

Law and Gospel (With a view towards the Parables)

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Let's discuss law and Gospel further.

- Does God simply ask us to do our best in keeping the law or does He require more? How does James 2:10 help us answer?
- If the law condemns us for our sins, how does God grant us forgiveness of sins and salvation? Read Acts 2:37-41.



How do our two "natures" hear God's Word?

- The following statements appear in the Lutheran Confessions (*Book of Concord*):
 - *Lex semper accusat* (The law always accuses)
 - *Lex tantum accusat* (The law only accuses)
- Some of those statements are qualified
 - "Without faith" or "without Christ"
 - According to the corrupted nature
- What are the practical implications?



A significant portion of what Jesus says is in parables.

- One-third of Jesus's teaching is parabolic.
- A parable is a short fictional narrative that compares something familiar to an expected spiritual value.
- Jesus typically uses a common object or action to illustrate a religious truth.
- They are part of His teaching and revealing himself, the mystery of God's kingdom.



Parables should be interpreted in relation to God's redemptive action.

- Since Scripture as a whole proclaims God's redemptive action in Christ, there is no surprise that parables do, too.
- The *central truth* is derived from the *point of comparison*.
- Knowing the context and the social/cultural conditions helps.
- Parables invite the hearer to enter God's kingdom.

