, Matt. 5:3-12