

# Champions/Women of Destiny

## LESSON 6



# Jesus, the Master Teacher

**Read: Matthew 13:3-53**

This lesson is focused on understanding Jesus as the **Truth Teller**. So many people wrongly declare what they believe is “**Truth**.” Some think they are dropping knowledge your way, but in fact, are showering you with opinion after opinion, or their own views. Jesus is a **Truth Teller** and that is important for you to know. **He knows, understands and speaks Truth.**



**Truth**, in the historical written records of the Old Testament, is identified with personal accuracy and historical facts. Before identifying himself to his brothers, Joseph desires to test them by commanding them to send one of their brothers as a prisoner, to see if there is truth in them ([Gen 42:16](#)). Both Joseph's brothers and Achan claim to be speaking the truth when they confess their respective sins ([Gen 42:21](#); [Joshua 7:20](#)).

**Truth** is also a quality used to describe utterances that are from the Lord. When Elijah intervenes for the son of the widow of Zarephath, bringing the boy back to life, the boy's mother remarks that now she knows that Elijah is a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in his mouth is truth. The writers of Psalms describe truth as a fundamental characteristic of God, a characteristic that the psalmist desires to share. The wicked do not speak truth ([5:9](#)), whereas the blameless one speaks truth from the heart ([15:2](#)). The psalmists often depict truth as a quality separate from God, and which God serves by virtue of his nature. In many instances, truth appears to be personified. The psalmist tells God to "guide me in your truth" ([25:5](#)); the psalmist asks God to "send forth your light and your truth" to lead him ([43:3](#));

Proverbs seldom speaks of truth, but when it does, it defines it as a virtue that the person of God should practice. Truth is to proceed from one's mouth, and wickedness is an abomination to the lips ([8:7](#)); the one who speaks the truth gives honest evidence ([12:17](#)); truth is described as valuable enough that one should purchase it, along with wisdom, instruction, and understanding ([23:23](#)).

We spent a lot of time defining the biblical definition of **Truth** because if you are going to follow and obey the teachings of Jesus as a Master Teacher, you need to know that what comes out of His mouth is reliable.

## Jesus the Teacher

Although Jesus spent much of His time preaching, healing, and performing miracles He spent the greater part of His ministry teaching. Did you realize that the gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*) call Jesus “**Teacher**” at least 45 times, but not once “**preacher**”? The gospels are filled with phrases such as: “...*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village*” (*Mark 6:6*). Jesus’ most well-known teachings are found in His famous Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*).

In rowboats, small villages, and enormous synagogues, Jesus taught individuals, as well as large crowds attracted by His miracles. The Bible says the people were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (*Matthew 7:28-29*).



## How Jesus Taught

When you show up to school your teachers should have put some preparation into the assignments that they are to administer to you. Good teachers put in great preparation to communicate instructions and information to their students. They don’t just show up to class to sit there and let you do what you want. (*Although I do know teachers like that and so do you*).

In order for you to appreciate Jesus’ teachings you need to know His methods.

### Scriptural Knowledge:

Jesus used a number of key methods to communicate truth clearly. One key to His effectiveness was that He knew the Word of God so well He could furnish Scripture for every situation He faced. Whether His cleansing of the Temple or His temptation in the wilderness, 33 times Jesus directly quoted from 16 Old Testament books (*now that would be worth the study for interested students*).

### Situations:

Jesus often taught powerful lessons from God’s Word by meshing His message to situations in front of Him. For example, after Jesus forgave the sins of a paralyzed man, the Scribes of the Law said, “**Who can forgive sins but God only?**” (*Mark 2:7*). Using the same question of the Scribes Jesus taught that He could forgive sins because He **is** God.



When a rich, young ruler asked Jesus “*What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*” (*Mark 10:17*), Jesus knew the young man’s problem was his inability to part with his earthly possessions. Though having money and possessions is not wrong in itself, the

young man in this situation had made his possessions his god. Jesus used this situation to teach His disciples that **salvation comes by trusting Him alone** (Mark 10:23-31) not through cash, visa or debit cards.

## Conversations:

Jesus also ministered through personal conversations with various people, some who were immoral and some who were not. The best known of these conversations was His talk with Nicodemus (John 3). During these conversations, Jesus went directly to the point in a friendly, personal manner. Sometimes what He said made new friends, as in the case of Nicodemus (John 10:38-42); other times, enemies (8:59).

## Questions:

Jesus often communicated spiritual truth by asking questions effectively. When Mary and Joseph found 12 year-old Jesus talking to the Scribes in the temple (remember your past lessons), Jesus replied to their question *“Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”* (Luke 2:49).

Jesus used questions to make His listeners examine their motives. For instance, while journeying to Jerusalem, two of the disciples, James and John, asked Jesus if they could rule in heaven by His side. Jesus responded: **“You don’t know what you’re asking. Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”** (Mark 10:38). Here Jesus used two **rhetorical questions** to point out to James and John that they were unable to suffer His death on the cross. They were not capable even if they believed they were able.



## Lectures:

If you are in school you understand lectures. With large crowds around Him, Jesus found the lecture method to be most effective. One of Jesus’ longest and best-known lectures took place in the Upper Room when he said goodbye to His disciples. During this lecture, Jesus taught them about heaven, future persecution, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The non-sugar coated, in-your-face teaching of Jesus made His disciples’ respond: *“Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech”* (John 16:29).

## Symbolism:



The clarity of Jesus’ teachings stemmed from His mastery of symbolism. With the art of storytelling, Jesus taught spiritual truths that even children could understand. A grapevine, a sheep, a coin, and old wineskins are just a few concrete symbols Jesus used to communicate spiritual truths clearly.

## Parables:

One of Jesus’ most unique methods of teaching was the parable, a realistic story teaching spiritual truth. Jesus’ listeners often thought of parables as riddles and tried to figure out their secret meanings. In Matthew 13:11-13, Jesus implied that parables served two purposes.

**First**, they communicated the gospel to those willing to understand. But **second**, parables confused those who were hardened to the gospel. **The gospels document over 40 parables** that Jesus used to teach the masses.

## Jesus Dropping Knowledge

Whenever Jesus preached, He talked about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, basing much of His teaching on the Old Testament. In the New Testament you will find He taught that God is Spirit (John 4:24), God is Holy (John 17:11), God is Gracious (Matt. 7:11), and God is Sovereign (Matt. 6:13). He especially emphasized **God's love** through parables as the lost sheep and the prodigal son.



In contrast to the Old Testament image of God as our King, Jesus presented a God with whom we can know a father-son, father-daughter relationship (Matt. 5:45; 6:26; 10:20). Jesus set the tone of this intimate relationship with the word **Abba**, which literally means **daddy** (Mark 14:36).

Jesus also attributed His power to cast out demons, heal the sick, and resurrect the dead to the Holy Spirit, who is one with God the Father. This same Holy Spirit would **indwell** (*live within*) Christian believers, Jesus said, empowering them to serve Him (Acts 1:8) and to know the truth (John 14:26; 16:13).

Jesus taught that He is equal with the Father (John 14:10; 16:15) and yet said: **“My Father is greater than I”** (John 14:28). In light of other passages, the New Testament teaches that Jesus and the Father are equal as distinct Persons; yet Jesus taught that His mission on earth was to seek the lost (Luke 19:10), saving them through His ultimate act of sacrificial death on the cross (Matt. 16:21). **Jesus was subject to His Father in matters of His work on earth.**

While Jesus upheld the teachings of the Law, He also expanded upon them. For example, He taught that the sin of murder extended to thoughts of anger (Matt. 5:21-22). He also included lustful thoughts with the sin of adultery (Matt. 5:27-28). He contradicted the common rule of an **“eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth”** (Matt. 5:38-42). The truth of Jesus' teaching shouldn't be surprising when we realize that **He is Truth** (John 14:6).

### Memory Verse

Matthew 4:23- “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

# *Fleshing It Out*

Jesus was a master at using symbolism to communicate spiritual truth in His teachings. Look up the following passages and list the symbolism they contain. For extra fun, list what Jesus taught in each passage. Your mentors can do this exercise with you if you like.



**Matthew 6:28-30:**

**Matthew 9:17:**

**Matthew 10:29-30:**

**Matthew 13:18-23:**

**Matthew 21:19-21:**

**Luke 17:6:**

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

[https://youtu.be/XX-aAg4\\_U2Q](https://youtu.be/XX-aAg4_U2Q)

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## LESSON 6 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/8VM7btobd9sSVM1D9>

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many times do the Gospels call Jesus “Teacher”?
2. List an example of Jesus’ use of questions as a teaching method.
3. How many times did Jesus directly quote from 16 Old Testament books?
4. True/False. Jesus did not associate with immoral people.
5. Which two disciples asked Jesus if they could rule by His side?
6. What is a parable?
7. In which context did Jesus find the lecture method to be His most effective style of teaching?
8. How many of Jesus’ parables does the Bible mention specifically?
9. Explain how Jesus was equal with His Father and yet could say, *“My Father is greater than I.” While on earth, He was...*
10. Which of Jesus’ parables is your favorite? Explain why.