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See

Literary Context

What is the thematic statement of the gospel?

What is directly before and after the parable in the gospel?

Is this parable included in more than one gospel and, if so, what are the similarities and differences?

Is the parable included in a group of two or three?

What is the structure of the parable and the development of its thought?  
*Stories with Intent,* Klyne R. Snodgrass; pg. 25

Historical Context

Who was Jesus’ audience for this parable?

What was Jesus’ setting?

What symbols, images, or elements need to be understood through the lens of the original context to understand their significance?

Story/Parable

Key Characters — Who are the key characters?

Comparison / Contrast — Identify the comparison or contrast

Conversation — Is there any dialogue between the characters?

Most Space — To whom or what are the most verses devoted?

Details — Are there striking or unexpected details?  
 Not all details have meaning, some are there to make the story more interesting.

Ending — Is the intent provided in the ending? Does Jesus provide the intent?

UNDERSTAND

Intent/Purpose

Does Jesus share his purpose either before or after the parable?

Truth Jesus is conveying

Attitude or Behavior Jesus desires to change

How did Jesus seek to change attitudes and behaviors with this parable?

*Stories with Intent*, Klyne R. Sonodgrass; pg. 2-3

How would the original hearers identify with the story and what they heard?

Father

Son

Spirit

Mankind

What did Jesus want the original audience to:

Know

Be

Do

Respond

What does God desire me to:

Know — Do I believe this is true?

Be — Do I believe that I am…?

Do — What attitude and/or behavior do I need to continue or change?

How will this affect my relationships with God and others?

Love for God:

Love for Others:

Love for the Lost:

Who needs to hear this truth?

Prayer

Praise for who He is:

Thanks for what He has done:

Strength and wisdom to obey: