

Methods of Teaching Jesus Used

by Wayne Goff

A careful reading of the four gospel accounts of the life of Jesus Christ shows us the various methods Jesus used in His teaching. He is, after all, the Master Teacher, and it would help if we would study and imitate Him in our teaching. Here are a few examples of the Lord's methods:

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?" (Matt. 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 answers for themselves.

Parables

We are very familiar with the fact that Jesus taught in parables. The parable of the Sower (Matt. 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 it. Jesus used some 48 parables to teach eternal truths both then and now. And if you're not already impressed with this method of teaching, try making up your own parables!

Contrasts

Contrasts are those things which are opposites or are placed against one another for the purpose of comparison. One of the Lord's notable contrasts was that of **light** (truth & right) versus **darkness** (sin & error). This contrast is found repeatedly throughout the gospel records. One instance of its use is in **John 12:46-50**, 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 are easily drawn from it! Other contrasts include (1) sheep versus goats; (2) shepherds versus wolves; and (3) love versus hatred. The value of contrasts is to show the **true nature** of a thing.

Every Day Objects

Jesus used every day objects in His teaching. Look through **Matthew 5, 6, 7** and **23** to find every day objects which He used in His teaching. You see food, salt, light, gifts, eyes, teeth, cloak, etc. The **greatness** of the Master Teacher is to simplify for mere man great eternal truths. Thank God for His Word!

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