Teaching Methods of Jesus:
Precepts & Parables

Precepts

Definition
A short statement of truth without embellishment or illustration and intended to convey important instruction to the hearer or reader. They sometimes take the form of invitations or promises.

Characteristics
Clear, direct and descriptive

Themes:
- Eschatology - Knowledge of end of times - a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of mankind.
- New Covenant Community/ Daily life /The Law

The Great Sermons:
- On the Mount – Matthew 5-7
- On the Plain – Luke:6:17-49

The Great Discourses:
- With Nicodemus – John 3:1-21
- Jesus Addresses Jewish Crowd – John 10
- With the Samaritan Woman at the Well – John 4:1-26
- With the Disciples – John 14-16

Eschatological Teaching:
- Regarding Jerusalem – Matthew 12:37-39
- Re: Messiah and End of Times – Matthew 24

Jesus taught a way of life, the potential of man and his spiritual unity with God, the Divinity of man – Christ in you.

In *Discover the Power Within You* and his other teachings, Butterworth argues that Jesus was fundamentally a **teacher of universal spiritual principles**, not primarily someone asking people to develop beliefs *about* him. Butterworth described Jesus' teachings as practical ways of understanding and demonstrating our **oneness with God**. In one of his Unity lessons, he says Jesus presented universal truths as "dynamic techniques" for understanding and demonstrating the power of that oneness.

With the precepts, the question becomes not simply, *"What did Jesus say?"* but **"What spiritual principle was Jesus revealing, and how do I demonstrate it?"** Butterworth continually moves Jesus' statements away from rules imposed upon us from outside and toward truths about consciousness, our divine potential, and how life works. He strongly emphasizes the distinction between the **"religion about Jesus" and the "religion of Jesus"**

With the parables, Butterworth points out that Jesus used remarkably ordinary images—"shepherds and their flocks, seeds growing in a field, or fruit growing on a tree"—rather than abstract intellectual illustrations. In Butterworth's interpretation, these accessible images served a much deeper spiritual teaching: human beings are spiritual beings, and the Kingdom of Heaven is within.

Great Sayings:

- Kingdom of God – at hand Matthew 3:2-4:17; Mark 1:15 – within/among you – Luke 17:21
- Seek ye first… - Matthew 6:33
- Ask, Seek, Knock… - Matthew 7:7
- Let the little children… Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14, Luke 18:16
- Love your enemies – Matthew 5:44
- The great commandments – Matthew 22:24-40
- Come that you might have life… - John 10:10
- Love one another… - John 13:34
- The Father and I are One. – John 10:30
- You are Gods. – John 10:34
- I am the way, the Truth, and the life… - John 14:6
- I am the vine, you are the branches… - John 15:5
- … that your joy may be complete. – John 15:11
- I chose you… - John 15:16
- Follow me. – John 21:19

Luke 17:21
…nor will they say, “Look, here it is!’ or “There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.”

Matthew 19:14
…but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

John 10:10
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 13:34
I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

John 10:30
The Father and I are one.

John 10:34
Jesus answered, “Is it not written in your law” I said, you are gods’?

John 14:6
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 15:5
I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:16
You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

John 21:19
(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Discussion Question

Read through the precepts and choose one that catches your attention. It may be one you love, one that challenges you, or one you want to understand differently.

Consider:

- What do you hear Jesus saying in this teaching? Put it into your own words.
- What might this teaching be asking you to see differently?
- What does it mean for you and your life today?

Then complete:

In my own words, this teaching says to me: _____.

Precepts: The Beatitudes

Contemplation

Read through the Beatitudes and select **two that resonate with you today**.
Don't necessarily choose the ones you understand best; notice which ones seem to **draw your attention or stir something within you**.

For each one, reflect:
- **What new awareness does this Beatitude awaken in me?**
- **Where do I see this teaching at work—or being challenged—in my life right now?**
- **If I truly lived from this teaching, what might shift in the way I think, respond, or act?**

Complete this sentence:
This Beatitude is inviting me to…

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Root meaning
- Blessed: To be well off, to be content.
- Heaven: Elevation, extension, the abode of God.
- Spirit: Vital principle, mental disposition. Essence of who we are and gives life to our identity.
- Rich: Being rich with this mental disposition – is being full of yourself.

Metaphysical meanings
- Poor: Using beggars and paupers as an example, it refers to a state of receptivity. Ready to accept the good that comes along.
- Poor in Pride: Refers to an attitude of humility.
- Being blessed: Indicates spiritual contentment not complacency. It is living your Christ identity.
- Heaven: Is our ever-expanding awareness of God in consciousness.

Metaphysical Translation
"Poor in spirit" are those who relinquish their human concepts so that they may learn from God. In order to attain divine wisdom, we must be willing to put God's will before our own. "Content is the humble mind for in it is the awareness of God."

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

Root Meaning

- Mourn: To grieve.
- Comforted: To call near, invite, invoke.
- Grief: A form of emotional release; it honors the past and clears the way for the future.

Metaphysical Translation

Comfort or being invited or called nearer to God is a form of conscious union with God. Content is the mind that honors and releases the past for it is assured conscious union with God.

"Trials and tribulations cause us to mourn. When troubles come to us we turn to God and receive comfort." We must really believe the God truly is "my help in every need."

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

Root Meanings

- Meek: Mild, gentle.
- Inherit the Earth: Obtaining solid ground or gaining the whole of the globe.

Metaphysical Translation:

Gentleness comes from a willingness to learn from life rather than reacting to it harshly and struggling with it. The willingness to learn gives us dominion over every situation and circumstance. Content is the mind in its willingness to learn from life for in it we obtain spiritual dominion over our inner and outer world.

"Meekness, spiritually considered, is an attitude of receptivity to the divine will." It does not mean being weak. "Meekness is a willingness to surrender to the will of God."

Application: How will this new awareness and understanding work in your life?

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.

Root Meaning

- Hunger: Crave and famished.
- Filled: Satisfied and supplied with food and abundance.
- Righteousness: Equity and satisfaction. Obedience to God's law.

Metaphysical Translation:

Famished refers to a state of mind that is emptied of all attachments to past ways of thinking and longing to receive the spiritual food of newly inspired ideas. Content is the mind longing for spiritual ideas for it will receive them in abundance.

To align ourselves with God's law is to live in integrity where thought, word and action are the results of spiritual inspired guidance and ideas. Content is the mind that longs for and pursues spiritual guidance and integrity for it will receive them in abundance.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY.

Root Meanings

- Mercy: Compassionate or having compassion. A very high spiritual state.

Metaphysical Translation

To be compassionate is the ability to express love in the way that is the most empowering and for the highest good of all. Content are the compassionate mind and heart for they experience only love.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

Root Meaning

- Pure: Means clean and clear
- Heart: Thoughts, feelings, mind and heart.
- See: Means to gaze at something remarkable with eyes wide open.

Metaphysical Translation

A state of purity and clarity refers to a mind free from the clutter of self-limiting thoughts or the quiet mind. Our inner eye is our spiritual vision with that vision we are able to see God. To gaze with eyes wide open is to be fully aware of God. Content are the quiet mind and heart for they are fully aware of God.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

Root Meaning

- Peace: to join.
- Peacemakers: To bring together in harmony or to make peace.

Metaphysical Translation

Being a peacemaker is holding to the thoughts and feelings that allow you to be at peace with yourself not through self-justification but through a sense of wholeness and integrity. The thoughts and feelings that bring you to such a state are the kindred or children of God, inspired by the mind of God and born of God's great spirit. Content is the mind that holds to peaceful and harmonizing thoughts for such thoughts are inspired by God.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Root Meaning

- Persecuted: Pursue and ensue.

Metaphysical Translation

Those who are pursued or persecuted are the ideas inspired by God's guidance, which confronts the old ways of thinking. Content is the mind that is willing to confront old ways of thinking with new ideas. For those ideas deepen and expand our awareness of God.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY ON MY ACCOUNT. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN.

Root Meanings

- Hate: To detest.
- Revile: To defame and reproach.
- Evil: Evil in the form of harm or hurtfulness.

Metaphysical Translation

What in consciousness hates, defames, and purses the inspired ideas of fulfilling God's plan. It is those well established, self-degrading thoughts and beliefs that are not going to let go so easily in the face of newly inspired ideas. It is your commitment to go beyond what you have known yourself to be. It is your stretch into a new and expanded state of awareness into a new sense of being a contribution to your world that draws these old thoughts out to begin with not for the sake of running your life but for the sake of acknowledging them for what they truly are: Mere shadows that fade in the light of your spiritual commitment. Old limiting thoughts will always try to suppress new expanding ideas. Content is the mind who ideas are reproached, suppressed and hurtfully defamed by old limited ways of thinking for the sake of expressing the Christ. Be joyous and happy in that moment of inspiration for the great experience of good which is the result of your effort is found in your conscious awareness of God. For old thoughts have always risen to contradict new ideas.

Precepts: Sermon on the Mount
What Is Jesus Asking Us to See Differently?

Contemplation

Choose ONE precept that speaks to you today.

1. **What is Jesus saying?**
   Put the teaching into your own words. What is the essential point?
2. **What is Jesus challenging?**
   What conventional way of thinking, behaving, or seeing might Jesus be asking his listeners—and us—to reconsider?
3. **What is Jesus inviting?**
   If you actually lived this teaching, what would it look like in your life?

This teaching is inviting me to _____.

Who Are You? Matthew 5:12-16

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
- "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.
- In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Why Did Jesus Come? Matthew 5:17-20

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Right Action: Matthew 5:21-26

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder’; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So, when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery: Matthew 5:27-32

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. “It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Your Words: Matthew 5:33-37

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes’ or “No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Turn the Other Cheek: Matthew 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also, the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Jesus on Love: Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

On Giving: Matthew 6:1-4

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

On Fasting: Matthew 6:16-18

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Your Treasures: Matthew 6:19-23

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is
darkness, how great is the darkness!

On Praying: Matthew 6:5-15

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Serving Two Masters/Lilies of the Field: Matthew 6:24-34

“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?’ or “What will we drink?’ or “What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

On Judgment: Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

Ask, Seek, Knock: Matthew 7:6-12

“Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you. “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

The Narrow Gate: Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

On False Prophets: Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will know them by their fruits.

Wisdom: Matthew 7:21-29

“Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Reading Parables

Definitions:

An Earthly story with a heavenly meaning. A parable is a short, fictitious narrative based on a familiar experience and having application to spiritual life. A brief symbolical story told to illustrate Truth.

Characteristics

Metaphorical in Nature – a metaphor is a word, phrase, or scenario which means one things but is used to symbolize another. All parables are metaphorical, but not all metaphors are parables. Narrative in Nature – has a beginning, a middle and an end.

Themes:

- Nature of the Kingdom – expanding awareness
- Nature of God – response of the Divine to our humanity
- Accessibility of kingdom – how we enter and what keeps us from doing so

Subject:

- The Kingdom of God: The Christ consciousness, kingdom of heaven.(RW)
- The Kingdom of Heaven: the realm of divine ideas, producing their expression, perfect harmony. It is within man.

Some Scriptures:

- The Sower – Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:1-15
- The Mustard Seed – Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19
- The Pearl of Great Price – Matthew 13:45-46
- The Laborers in the Vineyard – Matthew 20:1-16
- The Ten Virgins – Matthew 24:1-13
- The Talents – Mathew 25:14-20; Luke 19:12-27
- The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:27-37
- The Parable of the Wedding Feast – Matthew 22:1-10; Luke 14:15-24
- The Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32
- Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16:19-31

Guidelines for Studying and Interpreting Parables

1. Enter the Story

Read the parable slowly, even if it is familiar. Notice the setting, the people, what is happening, and what catches your attention.

What do you notice? What surprises, challenges, or stirs you?

2. Consider the Context

Explore what was happening when Jesus told the parable. Who was listening? What question, situation, or concern may have prompted the story?

What might Jesus have been inviting his listeners to see differently?

3. Discover the Central Teaching

Look beyond the details for the heart of the story. Many parables illuminate the Kingdom of God and a new way of seeing and living.

What truth or spiritual principle seems to be at the center of this parable?

4. Look Metaphysically — What Is Happening in Consciousness?

Consider the people, places, objects, and actions as symbols of ideas, qualities, or activities within consciousness. Rather than seeing one character as yourself and another as someone else, explore how **every part of the story may represent something within you.**

What might these symbols reveal about the movement of my own consciousness?

5. Go Deeper Mystically — What Is Happening Within Me?

Move beyond interpreting the symbols and enter the spiritual experience of the story.

Where do I recognize myself in this parable? What is it awakening, revealing, or inviting within me?

6. Make It "My Unique" — How Will I Live It?

Bring the teaching into your life today.

What is this parable saying to me now? If I lived from this truth, what might change in how I think, choose, act, or show up in the world?

Complete the reflection:

The invitation I hear in this parable is _____.

Bible Interpretation – Example

Jesus Walks on Water, Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side,
while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the
mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time
the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.
25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.
26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified,
saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them
and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”28 Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the
boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the
strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”
31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little
faith, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind
ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.

Key Words/Phases	Metaphysical	Life Implications
Disciples	One who receives instruction	Represents any one of us at any time.
Boat	Positive, sustaining state of consciousness that prevents one from sinking into a negative condition; bears up the faculties of mind.	We are provided with the means to keep us from sinking into negative thinking.
The Crowds	Thoughts, thinking	What are the thoughts that are swirling in our minds. We must dismiss them and go within to renew ourselves.
Mountain	Higher state where the Divine plan can be perceived and unfolded	Whenever we want to discern our Divine plan, we must go within.
Wind	Life currents.	What do we allow to distract us?
Jesus	The way-shower	Our I AM presence.
Walking on Water	Water here represents mental potentiality. If one is to walk on waves of troubled thought without sinking, one must because established in the faith of Spirit through Christ.	Having faith in oneself and staying connected to the Christ will help us to overcome troubled thoughts.
Peter	A rock, faith in God	Represents our faith, in what do we place it?

Life Lesson

As we experience the turbulence of life, we can forget about our connection to Spirit. As we try to reestablish this connection, we are willing to set out in faith but, if we look away from our Christ center, we again feel like we are sinking into untamed emotions. This teaching invites us to keep our eyes, mind and heart focused on the Christ within. For this is how we can move through our life experiences with grace and peace.

Parable Interpretation

The Parable of the Wedding Feast: Matthew 22:1-10

Metaphysical Bible Dictionary
https://www.truthunity.net/mbd

What catches your attention in this story – and what questions, feelings, or reactions does it bring up for you.

22:1And Jesus answered and spoke again in parables unto them, saying, 22:2The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king, who made a marriage feast for his son, 22:3and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the marriage feast: and they would not come.22:4Again he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them that are bidden, Behold, I have made ready my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come to the marriage feast. 22:5But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise; 22:6and the rest laid hold on his servants, and treated them shamefully, and killed them. 22:7But the king was wroth; and he sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 22:8Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they that were bidden were not worthy. 22:9Go ye therefore unto the partings of the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage feast.22:10And those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was filled with guests.

1. Literal — What is happening?
What is the setting? Who is Jesus speaking to? What happens in the story? What appears to be the central message or tension?
2. Metaphysical — What is happening in consciousness?
Identify the significant people, places, objects, and actions. If everything represents something occurring within consciousness, what might these elements represent?
Then create a metaphysical rendering of the parable.
3. Mystical — What is happening within me?
Move beneath the symbols into the experience:
Where am I in this story?
What might the invitation to the feast represent in my relationship with the Divine?
Where might I be accepting—or resisting—the invitation?
4. My Unique — What does this mean for my life?
What is this parable saying to me at this point in my life?
If I lived from the truth I see in this parable, what might change in how I show up in my life?