



# Teaching the Bible Classically

with Dr. Fred Putnam

## Lecture 11: Narrative (IV): Gospels & Acts (B)

### Outline: Parables

- The parable of the lost son

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Mark Alan Powell, *What Do They Hear?*

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Why hungry:	Famine	Squandered	Inhospitality			
Americans	6%	100%		wasted money	wicked son	repentance
Russians	84%	34%		self-sufficient	foolish son	recovery
Africans			80%	inhospitality	social flaw	

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- When our interpretation is so heavily influenced by our upbringing and by our social background, how do we know that we are paying attention to the text?
- Is the older brother’s accusation true?
- Questions – Asking questions like this helps us think about the story and pay attention to the story.
  - Was the father right to give him the money and let him go?
  - Why did he want to go so far away?
  - What does this story imply about the relationship between the father and his sons? Between brothers?
- Ask yourself at every sentence, what did this just say? What information is being added? Ask what just happened? What are we being told?

### Confrontation Stories - John 3, Nicodemus & Jesus (and disciples)

- Jesus takes control of the conversation and directing it where he wants it to go. The other side allows this to happen because they don’t have an answer.
- Jesus’ and Nicodemus’ are having a common type of rabbinic conversation.
- Ask about each statement or question of a conversation.
- Have two students act out the story. Read it with different tones of voice.



## Assignment

- Matthew – Ox
- Mark – Lion
- Luke – Man
- John – Eagle
- Where did those symbols come from? What clues are there in the gospel that that might be the right way to interpret it?
- Read Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. Why do these symbols show up again and again?
- Help your students enjoy what they are doing.