

# The Words of Jesus

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# The Words of Jesus

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- Lots of variety:
    - Short "sound-bites"
    - Long discourses
    - Dialogues
    - Parables
  - Jesus' words often have a poetic or rhetorical character
    - Parallelisms
    - Word-play
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# Short "sound bites"

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- ❑ Proverb: "physician, heal yourself"
- ❑ Metaphor: "you are the salt of the earth"
- ❑ Paradox: "the first shall be last"
- ❑ Hyperbole: "easier for camel..."

# Long discourses

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## □ Matthew:

- Sermon on mount (5-7)
- Sending the twelve (10)
- Parables of the kingdom (13)
- Living as disciples (18)
- Woes to the scribes & Pharisees (23)
- Olivet discourse (24-25)

## □ Luke: mostly medium-length discourses

- Sermon on plain (6)
  - Sending the 72 (10)
  - Coming of the kingdom (17)
  - Signs of the end (21)
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# Long discourses

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## □ John:

- The new birth (3)
- Jesus' work & credentials (5)
- The bread of life (6)
- The good shepherd (10)
- Upper room discourse (14-17)

# The Sermon on the Mount

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- The beatitudes (5:1-16)
    - Compare with blessings/woes in Luke 6
    - How is salt used?
    - How does light function?
  - Real righteousness (5:17-48)
    - Doesn't change
    - Characterizes kingdom people
    - Murder vs hate
    - Adultery vs lust
    - Oaths vs truth-telling
    - Retaliation vs non-resistance
    - Love friends vs enemies
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# The Sermon on the Mount

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- Wealth & anxiety (6:19-34)
    - Earthly wealth vs heavenly
    - Serving the right master
    - Anxiety & priorities
  - Judgment (7:1-5)
    - Where does right judgment start?
    - Meaning of "it will be measured to you"?
  - Obedience (7:24-29)
    - Wise and foolish builders
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# Jesus in Dialogue

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- With his disciples
    - Sample: who is Jesus?
  - With seekers
    - Sample: the rich young ruler
  - With opponents
    - Sample: paying taxes to Caesar
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# Jesus' Parables

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- Most fall in category "earthly story with a heavenly meaning"
  - Jesus' parables are some of the earliest that have survived.
    - About 1500 rabbinic parables
    - Only 324 predate AD 200
    - Only 3 predate Jesus' ministry
    - We have about 60-75 parables of Jesus
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# Why did Jesus use parables?

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- To mystify opponents while enlightening followers
  - Parables of kingdom (Matt 13)
- To teach truth vividly & memorably
  - Lost sheep, coin, son (Luke 15)
- To sneak by defenses of audience to get them to make a true judgment
  - Nathan's ewe lamb parable (2 Sam 12)
  - Jesus' two-debtor parable (Luke 7)

# Jesus' parables categorized by type

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- **Story parables** – a brief story with characters, action and plot
    - Lost Son
  - **Similitudes** – very short, no real plot
    - Woman and leaven
  - **Sample parables** – like story parables, but make their points by giving a sample rather than an analogy
    - Pharisee & tax collector
  - **Acted parables** – acted rather than spoken
    - Cursing fig tree
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# Jesus' parables by topic

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- ❑ Christological (5)
- ❑ Lost & found (3)
- ❑ Forgiveness & mercy (4)
- ❑ On prayer (3)
- ❑ Transformation (2)
- ❑ Stewardship (7)
- ❑ Invitation & rejection (4)
- ❑ Second coming (6)
- ❑ Warning & judgment (16)
- ❑ Parables of kingdom (7)
- ❑ Sample parables (6)
- ❑ Acted parables (10)

# Parable of the Sower

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- Seed
    - What does the seed represent?
  - Soils
    - What do the different kinds of soil mean?
  - Making grain
    - What is the significance of producing grain, and the differing amounts?
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# Parables of Treasure & Pearl

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- ❑ Both very similar, about finding & giving up everything to possess
  - ❑ Who is the finder?
  - ❑ What is the treasure/pearl?
  - ❑ What does "spending all" mean?
  - ❑ What is a great bargain?
  - ❑ Who has the joy?
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# Pharisee & Tax Collector

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- ❑ A sample parable, not "an earthly story w/ a heavenly meaning"
  - ❑ Background on Pharisees
  - ❑ Pharisee's prayer
  - ❑ Background on Tax collectors
  - ❑ Tax collector's prayer
  - ❑ Jesus' verdict
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# The End ...

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... of this study; but studying Jesus' words is a life-long occupation for the follower of Jesus