

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	PREACHING THE PARABLES PAST 0739 1P/1S
Date, Time, and Delivery Format	JANUARY 13 – APRIL 11, 2025 TUESDAYS, 2:15 PM – 5:05 PM IN-PERSON and ONLINE
Instructor	FREDERICK W. PENNEY, DMin Email: fpenny@tyndale.ca
Class Information	The classes will be LIVESTREAMED & IN-PERSON on Tuesdays from 2:15 – 5:05 PM. Students can only attend one delivery format/section. Switching section will have to be done through Registration before add/drop deadline. Office Hours: by appointment
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will build on the philosophy of expository preaching presented in Introduction to Preaching, Past 0641. The course will focus on preaching Jesus’ parables while upholding a commitment to biblical exposition. Students will prepare sermon outlines and preach in class on assigned texts. Students will also study preaching style, audience analysis and other significant aspects of the preaching event.

Prerequisite: PAST 0641.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate how to preach the parables of Jesus and effectively communicate their relevance in a post-modern context.
2. Identify the features of Jesus' parables.
3. Construct a narrative or expository sermon based on the parables for preaching.
4. Develop a love and passion for preaching that draws from the parables.
5. Assess the character, personality, and needs of the audience.
6. Formulate a series of messages derived from the parables.
7. Adapt a lifelong learning journey in the ministry of preaching.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Bailey, Kenneth E. *Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2008.

Blomberg, Craig. *Interpreting the Parables*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic Press, 2012.

Robinson, Haddon W. [*Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*](#). Third edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Boice, James Montgomery. [*The Parables of Jesus*](#). Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016.

Buttrick, David. [*Speaking Parables: A Homiletic Guide*](#). 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Hultgren, Arland J. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000.

Inrig, Gary. *The Parables: Understanding What Jesus Meant*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1991.

Jeremias, Joachim. *Rediscovering the Parables*. London: SCM Press, 1966.

Kistemaker, Simon J. *The Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

Longenecker, Richard N. eds. *The Challenge of Jesus' Parables*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2000.

Snodgrass, Klyne. [*Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*](#). Second edition. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2018.

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR BLENDED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

*exceptions with permission from professor

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class Participation. (10% of final grade)

Student participation will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4: 1 (or D): present, not disruptive; responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; 2 (or C): adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation or analysis; offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 3 (or B): good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion; 4 (or A): excellent preparation, offers analysis, synthesis and evaluation of material; contributes significantly to ongoing discussion.

2. Book Reflection (10% of final grade). Due: Class 2 (January 21)

Submit a 3–5 page theological reflection paper on the theology and methodology of parable preaching in the Blomberg text. Provide a careful and thorough examination of the basic issues. Review the work theologically - don't merely summarize.

3. Two Exegesis Assignments (10% x 2 = 20% of final grade). Due: Class 3 (January 28) and 5 (February 11).

Prepare two exegesis assignments. Further handouts will be provided. They should include research from a minimum of 3 biblical and theological commentaries. Prepare to present your research in class.

4. Two Sermon Outlines (10% X 2 = 20% of final grade). Due: Class 4 (February 4) and 6 (February 25).

Prepare two sermon outlines. Approved texts and guidelines will be provided. Follow the outline structure as presented in class. Be prepared to share your work in class.

5. Two Full Manuscript Sermons (20% x 2 = 40% of final grade). Due: Class 7 (March 4) & 8 (March 11) and 12 (April 8).

Develop two full manuscript sermons. Point form manuscripts are not acceptable. Two sermons will be preached in class. A feedback form will be supplied to facilitate effective evaluation. Show evidence of your research in a bibliography.

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. Class Participation	10%
2. Book Reflection	10%
3. Two Exegesis Assignments	20%
4. Two Sermon Outlines	20%
5. Two Full Manuscript Sermons	40%
Total Grade	100 %

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, "Documenting Chicago Style"](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing

scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the Chicago Manual of Style or reference the [tip sheet, “Citing Sources in Theology”](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean’s Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

I. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Class 1: Theology Of Biblical Preaching (January 14)

- Preaching Narratively
- The staying power of story
- What Is a Parable?
- Parables in a post-modern culture
- Parables and Cultural Connectivity
- The rhetorical power of parables
- Mark 4 - A clue to Jesus' parable methodology
- Parable of the Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1-8

Class 2: Principles Of Expository Narrative Preaching (January 21)

- Exegesis of the Text
- Finding the Big Idea (Robinson)
- Assignment of parables For the Semester
- Class discussion – Luke 16 - Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus
- Assignment DUE: #2 Book Reflection (10%)

Class 3: The Challenges & Opportunity of Preaching the Parables (January 28)

- The Power of Preaching the Parables
- Rhetorical example: Luke 10: Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Class Discussion - The Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew 13
- Assignment DUE: #3 Exegesis Assignment (10%)

Class 4: Characteristics Of Jesus Parables (February 4)

- Blomberg's biblical scholarship and homiletic methodology
- Rhetorical example: Luke 12 - Parable of the Rich Fool (Successful Failure)
- Case study - Luke 15: Parable of Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, And Lost Son.
- Assignment DUE: #4 Sermon Outline (10%)

Class 5: Respecting The Genre of Parables (February 11)

- Preaching Parables Narratively or Propositionally
- Keeping Parables gospel-centric and missional
- Narrative Structures for Preaching Parables
- Craddock And Lowry
- Wilson's Four Page Method
- Exegesis Luke 12: Parable of the Rich Fool
- Assignment DUE: #3 Exegesis Assignment (10%)

**** No Class on February 18 (reading days)****

Class 6: Guest presenter Dr. Ken Foo (February 25)

- Assignment DUE: #4 Sermon Outline (10%)

Class 7: Preaching Round 1 (March 4)

Class 8: Preaching Round 1 (March 11)

Class 9: Developing A Sermon Series (March 18)

- From Luke's collection (Wealth and greed)
- Class discussion - Luke 16: The Shrewd Manager
- From Mark's collection
- From Matthew's collection (Eschatology)
- Matthew 20:1-16: Workers In The Vineyard
- Matthew 22:1-14: Parable Of The Wedding Banquet
- Attending to the 21st century local audience and national culture

Class 10: Narrative Proclamation and the Parables (March 25)

- The Biblical Meta-Narrative
- Understanding Plot and Tension
- Understanding Your Audience.
- Painting Pictures with Words
- Effective Delivery for Story Telling

Class 11: Parables of Judgement and Eschatology (April 1)

- Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of the Unmerciful Servant:
- Matthew 21:33-46 Parable of the Wicked Trustee:
- Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of Preparedness (10 Virgins)
- Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents (Gold)
- Luke 16:19-31 Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Class 12: Preaching Round 2 (April 8)

Summary and Reflection.

Select New Testament Parables for Student Preaching

Students select two passages that they will work with for the semester. The same two passages will be used for the exegesis assignment, the two sermon outlines and the two sermon manuscripts. These assignments build on each other and prepare the student for preaching.

The Parables of the Kingdom: Matthew 13

- Parable Of the Sower Matthew 13:1-23
- Parable Of the Weeds Matthew 13:24-30
- Parable Of the Net Matthew 13:47-52

The Parables of the Christian Life:

- Parable Of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
- Parables Of the Friend at Midnight Luke 11:5-13
- Parable Of Persistent Widow Luke 18:1-8
- Parable Of the Two Debtors Luke 7:36-50

The Parables of Salvation:

- Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son Luke 15:1-32
- Workers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16
- Parable of the Wedding Banquet Matthew 22:1-14
- Parable of Pharisee & Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14
- Parable of the Pounds(Talents) Luke 19:11-27

The Parables of Wisdom and Folly:

- Parable of the Rich Fool Luke 12: 13-21
- Parable of Preparedness Matthew 25:1-13
- The Shrewd Manager Luke 16: 1-15

The Parables of Judgement:

- Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:21-35
- The Wicked Trustee Matthew 21:33-46
- Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-30
- Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31
- Great Feast Luke 14:15-24
- Parable of the Tower Luke 14:28-33

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals, e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Arnold, Clinton. *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Beaudean Jr., John. *Paul's Theology of Preaching*. Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1988.

Bounds, E. M. *Preacher and Prayer*. Chicago: The Christian Witness Co., 1907.

Boyd, Gregory. *God at War*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Bradford Long, Zeb and McMurry, Douglas. *The Collapse of the Brass Heaven*. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 1994.

Buechner, Frederick. "The Holy Spirit: The Power of God." *The Living Pulpit*, Volume 5, No. 1, March 1996, p. 14.

Burghardt, Walter. "The Spirit is Dynamite." *The Living Pulpit*, Volume 5, No. 1, March 1996, page 5.

Buttrick, David. *Homiletics: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Canipe, J. Cliff. *The Holy Spirit and Power in Evangelism as Demonstrated in Selected Pauline Texts in I Thessalonians and I Corinthians*. PhD Thesis, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary February 1997.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.

Clements, Roy. "Why Be a Preacher?" *Preaching Magazine*, October 1996, pp. 26-34.

Coggan, Donald. *Preaching: The Sacrament of the Word*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1987.

Craddock, Fred. *As One Without Authority*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1971.

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Duduit, Michael. (Ed.) *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

Drummond, Lewis A., "The Secrets of Spurgeon's Preaching." *Christian History*. February, 1991, Vol. 10 Issue 1, p.14-17.

Farris, Stephen. "Limping Away with a Blessing: Biblical Studies and Preaching at the End of the Second Millennium." *Interpretation Journal*, Volume 51, No. 4, October, 1997, pp. 358-370.

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Fee, Gordon. *Paul, The Spirit and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

_____. *God's Empowering Presence*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1994.

_____. "Exegesis and Spirituality." *Crux*, December 1995, pages 29-35.

Forbes, James. *The Holy Spirit and Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Foster, Richard. "How Prayer Energizes Preaching." *Leadership* 4 No 3:40-41 Summer, 1983.

Greidanus, Sydney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Press, 1988.

Hayford, Jack. "How I Prepare Myself for Worship." *Leadership*, Volume XI, No. 3, Summer 1990, page 84.

Hiebert, Paul. "The Flaw of the Excluded Middle." *Missiology: An International Review*, 10.1 (January 1982):35-47.

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Hughes, Ray. "The Uniqueness of Pentecostal Preaching." *Azusa Street and Beyond*. L. Grant McClung Jr. (Ed.), New Jersey: Logos Publishing, 1986.

Kemp, Allen. *Seeking the Holy Spirit's Work in Expository Preaching*. Doctor of Ministry Thesis, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 1997.

Kraft, Charles. *Christianity with Power*. Ann Arbor, MI: Vine Books, 1989.

Lischer, Richard (ed.) *Theories of Preaching: Selected Readings in the Homiletical*

Tradition. Durham, North Carolina: Labyrinth Press, 1987.

_____. *A Theology of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981.

_____. *The Company of Preachers*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

Litfin, Duane. *St. Paul's Theology of Proclamation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Mayeux, Randy. "How Does Unction Function? The Special Touch of God in the Midst of Preaching." *Leadership* 12:40-41 Sum 1991.

McCullough, Donald. "Pulpit Moves." *Christianity Today*. January 14, 1991.

McKim, Donald. "The Gospel as Empowered Speech for Proclamation and Persuasion," *Preaching as a Theological Task: Essays in Honor of David Buttrick*. Thomas Long and Ed Farley (eds.), Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996, Pages 122-134.

McKim, Donald. "What We Can Learn from Luther the Preacher?" *Christianity Today*. September 11, 1983, pages 42-44.

Menzies, Robert. *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Miller, Calvin. *Spirit, Word and Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Miller, Calvin. "The Politically Correct Pulpit: Can You Speak Freely When Surrounded by Countless Social Sensitivities?" *Leadership* 13:68-72 Summer 1992, pages 68-72.

Mohler Jr., Albert. "A Theology of Preaching." *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Michael Dudit (ed.), Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992, page 13-20.

Newbigin, Leslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Owen, John. W. Goold. Ed., *The Works of John Owen*. Vol. 4. London: T and T Clark, 1862.

Patterson, Ben. "Is Ministry a Career?" *Leadership*. Volume XI, No. 3, Summer Quarter, 1990, page 54.

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Press, 1987.

Pinnock, Clark. "The Role of the Spirit in Interpretation." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. December, 1993. Page 491-497.

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Rosscup, James. "The Priority of Prayer in Preaching." *The Masters Seminary Journal*, 2:1 (Spring 1991), pages 21-44.

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_____. *Jesus As Rabbi: A Mimesis Christology: The Charismatic Pattern of Discipleship in The New Testament*. Virginia Beach, VA.: Regent University School of Divinity, 1998.

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- Thielicke, Helmut. "Beyond Pushing and Producing: When the Demands of Ministry Overwhelm Us, How Can We Rest in God?" [reprinted from "The Waiting Father: Sermons on the Parables of Jesus," 1959;] *Leadership* 16:85-87 Fall 1995.
- Turner, Max. *Power From on High*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
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- _____. *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
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