

Parables, Miracles, John the Baptist, and Disciples

Explanation

Special groupings of segments from the four Gospels are broken out for convenience in the next few charts. Was Jesus a sage who focused mainly on teaching, or was he primarily a man of action? The first two charts in this section show that he equally did both. The forty-nine main parables or metaphors spoken by Jesus are arrayed in chart 7-7, with the forty-two most impressive miracles that he performed, presented on chart 7-8. Jesus was Savior both in word and deed, and thus he praised any person who both “heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them” (Mt 7:24).

Passages on John the Baptist and his followers, most heavily reported in Luke, are shown on chart 7-9. Texts regarding the disciples or apostles of Jesus are listed on chart 7-10. As these charts demonstrate, John and Jesus attracted and instructed a strong group of devoted followers. Jesus organized his disciples into groups of twelve or seventy, and he sent them forth to do the works that he had shown them and to teach the words that he had given them.

References

John R. Donahue, *The Gospel in Parable: Metaphor, Narrative, and Theology in the Synoptic Gospels* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988).

Herman Hendrickx, *The Parables of Jesus* (London: Chapman, 1986).

Susan Howe, “Parables,” *EM*, 3:1060–62.

Paul C. Hedengren, “Miracles,” *EM*, 2:909–10.

Parables and Metaphors of Jesus

| | MATTHEW | MARK | LUKE | JOHN |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|------|
| 1. The Salt and Light | 5:13–16; 6:22–23 | 9:50 | 14:34–35 | |
| 2. The Light of the Body | 6:22–23 | | 11:34–36 | |
| 3. Pearls before Swine | 7:6 | | | |
| 4. The Narrow Gate | 7:13–14, 21–23 | | 13:22–30 | |
| 5. By Their Fruits | 7:15–20; 12:34–35 | | 6:43–45 | |
| 6. A House upon the Sand | 7:24–28 | | 6:46–49 | |
| 7. The Sheep without a Shepherd | 9:36–38 | | | |
| 8. A Tree and Its Fruits | 12:33–37 | | | |
| 9. Parable of the Sower | 13:1–9 | 4:3–9 | 8:4–8 | |
| 10. The Sower Interpreted | 13:18–23 | 4:13–20 | 8:11–15 | |
| 11. Light under a Bushel | | 4:21–25 | 8:16–18; 11:33 | |
| 12. The Growing Seed | | 4:26–29 | | |
| 13. The Wheat and the Tares | 13:24–30 | | | |
| 14. The Mustard Seed | 13:31–32 | 4:30–32 | 13:18–19 | |
| 15. The Leaven | 13:33 | | 13:20–21 | |

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| 16. Interpretation of the Tares | 13:36–43 | | | |
| 17. The Pearl of Great Price | 13:44–46 | | | |
| 18. Parable of the Great Net | 13:47–50 | | | |
| 19. A Discourse on Leaven | 16:5–12 | 8:14–21 | | 6:26–58 |
| 20. The True Bread of Life | | | | 6:26–58 |
| 21. Rivers of Living Waters | | | | 7:37–39 |
| 22. The Light of the World | | | | 8:12–20; 9:1–12 |
| 23. Salt of the Earth — Purity | | 9:49–50 | | |
| 24. The Lost Sheep | 18:11–14 | | 15:1–7 | |
| 25. Parable of the Sheepfold | | | | 10:1–6 |
| 26. The Good Shepherd | | | | 10:7–21 |
| 27. Parable of the Unmerciful Servant | 18:21–35 | | | |
| 28. The Good Samaritan | | | 10:25–37 | |
| 29. Parable of the Rich Fool | | | 12:13–21 | |
| 30. Parable of the Barren Fig Tree | | | 13:6–9 | |
| 31. Parable of the Lost Coin | | | 15:8–10 | |
| 32. Parable of the Prodigal Son | | | 15:11–32 | |
| 33. Parable of the Dishonest Steward | | | 16:1–12 | |

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| 34. Lazarus and the Rich Man | | | 16:19–31 | |
| 35. Unprofitable Servants | | | 17:5–10 | |
| 36. Parable of the Widow and the Judge | | | 18:1–8 | |
| 37. Parable of the Pharisee and Publican | | | 18:9–14 | |
| 38. Parable of Laborers | 20:1–16 | | | |
| 39. Parable of the Talents | 25:14–30 | | 19:11–27 | |
| 40. The Grain of Wheat | | | | 12:24 |
| 41. The Light in Darkness | | | | 12:46–47 |
| 42. Lesson of the Fig Tree | 21:20–22; 24:32–35 | 11:20–26; 13:28–31 | 21:29–33 | |
| 43. Parable of the Two Sons | 21:28–32 | | | |
| 44. Parable of the Wicked Husbandman | 21:33–46 | 12:1–12 | 20:9–19 | |
| 45. Parable of the Marriage Feast | 22:1–14 | | 14:16–24 | |
| 46. The True Vine | | | | 15:1–17 |
| 47. The Watchful Householder | 24:43–44 | | 12:35–40 | |
| 48. The Faithful Servant | 24:45–51 | | 12:41–48 | |
| 49. The Ten Virgins | 25:1–13 | | | |