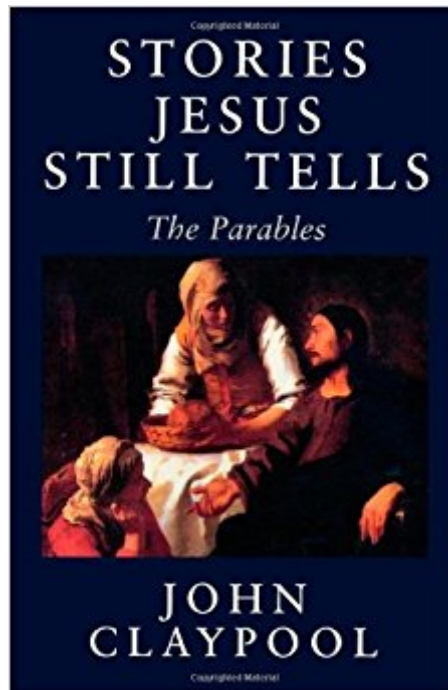




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Stories Jesus Still Tells: The Parables



Synopsis

In this revised second edition of *Stories Jesus Still Tells*, John Claypool brings fresh insight to a selection of parables, allowing us to hear Jesus' calm, persuasive voice still speaking to us through stories like the great banquet, the rich fool, and the final judgment. By providing us with a clearer understanding of the context of these stories in Jesus' immediate culture, Claypool demonstrates how accessible the parables were to his listeners, told in familiar terms that everyone who heard them could grasp. He writes: "This is how Jesus worked the miracle of reconciliation again and again. People would come to him in all degrees of panic, fear, and anger. Yet, instead of confronting them head-on and driving them deeper into their defensiveness, he would, like Nathan, defuse their anxiety by saying, 'Let me tell you a story. . . .' Then, drawn in by the narrative and with their defenses down, the listeners would see the story as a mirror, and its light would make their personal darkness visible. In this way, parables became events of revelation." And so it is with us, Claypool believes. When we open the deep places in our being to the parables—these stories Jesus still tells—then in a moment of surprise and insight, we who listen recognize ourselves in the characters and the decisions they face. The stories are no longer about them, but about us, and the opportunity for illumination and transformation in our own lives.

Book Information

Paperback: 156 pages

Publisher: Cowley Publications; 2nd revised edition (January 25, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561011851

ISBN-13: 978-1561011858

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.5 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #666,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #181 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Anglican #202 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Episcopalian #1704 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament

Customer Reviews

This may be a second edition, but the material is as fresh in 2000 as it was in 1993. Claypool

presents 10 chapters, or sermons, on 12 parables of Jesus . . . and offers stimulating insights and applications. . . . You may not agree with every interpretation or application Claypool makes, but you can be enriched in your preaching of the parables through his work. (Erwin J. Kolb Concordia Pulpit Resources)

JOHN CLAYPOOL served as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Widely known as a speaker, preacher, and pastor, he authored numerous books, including *Mending the Heart*.

This was a very interesting, informative, and challenging book. Jesus originally taught his parables approximately 2000 years ago, and yet this author clearly demonstrates that they are as relevant today as they were when they were when Jesus first taught them. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking to understand just who Jesus is and what he teaches.

Fr. John Claypool had one of the most unique deliveries of the message of God. As a former Baptist and Episcopalian minister, his interpretations transcended doctrines of individual denominations. For those who were blessed to hear him on a regular basis, one came away with a better understanding of God's word, and what truly was the "message." In *STORIES JESUS STILL TELLS*, Fr. John does more than probe the questions often raised when one tries to connect the dots in the gospel. He gives us the benefit of his knowledge in such a manner that we are allowed to decide, based on our own inclination, what it means. This, quite frankly, could give many an opportunity to misinterpret the message, but Fr. John, as does God, gives us credit to understand what is at the heart of God's word. For me, *STORIES JESUS STILL TELLS* is a guide for believers who stand on a teeter-totter at its fulcrum, swaying one way, then the next, as they wonder what does God require of them, and if they should venture too far towards God, what will they leave behind. The message as delivered by Fr. John is one that is fully understood by the time one finishes this book.

Excellent

Insightful and well done. Beautiful language as always with John Claypool. Personal and individually related. The only weakness is the parables left out.

John has a unique way of facilitating the reader's identification with the ancient truths of Jesus' parables. Traditional interpretations of the parables are maintained with the incorporation of spiritual insights that bring them alive and make them applicable in the 21st century.

John Claypool has touched my life once again very deeply. His was a talent that took ordinary circumstances and made them come alive.

This book has a good balance of scholarly material and personal anecdotes. It is appropriate for both group and private Bible study.

All of this writer's work is excellent. He knows the Bible, and he is skilled in applying its principles and teachings to current situations.

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