

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	

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	

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			

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.