

Discussion 20

The Parable of Zenos

(The Parable of the Lord of a Vineyard Having Two Sons Who Hired Laborers that Prepare for a Massive Banquet)

Primary Reading:

- Zenos 12

Passages for Comparison:

- Zenos 12:1-3 :: A Man Having 2 Sons
 - Parable of Man with 2 Sons (Matt 21:28-32)
 - Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- Zenos 12:4 :: A Banquet
 - Parable of the Banquet (Luke 14:15-24)
- Zenos 12:5-6 :: A Spiteful Son
 - Fall of Cain (2 Moses 7:12, 19, 21)
- Zenos 12:7-24 :: Laborers in the Vineyard
 - Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt 20:1-16)
 - 10th Commandment (3 Moses 28:18)
- Zenos 12:25-45 :: Preparing for a Banquet
 - Parable of the 10 Virgins (Matt 25:1-13)
- Zenos 12:46-50 :: New Heaven, New Earth
 - Vision of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:105)
- Zenos 12:51-54 :: The Vision Closes
 - All Things Created Spiritually before Physically (1 Moses 4:3)

Objectives:

- Increase our understanding of the parables of Christ, and the parable of Zenos by finding common threads between them.
- Recognize that these parables were Zenos's experience right before seeing the vision of the New Heaven and the new Earth, so these parables might prepare us to better understand the contents of the next discussion, which lead up to that same vision.

Introduction to The "Comparison" Text:

The parable of Zenos doesn't "line up" with the parables that Jesus shared during his earthly ministry in the same way that Zenos "lines up" with John's Revelation, however the THEMES of the parable of Zenos are blatantly overlapping with the themes that Jesus had in several of his parables, and some of the phrases line up nicely. So, the Comparison text for this discussion are just the parables of Christ that have theme similarities with the things that Zenos includes in his parable. It appears that the way this parable is intended to be used is to stitch together the parables of Christ into one story.

Reading:

12:1-3 :: A Man Having 2 Sons			
Zenos 12	Matthew 21	Luke 15	Discussion Ideas
<p>12:1. And it came to pass that I, Zenos, spoke again another parable in prophecy, saying: And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard had two sons, and the first was selfish, and would eat at foreign tables, learning the ways of idolaters and eating unclean food.</p> <p>12:2. And the second was faithful and did only eat at his father's table, and there in his father's house he was permitted to remain.</p> <p>12:3. And unto the faithful son did the Lord of the vineyard say: Let thy garments always be white and let not oil be wanting for thine head.</p>	<p>21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.</p> <p>21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.</p> <p>21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.</p> <p>21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.</p> <p>21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.</p>	<p>11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:</p> <p>12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.</p> <p>13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.</p> <p>14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.</p> <p>15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.</p> <p>16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.</p> <p>17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!</p> <p>18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,</p> <p>19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.</p> <p>20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.</p> <p>21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.</p> <p>22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:</p>	

		<p>23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:</p> <p>24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.</p> <p>25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.</p> <p>26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.</p> <p>27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.</p> <p>28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.</p> <p>29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:</p> <p>30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.</p> <p>31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.</p> <p>32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.</p>	
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12:4 :: A Banquet		
Zenos	Luke 14	Discussion Ideas
<p>12:4. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard made for a banquet and invited all, even the travelers and strangers;</p>	<p>15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.</p> <p>16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:</p> <p>17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.</p> <p>18 And they all with one consent began to make</p>	

	<p>excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.</p> <p>19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.</p> <p>20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.</p> <p>21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.</p> <p>22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.</p> <p>23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.</p> <p>24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.</p>	
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12:5-6 :: A Spiteful Son

Zenos	2 Sefer Moses - Chapter 7	Discussion Ideas
<p>12:5. But the unfaithful son was told he should not come, not of his deed but by the wounding of his pride, and so he went away in shame;</p> <p>12:6. Therefore, he did go about telling false rumors about his Father, the Lord of the vineyard.</p>	<p>7:12. And Cain was very wroth, and he became defiant, having failed.</p> <p>...</p> <p>7:19. And it shall be said in time to come that these abominations were had from Cain, for thou hast rejected the greater counsel which was had from Elohim:</p> <p>...</p> <p>7:21. And Cain was wroth and listened not any more to The Voice of YHVH, neither to Abel his brother, who walked in holiness before YHVH;</p>	

12:7-24 :: Laborers in the Vineyard

Zenos	Matthew 20	Discussion Ideas
<p>7. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard hired a great number of laborers to work in his vineyard.</p>	<p>For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire</p>	

8. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard did gather the laborers taking them into the midst of his vineyard (pardes), yet he told them not what their wage should be by the work there, and this that they might not be neglectful;

9. And it came to pass that when the evening was come the Lord of the vineyard did call each one of them, asking: Where within my vineyard didst thou labor?

10. And it came to pass that one answered unto him, saying: I labored in the east of the garden under a certain tree, and the Lord of the vineyard said: Unto thee shall be given a single gold piece.

11. And unto another who had labored in the west part of the garden under another tree, he said: Unto thee shall be given two hundred gold pieces;

12. And thus it was throughout all of his servants, each being given that which they were due.

13. And it came to pass that his servants came unto him saying: Why didst thou not say unto us the price of hire within thy vineyard?

14. But the Lord of the vineyard answered them saying: How then should my vineyard be cared for?

15. Wouldst not my servants only look after that part of my vineyard that giveth the greatest reward? And the rest of my vineyard would fall then to the wayside and should surely die?

16. But if thou shall be about my business, I shall see who doth care for the most precious parts of my vineyard, and when evening doth come I shall reward them.

17. And it came to pass that there was one among them who worked with much vigor, greater so than all the

labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

<p>others, and yea even more than he was tasked.</p> <p>18. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard went forth and took this the good servant by the hand and walked about the vineyard and he did talk with him.</p> <p>19. And it came to pass that when evening came, all the laborers came to the Lord of the vineyard to receive the reward of their labors;</p> <p>20. And that good and faithful servant came with them, and the Lord of the vineyard paid him a full day's wage.</p> <p>21. And it came to pass that the other laborers complained one to another, saying: Behold we have worked from morn until eve while this that one hast worked but a few hours, and yet the master has given him a full day's pay?</p> <p>22. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard said: Who art thou to envy?</p>	<p>14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.</p> <p>15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?</p> <p>16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.</p>	
<p>23. Doth not the Law say: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's?</p> <p>24. So too didst my good and faithful servant do more in a few hours than thou didst, who toiled all day.</p>	<p><u>3 Sefer Moses 28 (10 Commandments)</u></p> <p>18. ¶ Thou shalt not covet the house of thy neighbor; thou shalt not covet the spouse of thy neighbor, nor their manservant, nor their maidservant, nor their ox, nor their ass, nor anything that be with thy neighbor.</p>	

12:25-44 :: Preparing for a Banquet

Zenos	Matthew 25	Discussion Ideas
<p>25. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard sent word to all saying: Wash ye, make ye clean, and anoint yourselves, and wash your clothes and prepare yourselves for the banquet; yet he did not appoint a time.</p> <p>26. And it came to pass that the faithful among them made themselves ready and waited at the entrance of the vineyard.</p>	<p>25:1. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.</p> <p>25:2. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.</p>	

27. And these did say: In the Master's vineyard, nothing will be wanting, and there need be no signs of preparation, yet the feast may be at any time.

28. And it came to pass that the foolish among them did prepare themselves not, for these did listen to the pride of the wicked son who set forth to place his name above that of the Lord of the vineyard.

29. And it came to pass that these foolish did say: There cannot be a great banquet without much commotion and trouble, and the gathering of stores and provisions;

30. Therefore, we need not disturb ourselves until we see the signs; therefore, we shall be watchful of the signs that we may know.

31. And it came to pass that they joined themselves with their fellows, and thought not too feed the poor, but went away seeking after signs, and took no thought of the word of the Lord of the vineyard.

32. And each went about their way, and the foolish did make much gossip about those that stood ready, and did seek unto themselves the signs and wonders, reading much into nothing.

33. And it came to pass suddenly, the word of the Lord of the vineyard: Let all come to the banquet!

34. And the servants of the Master hastened the wise and the faithful and pressed them to come at the bidding of the Lord of the vineyard.

35. Then those that had prepared themselves, came in their honor and their glory, and those fools that had not prepared themselves, came in their pollution and uncleanness.

36. And the faithful servant came last, for he stood ready and ensured that all were present and presented before the Lord of the vineyard.

37. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard did rejoice over the wise and faithful that had done according to his bidding, and who, moreover, had honored the beauty of His vineyard;

38. And it came to pass that the Lord of the

25:3. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

25:4. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

25:5. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

25:6. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

25:7. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

25:8. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

25:9. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

25:10. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

25:11. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

25:12. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

25:13. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the

<p>vineyard was angry with those who had taken no heed of his word, and who had polluted his vineyard with all the uncleanness that clung about their garments, and who had treated it with contempt.</p>	<p>day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.</p>	
<p>39. And it came to pass that these cried out saying: Let us in, for we went seeking thee, we looked for thy signs and wonders!</p>		
<p>40. Then the Lord of the vineyard came saying: Those that have prepared themselves for my presence, and were ready when I called, shall come and feast at my table, and those that did not prepare themselves shall not eat at the banquet;</p>		
<p>41. And those that did not, but listened instead to my foolish son, were not prepared and therefore are not worthy.</p>		
<p>42. And it came to pass that the wise among them thought that they might depart, for these were in fear of the great wrath of the Lord of the vineyard,</p>		
<p>43. And it came to pass that the Master replied: No, but ye shall stay in my vineyard, for ye are worthy of it,</p>		
<p>44. Yea, sit and eat at the banquet table; and eat and drink resting, while these stand upon their feet, and are smitten, and look on, distressed, and let thy garments at all times be white.</p>		
<p>45. And it came to pass that after I had finished speaking, I stood in wonder over the banquet in the vineyard.</p>		

12:45-50 :: New Heaven, New Earth

Zenos	Revelation	Discussion Ideas
<p>46. And it came to pass that as I stood wondering, the heavens were again opened unto me, and there I saw as it were a new heaven and a new earth, and I didst behold that the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.</p>	<p>21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.</p>	
<p>47. And I saw as it were Zion, the holy city, coming down from Elohim out of heaven, and Shekinah prepared as a</p>	<p>21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.</p>	

<p>bride adorned for Her husband.</p> <p>48. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying: Behold, the temple of YHVH is with Adam (mankind), and YHVH shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people;</p> <p>49. And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.</p> <p>50. And I saw as it were They that sat upon the throne saying: Behold, I make all things new; therefore prepare thyselfes for that which is to come; So mote it be; even so, Amen, and Amen.</p>	<p>21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.</p> <p>21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.</p> <p>21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.</p>	
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12:51-54 :: The Vision Closes		
Zenos	1 Sefer Moses	Discussion Ideas
<p>51. And the vision was closed unto me, and the angel of YHVH said unto me: All these things that thou hast seen are of the heavens,</p> <p>52. For all things happen in the realm of the heavens at the first, and then upon the earth, that all things be as one.</p> <p>53. Therefore I, Zenos, say unto thee, prepare ye for the great and dreadful day of YHVH!</p> <p>54. Yea, keep thy garments clean and stand ready for the day when the earth and the heavens shall again be one.</p>	<p>4:3. For YHVH Elohim created all things of which have been spoken, spiritually, before they were naturally upon The Face of the earth;</p>	

Discussion:

Instead of treating each of the themes of this parable as their own parable like what Christ did when he shared them, Zenos treats them as one big story?

Does viewing the parables of Christ in sequence together as one overall narrative create depth in them that you didn't see before? If so, what details become more interesting when taken together rather than independently?

Does the content from Zenos take on more depth when you read it in conjunction with the parables of Christ that have similar themes?

Does this parable "fit" into the narrative of the book of Revelation like the rest of Zenos does (other than that last part that has a direct quote)? If so, how and where does it fit?