

Jesus' Use of Teaching in Ministry

Jesus used a variety of methods for teaching. This study will identify twelve teaching techniques and tools that Jesus used to communicate truth.

I. Homily

A homily is an informal exposition of scripture. This is a common style of teaching in most ministries.

A. Where did Jesus use homilies?

Matthew 5:1

Matthew 13:36

Mark 4:34

Luke 4:16

Luke 5:1-3

Luke 6:19-20

Luke 10:23

Luke 24:25, 27

John 13:1ff

B. How long were most of Jesus' homilies?

Matthew 5 – 7, the Sermon on the Mount, is the longest recorded homily.

II. Stories

Jesus used several types of stories to convey truth to the crowds,

A. Proverbs

A proverb is a story implied in a colorful saying.

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 15:14

B. Parables

A parable is a story drawn from an imaginary realm.

Matthew 13:3-8

Luke 15:3-7

C. Illustrations

An illustration is a story about the lives of people.

Luke 10:30-37

Luke 15:11-32

D. Allegories

An allegory is a story interwoven with its interpretation.

John 15:1ff

John 6:22-59

III. **Scripture**

Jesus used scripture often to punctuate points in His teaching. What does Jesus communicate with His use of each of the verses below.

Matthew 5:21/Deuteronomy 5:17

Matthew 15:4/Deuteronomy 5:16

Matthew 11:10/Malachi 3:1

Matthew 13:14/Isaiah 6:9

Matthew 15:8-9/Isaiah 29:13

Matthew 19:18f/Deuteronomy 5:16f

Matthew 22:44/Psalm 110:1

Matthew 26:31/Zechariah 13:7

IV. **Occasions**

Jesus did not make appointments to teach. He used incidental occurrences and events arranged for other purposes. What is the event and what did Jesus teach in the verses below?

A. Incidental Occurrences

John 4:31f

Mark 12:41-44

B. Events for Other Purposes

John 11:1-46

John 13:1-16

V. **Assignments**

Jesus was not communicating knowledge to be stored up in the mind. He wanted His followers to act on what He taught. For this reason, Jesus gave challenging assignments to those who followed Him. Identify the assignment and the lesson taught in each of these verses.

Matthew 10:5f

Luke 10:1f

Mark 6:41

Mark 8:6

Acts 1:4

VI. **Demonstrations**

Demonstrations are object lessons incorporating actions. Identify the demonstration in each verse and what is being taught.

John 2:13-22

John 13:12

Luke 5:4-11

Luke 21:4-6

Mark 9:2 (II Pet 1:16b)

VII. **Questions**

There are over 100 questions asked by Jesus in the gospels. Questions often provoke thinking in a way that statements do not. What are the purposes of the questions Jesus asks in these verses?

Mark 2:25-26

Matthew 23:17

Matthew 22:45-46

Matthew 16:13

Mark 3:4

Mark 8:29

Mark 10:3

VIII. **Problems**

When problems occur there is a space for teaching. It is often a significant opportunity because there is motivation to solve the problem. Identify the problem and the lesson it underscores.

Mark 7:1-23

Mark 9:33-37

Is there any significance in who discovers the problem in relation to the depth of learning that takes place?

IX. **Conversations**

Jesus listened carefully to the things that people were saying and connected His teaching to their words. What is the topic of conversation in these verses and what lesson does Jesus integrate?

Luke 21:5ff

Mark 8:16ff

X. **Examples**

Another benefit of observation is seeing examples through which to teach. What example is used to teach in each of these verses?

Luke 17:18

Mark 9:36-37

Mark 10:13-16

XI. **Exhortation**

Jesus' teaching included challenges, rebukes, and commands. Sometimes a part of learning is correcting a wrong belief or behavior. What exhortations are given in these verses?

John 4:35

Luke 14:13

John 13:34-35

XII. **Tests**

Tests are opportunities to demonstrate knowledge, ability, or character. How did Jesus test His followers?

Mark 8:29

John 6:67

Mark 4:35ff

XIII. **Understanding Jesus' Teaching Methods**

Do you have any observations about the responses of Jesus' followers to these teaching methods?

As you read scripture which methods have the most impact on you?

Are you prompted to make any changes in how you do ministry as a result of studying Jesus' teaching methods?