

## Signature Assignment for Core PLO #5

Course: 212 New Testament  
Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Winter  
Assignment Title: "Translating Parables"  
Assignment ID: (To be assigned)

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Outcome to be Assessed: CORE/BA/5 - Divine Word College graduates will have gained the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for practicing prophetic dialogue in the tradition of SVD missionaries with the poor, the marginalized, faith-seekers, and persons of different cultures and faith-traditions.

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Assignment Description: The parables of Jesus are perennial texts that strike readers through their simplicity and poignancy. Even a child can relate to the lessons Jesus dispenses, while adults can find layers of meaning that apply to relationships of all kinds (i.e. with the self, the earth, human community, and God). In order to gain "the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for practicing prophetic dialogue in the tradition of SVD missionaries with the poor, the marginalized, faith-seekers, and persons of different cultures and faith-traditions" (CORE/BA/5), this assignment challenges you to engage with one of Jesus' parables and "translate" it into a contemporary context. How might the parable be re-told today, and in what manner do Jesus' words and ideas still apply to issues of social justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? These issues include (but are not limited to): compassion and forgiveness (e.g. politics, war, criminal justice); the valuation of work and wealth (e.g. economics, the preferential option for the poor); right interaction with the planet (e.g. ecology, solidarity with God's creation); and right treatment of "others" (e.g. human dignity in critical theory & issues of race/class/gender).

Your paper should be approximately four pages in length and must employ a minimum of two scholarly sources. The paper should be organized as follows:

- (1) Summarize the Parable in Two Paragraphs  
(What happens in the story? What is its primary focus?)
  - (2) Explain the Parable's Cultural Context  
(What was the moral of the story when Jesus told it?)
  - (3) Apply the Parable to the Theological Context of Prophetic Dialogue  
(How can the moral of the story be applied to social justice today?)
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Evaluation Criteria: The project will be evaluated based on the following criteria. See the attached rubrics for further details.

1. Context and Purpose for Writing: Students will demonstrate awareness of the implied audience for this project, namely, a person who seeks to understand how Jesus' parables apply to our world today.
2. Content Development: Students will explore the cultural (ancient) and theological (contemporary) context of one of Jesus' parables.
3. Genre and Disciplinary Conventions: Students will organize their writing by following the instructions provided in the assignment description.
4. Sources and Evidence: Students will engage with and cite at least two scholarly sources.
5. Control of Syntax and Mechanics: Students will utilize language skills to cogently convey information.

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Formatting:

Use Chicago Style.

Times New Roman 12-point font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins

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