

The Master Teacher

by Wayne Goff

Jesus is the Master Teacher. Period. He was skilled at teaching the humble student, the recalcitrant fool, and the penitent sinner. He taught in various methods, some of which we can mention now.

Answering A Question With A Question

When the Jewish leaders confronted Jesus about His authority to teach, He asked them a question in return: “The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?” **Matthew 21:25**. This revealed the **dishonesty** of the Jewish leaders because they were unwilling to answer the question! Thus, Jesus refused to answer their demands in return. However, sometimes we can ask students questions to answer their question. In so doing, we can spur them on to think out the answer for themselves.

Parables

We are very familiar with the fact that Jesus taught in parables. The parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) is the beginning of all parables, and explains in itself why Jesus used parables to teach. Of course, we have learned that a parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” It illustrates and simplifies our understanding of heavenly things by placing them **beside** earthly things which we understand already. Almost ironically though, the same parable that is used to help us understand spiritual truths may also prevent others from discovering the same truth! We must be willing to seek and find the meaning of a parable. Jesus used some forty-eight parables to teach eternal truths for His audience and for us today.

Contrasts

Contrasts are obviously those things which are opposites or are placed opposite one another for comparison. One of the Lord’s notable contrasts was that of **light** (truth & right) versus **darkness** (sin & error). This contrast is found throughout the gospel records. One instance of its use is **John 6:46-50**, where Jesus said, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.” The contrast is so obvious and visible that great eternal truths can be drawn easily from it. Other contrasts include the Sheep and Goats, the Shepherd and Wolves, Love and Hate, etc. The value of contrast is to show more clearly the true nature of things.

Every Day Objects

Jesus used every day objects in His teaching. One of the exercises you can use to see this for yourself is to read through the chapters of **Matthew 5, 6, 7, and 23** to find every day objects which He used in His teaching. Those who have done this exercise have found as many as one hundred twenty-four objects in these four chapters! Read through them yourself and see how Jesus used the every day, common, ordinary things to teach profound lessons. Yes, Jesus is the Master Teacher – if only we will sit at His feet through a careful study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! Another irony here is that while the things Jesus used to illustrate Divine truths **seem** to be simple, they are much harder for us to create ourselves.

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