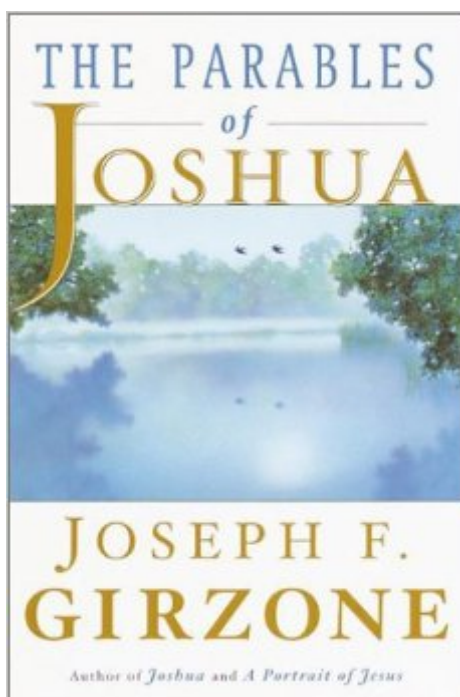


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The Parables Of Joshua



Synopsis

In the latest chapter of his bestselling Joshua series, Joseph Girzone offers fresh inspiration in this collection of fifty never-before-published contemporary vignettes that underscore the most important lessons of the gospel. Joseph Girzone's novels about Joshua, the carpenter who transforms ordinary lives with words of peace and loving actions, have sold more than three million copies and captured the hearts of readers around the world. In *The Parables of Joshua*, perhaps his most powerful book since the original *Joshua*, Girzone distills the essence of Christian teaching in entertaining and inspiring "bite-sized" tales set against the background of current society. For some today, the parables of the New Testament are quaint, old-fashioned stories, with little relevance to everyday life in the twenty-first century. As Girzone writes in his Introduction, "I have heard the most callous people comment with such great piety on the parables that I could not help but wonder if we haven't made parables pleasant-sounding fables about human situations long past, but with no present-day meaning." In order to recapture their original vitality Girzone revives the timeless messages behind the original parables by "dressing them in modern clothes," presenting them through Joshua in a conversational style that will resonate with a modern audience.

Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Doubleday; 1st edition (March 20, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385495110

ISBN-13: 978-0385495110

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,364,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Biblical Fiction](#) #3176 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament](#) #9242 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament](#)

Customer Reviews

Inside the book jacket of this book it's stated that "Girzone revives the timeless messages behind the original parables by 'dressing them in modern clothes,' presenting them through Joshua in a conversational style that will resonate with a modern audience." However these parables are not

timeless. I expected parables that had the same messages as those in the Bible but with contemporary situations. Mr. Girzone goes beyond that to parables about such contemporary issues as gay marriage, the exploitation of the environment, evolution, violence in the media, and the admission of female and married priests to the Catholic church. These parables do not seem as faithful to the Bible nor as universal as the stories he has previously written about Joshua. The parables more clearly reflect Mr. Girzone's distinct political and religious views. While I agree with some of these opinions and disagree with others, I really am uncomfortable reading these as the teachings of Joshua who is supposed to be a modern reflection of Jesus. I am most disturbed by the characterization of the people who will be admitted into heaven. In "The Parable of the Faithful Nonbeliever," a person who has had a good life, but did not have faith in God will, nevertheless, receive a heavenly reward. In "The Parable of the Two Brothers," a man who lived a selfish life that was of little value to God goes to heaven because of his brother's earnest prayers. This theology of going to heaven without faith is not Biblical, contrary to what Jesus taught, and dangerously wrong. We do not go to heaven by our good works or by others' prayers. According to the Bible, Christ died for our sins on the cross. As he rose from the dead to have eternal life, so will those who repent of their sins, accept God's forgiveness, and live faithfully in Christ. Not all of these parables are so erroneous and controversial. Some are true to the teachings of Jesus. For example, "The Parable of the Coal and the Diamond" illustrates how God can transform suffering. In several parables, people who seem unworthy are valued highly by God. It is very unfortunate that all the parables in this book were not written in the spirit of Christ.

The book is full of wonderful parables and should not be read like a novel or short story. I read one or two parables a day and then mulled over the lessons taught until I could get to reading the next few.

It is difficult to make an adaptation of the Bible because it is such a grand book to modernize. Perhaps this is one of the reason that I really did not like this collection of modern parables. At times, I even wondered if Joshua (Jesus) would really have similar feelings on an issues to those discussed in the book. Despite the flaws, the collection of stories did have some quality entries. I soured on the book after the first few stories almost seemed cliché. Some of the themes even seem to repeat with slight variations. The rich man/poor man theme was exhausted by the book's end. However, Girzone saved the best for last. The statement about capital punishment speaks loudly of what Christians should know.

A book that can change your life full of insight and revelation , I am not Catholic, none of us has all the light we see as through a glass darkly but if you think like I did, you will definitely be humbled and realize that GOD definitely still talks to catholic priests, and this one has beautiful revelations that could only come from GOD

Joseph Girzone has recast the parables of Jesus from the New Testament into a twenty-first century setting in order to try and make their messages more meaningful to a new audience. With good intentions, or at least he shares his rationalization for this work, he tries to share in modern terms these parables that Jesus told. The book is a fast and easy read of the authors' understanding of the parables. My advice; read the New Testament.

Girzone has found a way to write about parables in our daily living today that are used to tell the story of Christ. He tells the parable and reveals the messages behind the original parables by putting them into modern circumstances. This is a wonderful way to reread and understand the parables and original teachings. J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the 'Isms'"

This book was a Christmas present for my granddaughter. The whole family loves Joseph F Girzone's "Joshua" series. The book arrived in plenty of time to be wrapped as a Christmas gift and the book was in excellent condition. My thanks to you for being so prompt, it is very much appreciated. Thanks and God bless you. Lorie

I like these. I was expecting the parables I was familiar with from the Bible to be rewritten for modern day. Even though these were unrelated, they were still very good.

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