



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON 54 – THE TRINITY: JESUS THE SON – HIS TEACHING AND MIRACLES
BIBLICAL DOCTRINE (JOHN MACARTHUR), PGS. 278-286

The Word Speaks

- ▶ Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. 5 The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.
- ▶ John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

The Word Speaks

- ▶ Jesus spoke with authority – Matt. 7:29
- ▶ The Father told Him what to say, so the words He spoke were the Father's words – John 8:28
- ▶ Jesus taught in various locations and at various events – in the Temple, in the synagogue, on a mountain, in a boat, at a wedding, at a funeral, etc.
- ▶ He repeated Himself often.
- ▶ He taught parables in public and gave explanations in private.
- ▶ He taught with amazing skill even from a young age – Luke 2:46-47 - Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

The Word Speaks

- ▶ Jesus corrected wrong thinking and false teaching.
- ▶ He taught using parables (Matt. 13), symbolism (Matt. 5:13), synonymous and antithetic parallelism (Matt. 12:30; Matt. 10:39), metaphor (Matt. 15:26), hyperbole (Matt. 5:29-30), and proverb (Luke 4:23).
- ▶ He used visual aids, including items in nature.
- ▶ He used miracles to make or support His point – coin in a fishes mouth, withered fig tree, etc.
- ▶ He asked questions to provoke thought and investigation.
- ▶ He was the prophet greater than Moses (Deut. 18:15-22; John 1:17), the prophetic teacher (Isa. 30:20; Matt. 26:18), and the wise shepherd who was greater than Solomon (Eccl. 12:11; Matt. 12:42).

The Word Speaks in Parables

- ▶ A parable consists of what could be a long analogy but is cast in the form of an ingeniously simple and often brief story taken from everyday life.
- ▶ Jesus did not speak in parables to make His teaching accessible to the multitudes. He often used them to obscure the truth from unbelievers as a judgment while at the same time making it clearer to His disciples (Matt. 13:11-12).
- ▶ This veiling of truth was also an act of mercy because we are held accountable before God for what we have heard.
- ▶ The Scriptures record for us at least 39 parables, and 45 direct discourses from Jesus.
- ▶ See a list of Parables here:
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/pnt/pnt06.cfm>

The Word Speaks in Parables

- ▶ “Jesus employed a variety of methods to present propositional truth. He taught no allegorical stories with hidden, complex meanings. The interpretation of Jesus’ parables should look for their main, uncomplicated point. The lesser elements within the parable’s telling should not be taken as possessing some symbolic or spiritual meaning. When a parable’s symbolism tends to be more complex, Jesus usually explains the symbolism for His hearers, so that they will not miss His main point.” – pg. 283

Marks of Jesus' Teaching

- ▶ Originality – Jesus' teaching was more than an echo of the Old Testament prophets. He said things that Moses and the prophets had not said – at least not with the clarity with which He spoke them. Six times in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said...but I say to you.”
- ▶ Simplicity – His teachings were simple. He used common language and spoke within the context of every day life. His teachings were direct and to the point.
- ▶ Profundity – Jesus' wisdom surpassed the Old Testament sages and amazed the teachers of His day and the crowds who heard Him.
- ▶ Imagery – He used natural phenomena, animals, plants, agriculture, commerce, hospitality, feasts, children, etc.

Marks of Jesus' Teaching

- ▶ Practicality – The emphasis in His parables and discourses was on doing something.
- ▶ Authority – When Jesus taught, He taught with authority, with no guessing or manipulation to convince His hearers.
- ▶ Finality – The outcomes He foretells are inescapable and certain.
- ▶ A Master Teacher – Jesus handled tough questions, showed compassion and understanding for His students, silenced critics and disrupters, and pointed His hearers again and again to Divine Revelation. He communicated with the educated and uneducated, rich and poor, elite and outcasts, young and old.

The Miracles of Jesus

- ▶ Jesus proved His deity and His role as Messiah by means of miracles that He performed during His earthly ministry, especially miracles prophesied to be the work of the Messiah alone.
- ▶ Matthew 11:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. 2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” 4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

The Miracles of Jesus

- ▶ Luke 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

The Miracles of Jesus

- ▶ A miracle consists of an act of God's power by which He intervenes in the physical world in suspension and contradiction to natural law. It is a supernatural event within the realm of the natural world.
- ▶ The prophets and apostles worked miracles, but they did so by means of a power outside of themselves.
- ▶ Jesus' miracles came about through inherent power.
- ▶ The New Testament records in the Gospels 37 miracles of Jesus.
<https://www.ccel.org/j/jfb/jfb/JFB00F.htm>

The Miracles of Jesus

- ▶ The miracles that Jesus worked sometimes resulted in belief (John 2:11; 9:30-33; 11:45), or created a willingness in Jesus' hearers to listen to His teachings (Mark 12:37; Luke 5:15).
- ▶ The vast majority, however, rejected Jesus despite His miracles. Those who rejected His miracles and Him will be severely judged (Matt. 10:1-15; Luke 10:1-15).
- ▶ His miracles also demonstrated His Sovereignty over creation and the natural order.
- ▶ Jesus claimed to be God, and His miracles demonstrate the authenticity of His claim.

The Miracles of Jesus

- ▶ John 10:37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”
- ▶ John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. 12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.
- ▶ Greater not in power, but extent – see the Book of Acts!