

Questions to consider when reading the introduction and Chapter 1

1. What was new to you or had an effect on you? Did you read anything that raised questions in your mind?
2. Consider the audience to whom Jesus told this parable. What does that tell us about the traditional name of the parable?
3. How have you seen both religious and irreligious lifestyles lead to spiritual emptiness? Share some examples.
4. Can you think of other incidents from Jesus' life where he comes into conflict with the Pharisees and the teachers of the law? Why do you think they were opposed to Jesus and his teaching?
5. Why do you think many churches today are not attracting the broken and marginalized with Jesus' message of grace?