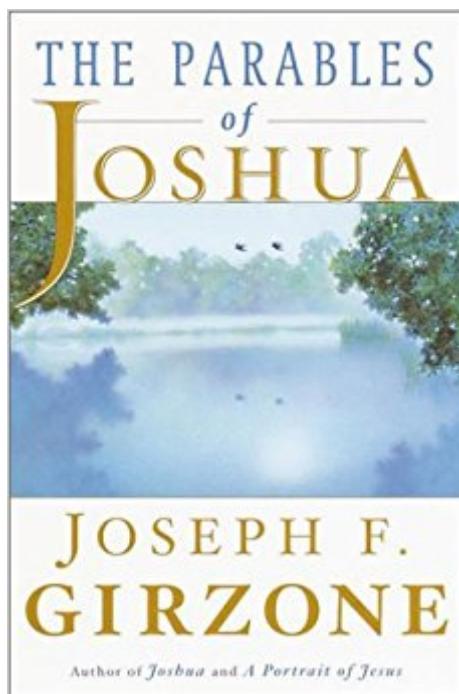


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The Parables Of Joshua



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

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Customer Reviews

Girzone's beloved and bestselling Joshua series continues with Joshua retelling Jesus' parables with a modern twist. Believing that the "zing" that Jesus' parables had in the first century has been lost in the 21st, Girzone, a retired priest, has the Christ figure of Joshua presenting New Testament

parables in an up-to-date cultural interpretation. Among other things, Girzone takes on homosexuality, corrupt clergy, materialism, women's roles in the Church, capital punishment, feelings of inadequacy and the censorship of theologians. A few of the parables are indeed "zingy," especially those addressing age-old problems such as racism or more contemporary issues, including movie violence and Christianity's uniqueness among other religions. One of the gems worth digging for is the "Parable of the Self-Righteous Man," in which Girzone tackles our culture's predilection for do-it-yourself religion and insists, "You cannot become truly holy all by yourself. Holiness is love. It is knowing and loving God and his creatures." Other parables fall flat. For example, in the "Parable of the Ark," the Church is rather blandly compared to Noah's Ark--it is often unpleasant, but still the only way out of the storm. Fans of Girzone will be delighted with another Joshua read, although it's not quite up to par. Those who are unfamiliar with the series would be better off reading an earlier installment. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Girzone's simple tales of Joshua, or Jesus in a modern-day setting, have a certain spare charm, though to many readers they are too simplistic to be effective. In any case, Joshua is back, this time not in a story but in a reinvention of Jesus' New Testament parables. "The Parable of the Beautiful Garden" tells us that pollution is bad, while "The Parable of the Precious Seed" shows the folly of abortion. "The Parable of the Criminal and the Righteous Politician" is an appeal to ban executions. Many of Girzone's parables treat hypocrisy: "The Parable of the Unworthy Shepherd" and "The Terrorist and the Unwed Mother." Some of Girzone's parables make allusion to the originals, which Girzone feels are seen by contemporary readers as archaic and no longer relevant. But is this really so? Don't even the irreligious feel that the stories of the prodigal son or of the rich man are great life-lessons? Perhaps Girzone's feeble imitations, which are sure to draw a wide audience, will send contemporary readers back to the New Testament; they would be better served if they did so. John MortCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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.

The parables are a definitely thought provoking ~ and sometimes chilling commentary on today's society.

Have not read the whole book yet but what I have read was not as interesting as some of his other

works.

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 darklybut 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

Great book. Seller took great care of item

Life changing perspective on the person of Jesus (Joshua).

Another wonderful read. And so applicable to our lives today.

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.

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