

TEACHING IN PARABLES

DAILY READINGS:

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| Monday: | Psalms 78:1-11 |
| Tuesday: | Matthew 13:24-43 |
| Wednesday: | Matthew 13:44-58 |
| Thursday: | Matthew 21:28-46 |
| Friday: | Matthew 22:1-14 |
| Saturday: | Luke 15:1-10 |
| Sunday: | Luke 15:11-32 |

Matthew 13:34

**All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables;
and without a parable spake he not unto them.**

這都是耶穌用比喻對眾人說的話；若不用比喻，就不對他們說甚麼。

INTRODUCTION:

Parables were a central part of the Lord's ministry. Matthew tells us that Jesus never taught the crowds without using a parable ([Matt. 13:34](#)). This means that, in each and every instance in which Jesus taught the people, He illustrated His point through the use of a memorable story. Matthew goes on to say that "He did this in order to fulfill a prophecy given in the Psalms which says, "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world" ([Matt. 13:35](#); [Ps. 78:2](#)). An examination of the context from which this prophecy comes and a brief survey of the use of parables by the Lord will bring forth many lessons.

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| Matthew 13:34 | All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 這都是耶穌用比喻對眾人說的話；若不用比喻，就不對他們說甚麼。 |
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| Matthew 13:35 | Psalms 78:2 |
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| That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. 這是要應驗先知的話，說：我要開口用比喻，把創世以來所隱藏的事發明出來。 | I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 我要開口說比喻；我要說出古時的謎語， |

LESSON NOTES:

A Teaching God: God is a God of instruction. He deals with His people by teaching them and instructing them in the ways in which they should walk. He has never left man to his own devices but has always sought to instruct him. The Children of Israel could testify that "He instructed" them ([Deut. 32:10](#)). The Lord tells us through David, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye" ([Ps. 32:8](#)).

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| Deuteronomy 32:10 | He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. 耶和華遇見他在曠野——荒涼野獸吼叫之地，就環繞他，看顧他，保護他，如同保護眼中的瞳人。 |
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| Psalm 32:8 | I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. 我要教導你，指示你當行的路；我要定睛在你身上勸戒你。 |
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God's method of instruction was varied but always simple and understandable to all ages, including children. In fact, it was precisely for the reason of instructing children that God established a "testimony" and a "law" in Israel ([Ps. 78:5](#)). For example, one of the primary reasons for the yearly observance of the Passover was that the children might be taught the wondrous works that God had done ([Ex. 13:8](#)). This was so they "might set their hope" in Him ([Ps. 78:7](#)). Similarly, the monument built to mark the place where Israel crossed the Jordan was specifically built that the children might be reminded of and taught God's great work ([Josh. 4:6, 7](#)).

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| Psalm 78:5 | For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 因為，他在雅各中立法度，在以色列中設律法；是他吩咐我們祖宗要傳給子孫的， |
| Exodus 13:8 | And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. 當那日，你要告訴你的兒子說：這是因耶和華在我出埃及的時候為我所行的事。 |
| Psalm 78:7 | That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 好叫他們仰望神，不忘記神的作為，惟要守他的命令。 |
| Joshua 4:6,7 | ⁶ That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? 這些石頭在你們中間可以作為證據。日後，你們的子孫問你們說：這些石頭是甚麼意思？ ⁷ Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. 你們就對他們說：這是因為約但河的水在耶和華的約櫃前斷絕；約櫃過約但河的時候，約但河的水就斷絕了。這些石頭要作以色列人永遠的紀念。 |

Often in the Old Testament, God had His prophets teach the people by an "acted parable." Thus, Jeremiah is told to break in pieces a potter's vessel that he may foretell the complete destruction of his people ([Jer. 19:1-11](#)); he wears a yoke to prophesy their approaching bondage ([Jer. 27:2; 28:10](#)); and he redeems a field to show the redemption in store for all the land ([Jer. 32:6-15](#)). The whole purpose of this was to make a deep and lasting impression on the people that they might understand God's Word.

JEREMIAH IS TOLD TO BREAK IN PIECES A POTTER'S VESSEL THAT HE MAY FORETELL THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF HIS PEOPLE

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| Jeremiah 19:1-11 | ¹ Thus saith the LORD, Go and get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests; 耶和華如此說：你去買窯匠的瓦瓶，又帶百姓中的長老和祭司中的長老， ² And go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the east gate, and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee, 出去到欣嫩子谷、哈珥西（就是瓦片的意思）的門口那裏，宣告我所吩咐你的話， ³ And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which |
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| | <p>whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.</p> <p>說：猶大君王和耶路撒冷的居民哪，當聽耶和華的話。萬軍之耶和華——以色列的神如此說：我必使災禍臨到這地方，凡聽見的人都必耳鳴；</p> <p>⁴Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents;</p> <p>因為他們和他們列祖，並猶大君王離棄我，將這地方看為平常，在這裡向素不認識的別神燒香，又使這地方滿了無辜人的血，</p> <p>⁵They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:</p> <p>又建築巴力的邱壇，好在火中焚燒自己的兒子，作為燔祭獻給巴力。這不是我所吩咐的，不是我所提說的，也不是我心所起的意。</p> <p>⁶Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter.</p> <p>耶和華說：因此，日子將到，這地方不再稱為陀斐特和欣嫩子谷，反倒稱為殺戮谷。</p> <p>⁷And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcases will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.</p> <p>我必在這地方使猶大和耶路撒冷的計謀落空，也必使他們在仇敵面前倒於刀下，並尋索其命的人手下。他們的屍首，我必給空中的飛鳥和地上的野獸作食物。</p> <p>⁸And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.</p> <p>我必使這城令人驚駭嗤笑；凡經過的人，必因這城所遭的災驚駭嗤笑。</p> <p>⁹And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them.</p> <p>我必使他們在圍困窘迫之中，就是仇敵和尋索其命的人窘迫他們的時候，各人吃自己兒女的肉和朋友的肉。</p> <p>¹⁰Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee,</p> <p>你要在同去的人眼前打碎那瓶，</p> <p>¹¹And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury.</p> <p>對他們說：萬軍之耶和華如此說：我要照樣打碎這民和這城，正如人打碎窯匠的瓦器，以致不能再圓圖。並且人要在陀斐特葬埋屍首，甚至無處可葬。</p> |
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JEREMIAH WEARS A YOKE TO PROPHECY THEIR APPROACHING BONDAGE

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| Jeremiah 27:2 | Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck, 耶和華對我如此說：你做繩索與軛，加在自己的頸項上， |
| Jeremiah 28:10 | Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake it. 於是，先知哈拿尼雅將先知耶利米頸項上的軛取下來，折斷了。 |

Jeremiah
32:6-15

⁶And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
耶利米說：耶和華的話臨到我說：

⁷Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.
你叔叔沙龍的兒子哈拿篾必來見你，說：我在亞拿突的那塊地，求你買來；因你買這地是合乎贖回之理。

⁸So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

我叔叔的兒子哈拿篾果然照耶和華的話來到護衛兵的院內，對我說：我在便雅憫境內、亞拿突的那塊地，求你買來；因你買來是合乎承受之理，是你當贖的。你為自己買來罷！我——耶利米就知道這是耶和華的話。

⁹And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.

我便向我叔叔的兒子哈拿篾買了亞拿突的那塊地，平了十七舍客勒銀子給他。

¹⁰And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.

我在契上畫押，將契封緘，又請見證人來，並用天平將銀子平給他。

¹¹So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:

我便將照例按規所立的買契，就是封緘的那一張和敞著的那一張，

¹²And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

當著我叔叔的兒子哈拿篾和畫押作見證的人，並坐在護衛兵院內的一切猶大人眼前，交給瑪西雅的孫子尼利亞的兒子巴錄。

¹³And I charged Baruch before them, saying,
當著他們眾人眼前，我囑咐巴錄說：

¹⁴Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.

萬軍之耶和華——以色列的神如此說：要將這封緘的和敞著的兩張契放在瓦器裡，可以存留多日。

¹⁵For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.

因為萬軍之耶和華——以色列的神如此說：將來在這地必有人再買房屋、田地，和葡萄園。

In a larger sense, the history of Israel is a "real-life parable" given for our learning ([1 Cor. 10:11](#)). This includes the whole Levitical constitution with its outer court, Holy of Holies, high priests, sacrifices, ordinances, etc. ([Heb. 9:9](#)). Likewise, the wanderings of the Children of Israel speak to us of our own spiritual progress.

Persons such as Abraham, Jonah, and David, no doubt unknown to themselves, lived out a "parable" which foretold an aspect of Christ's life and ministry in a way which teaches us clearly God's purpose (Gal. 4:30; Ps. 32). The point is that the Lord went to great lengths to give us instruction and understanding of Himself and His ways.

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| 1 Corinthians 10:11 | Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 他們遭遇這些事，都要作為鑑戒；並且寫在經上，正是警戒我們這末世的人。 |
| Hebrews 9:9 | Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 那頭一層帳幕作現今的一個表樣，所獻的禮物和祭物，就著良心說，都不能叫禮拜的人得以完全。 <i>This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. [NLT]</i> |

ABRAHAM, NO DOUBT UNKNOWN TO HIMSELF, LIVED OUT A "PARABLE" WHICH FORETOLD AN ASPECT OF CHRIST'S LIFE AND MINISTRY IN A WAY WHICH TEACHES US CLEARLY GOD'S PURPOSE

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| Galatians 4:30 | Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 然而經上是怎麼說的呢？是說：把使女和他兒子趕出去！因為使女的兒子不可與自主婦人的兒子一同承受產業。 |
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DAVID, NO DOUBT UNKNOWN TO HIMSELF, LIVED OUT A "PARABLE" WHICH FORETOLD AN ASPECT OF CHRIST'S LIFE AND MINISTRY IN A WAY WHICH TEACHES US CLEARLY GOD'S PURPOSE

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| Psalms 32 | <p>¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. (大衛的訓誨詩。) 得赦免其過、遮蓋其罪的，這人是有福的！</p> <p>²Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. 凡心裡沒有詭詐、耶和華不算為有罪的，這人是有福的！</p> <p>³When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 我閉口不認罪的時候，因終日唉哼而骨頭枯乾。</p> <p>⁴For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. 黑夜白日，你的手在我身上沉重；我的精液耗盡，如同夏天的乾旱。 (細拉)</p> <p>⁵I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. 我向你陳明我的罪，不隱瞞我的惡。我說：我要向耶和華承認我的過犯，你就赦免我的罪惡。(細拉)</p> <p>⁶For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. 為此，凡虔誠人都當趁你可尋找的時候禱告你；大水泛溢的時候，必不能到他那裡。</p> <p>⁷Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. 你是我藏身之處；你必保佑我脫離苦難，以得救的樂歌四面環繞我。 (細拉)</p> <p>⁸I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.</p> |
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| | <p>我要教導你，指示你當行的路；我要定睛在你身上勸戒你。</p> <p>⁹Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.</p> <p>你不可像那無知的騾馬，必用嚼環轡頭勒住他；不然，就不能馴服。</p> <p>¹⁰Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.</p> <p>惡人必多受苦楚；惟獨倚靠耶和華的必有慈愛四面環繞他。</p> <p>¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.</p> <p>你們義人應當靠耶和華歡喜快樂；你們心裡正直的人都當歡呼。</p> |
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Christ and Parables: Christ's teachings also had this hallmark. When it came time to reveal those things which had been hidden from the foundation of the world, God employed a method of teaching by which the unknown could be made known in very simple ways. The Lord was intent on making all His teachings known in their clearest and simplest terms, and also He wanted to make them memorable. Thus Christ used parable to clarify and illuminate His doctrines that all people, no matter what age, culture, or economic level, might understand. He stated His doctrines in the best possible way; and it was not His fault that some hearts were so gross and eyes so blind that they did not understand Him.

Through the use of parables, the Lord clothed all His teachings with flesh and blood. There was nothing abstract. Through real-life situations with which all His listeners could identify, He opened up the treasures of the kingdom. In none of Christ's parables did He violate established laws of nature. There are no speaking trees or reasoning beasts to challenge the imagination as in Aesop's fables or in Greek mythology. The Lord had a much higher purpose for His parables and used only real-life situations for His material.

Parables speak to all languages and all levels of culture. The most backward and nomadic tribesman can understand and relate to the shepherd who seeks the lost sheep and gives his life for his sheep. Sowing seed and reaping a harvest is another basic element of life which is universal and touches all cultures, economic levels, and languages. This is one of the wonders of the gospel--Christ presented His truths in a way which all tribes and nations could understand. The Lord clothed spiritual truths with natural ideas so that all men might learn of God.

THE LESSONS:

Although those teaching younger children will want to emphasize one of the parables and the spiritual lessons taught therein, the main point of this lesson is parables as a method of teaching used by Jesus, and the fact that this was prophesied in the Old Testament and consistent with God's methods and purpose. Those teaching older ones will want to stress why God chose parables as a method of teaching and what responsibility falls on us who have such clear teachings from these rich parables. As a by-product, teachers and those otherwise employed in communicating God's Word will want to pay particular attention to the Master teacher's techniques and see if there isn't something that can be applied to their own ministry.

Remember that the Psalm from which the quotation in Matthew 13:34 comes was written to warn the people of God against unfaithfulness, by the story of past failure. Note also that the things of the past are in this Psalm recounted for the sake of the children so that they might not make the same mistake ([Ps. 78:4-6](#)).

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| Psalm 78:4-6 | <p>⁴We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 我們不將這些事向他們的子孫隱瞞，要將耶和華的美德和他的能力，並他奇妙的作為，述說給後代聽。</p> <p>⁵For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 因為，他在雅各中立法度，在以色列中設律法；是他吩咐我們祖宗要傳給子孫的，</p> <p>⁶That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 使將要生的後代子孫可以曉得；他們也要起來告訴他們的子孫，</p> |
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Jesus taught in parables so that even children could understand the gospel and that parents might have the means to teach their children the wonders of God. There is nothing in which the Christian family life today is in graver peril than in its neglect on the part of parents to give children ***systematic instruction in the things of faith***. God wants us to recount to our children on a regular basis "His strength, and His wondrous works," that "they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Ps. 78:7). Parables help us to do this.

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| Psalm 78:7 | <p>That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 好叫他們仰望 神，不忘記神的作為，惟要守他的命令。</p> |
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In reading of all the things God did for the Israelites and of His persistent patience with them, it seems beyond belief that people so led could so soon forget. Yet, is not this a failing to which we are ever so prone? Forgetfulness is a part of our nature, and it wrongs God. It also robs us of one of our most valuable forces in our daily battles. Remembering God's past victories will help us trust for the current one. Parables help us to remember the nature and character of God.

But parables are only a help. There is still an effort required of us. We must "take heed how we hear." We must hide God's wonderful Word in our hearts. The Israelites were a "stubborn" and "rebellious" generation. They failed in that their heart was not "aright" and their spirit was not steadfast with God." Forgetting His works, they "refused to walk in His law" (Ps. 78:8-11). Jesus taught in parables so that we would be helped to overcome the failures of these fathers. He taught in parables because He seeks to have us "incline (our) ears to the words of (His) mouth." Parables catch our attention and help us understand. ***The ultimate objective is that we might have a clear and unclouded concept of His will in order that we might walk steadfastly in His ways.***

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| Psalm 78:8-11 | <p>⁸And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. 不要像他們的祖宗，是頑梗悖逆、居心不正之輩，向著神，心不誠實。</p> <p>⁹The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. 以法蓮的子孫帶著兵器，拿著弓，臨陣之日轉身退後。</p> <p>¹⁰They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; 他們不遵守 神的約，不肯照他的律法行；</p> <p>¹¹And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them. 又忘記他所行的和他顯給他們奇妙的作為。</p> |
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Monday: Psalm 78:1-11

¹Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

(亞薩的訓誨詩。) 我的民哪，你們要留心聽我的訓誨，側耳聽我口中的話。

²I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

我要開口說比喻；我要說出古時的謎語，

³Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

是我們所聽見、所知道的，也是我們的祖宗告訴我們的。

⁴We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

我們不將這些事向他們的子孫隱瞞，要將耶和華的美德和他的能力，並他奇妙的作為，述說給後代聽。

⁵For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

因為，他在雅各中立法度，在以色列中設律法；是他吩咐我們祖宗要傳給子孫的，

⁶That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

使將要生的後代子孫可以曉得；他們也要起來告訴他們的子孫，

⁷That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

好叫他們仰望神，不忘記神的作為，惟要守他的命令。

⁸And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

不要像他們的祖宗，是頑梗悖逆、居心不正之輩，向著神，心不誠實。

⁹The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

以法蓮的子孫帶著兵器，拿著弓，臨陣之日轉身退後。

¹⁰They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

他們不遵守神的約，不肯照他的律法行；

¹¹And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

又忘記他所行的和他顯給他們奇妙的作為。

Tuesday: Matthew 13:24-43

²⁴Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

耶穌又設個比喻對他們說：天國好像人撒好種在田裡，

²⁵But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

及至人睡覺的時候，有仇敵來，將稗子撒在麥子裡就走了。

²⁶But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

到長苗吐穗的時候，稗子也顯出來。

²⁷So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

田主的僕人來告訴他說：主阿，你不是撒好種在田裡麼？從那裡來的稗子呢？

²⁸He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

主人說：這是仇敵做的。僕人說：你要我們去薅出來麼？

²⁹But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

主人說：不必，恐怕薅稗子，連麥子也拔出來。

³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

容這兩樣一齊長，等著收割。當收割的時候，我要對收割的人說，先將稗子薅出來，捆成捆，留著燒；惟有麥子要收在倉裡。

³¹Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

他又設個比喻對他們說：天國好像一粒芥菜種，有人拿去種在田裡。

³²Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

這原是百種裡最小的，等到長起來，卻比各樣的菜都大，且成了樹，天上的飛鳥來宿在他的枝上。

³³Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

他又對他們講個比喻說：天國好像麵酵，有婦人拿來，藏在三斗麵裡，直等全團都發起來。

³⁴All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

這都是耶穌用比喻對眾人說的話；若不用比喻，就不對他們說甚麼。

³⁵That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

這是要應驗先知的話，說：我要開口用比喻，把創世以來所隱藏的事發明出來。

³⁶Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

當下，耶穌離開眾人，進了房子。他的門徒進前來，說：請把田間稗子的比喻講給我們聽。

³⁷He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

他回答說：那撒好種的就是人子；

³⁸The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

田地就是世界；好種就是天國之子；稗子就是那惡者之子；

³⁹The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

撒稗子的仇敵就是魔鬼；收割的時候就是世界的末了；收割的人就是天使。

⁴⁰As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

將稗子薅出來用火焚燒，世界的末了也要如此。

⁴¹The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

人子要差遣使者，把一切叫人跌倒的和作惡的，從他國裡挑出來，

⁴²And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

丟在火爐裡；在那裡必要哀哭切齒了。

⁴³Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

那時，義人在他們父的國裡，要發出光來，像太陽一樣。有耳可聽的，就應當聽！

Wednesday: Matthew 13:44-58

⁴⁴Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

天國好像寶貝藏在地裡，人遇見了就把他藏起來，歡歡喜喜的去變賣一切所有的，買這塊地。

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

天國又好像買賣人尋找好珠子，

⁴⁶Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

遇見一顆重價的珠子，就去變賣他一切所有的，買了這顆珠子。

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

天國又好像網撒在海裡，聚攏各樣水族，

⁴⁸Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

網既滿了，人就拉上岸來，坐下，揀好的收在器具裡，將不好的丟棄了。

⁴⁹So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,世界的末了也要這樣。天使要出來，從義人中把惡人分別出來，

⁵⁰And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

丟在火爐裡；在那裡必要哀哭切齒了。

⁵¹Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

耶穌說：這一切的話你們都明白了麼？他們說：我們明白了。

⁵²Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

他說：凡文士受教作天國的門徒，就像一個家主從他庫裡拿出新舊的東西來。

⁵³And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

耶穌說完了這些比喻，就離開那裡，

⁵⁴And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

來到自己的家鄉，在會堂裡教訓人，甚至他們都希奇，說：這人從那裡有這等智慧和異能呢？

⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

這不是木匠的兒子麼？他母親不是叫馬利亞麼？他弟兄們不是叫雅各、約西（有古卷：約瑟）、西門、猶大麼？

⁵⁶And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

他妹妹們不是都在我們這裡麼？這人從那裡有這一切的事呢？

⁵⁷And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

他們就厭棄他（厭棄他：原文是因他跌倒）。耶穌對他們說：大凡先知，除了本地本家之外，沒有不被人尊敬的。

⁵⁸And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

耶穌因為他們不信，就在那裡不多行異能了。

Thursday: Matthew 21:28-46

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHALLENGED

²³And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?"

耶穌進了殿，正教訓人的時候，祭司長和民間的長老來問他說：你仗著甚麼權柄做這些事？給你這權柄的是誰呢？

²⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

耶穌回答說：我也要問你們一句話，你們若告訴我，我就告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄做這些事。

²⁵The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?" And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

約翰的洗禮是從那裡來的？是從天上來的？是從人間來的呢？他們彼此商議說：我們若說從天上來，他必對我們說：這樣，你們為甚麼不信他呢？

²⁶But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet."

若說從人間來，我們又怕百姓，因為他們都以約翰為先知。

²⁷And they answered Jesus, and said, "We cannot tell." And he said unto them, "Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things."

於是回答耶穌說：我們不知道。耶穌說：我也不告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄做這些事。

²⁸But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, 'Son, go work to day in my vineyard.'

又說：一個人有兩個兒子。他來對大兒子說：我兒，你今天到葡萄園裡去做工。

²⁹He answered and said, 'I will not:' but afterward he repented, and went.

他回答說：我不去，以後自己懊悔，就去了。

³⁰And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir:' and went not.

又來對小兒子也是這樣說。他回答說：父阿，我去，他卻不去。

³¹Whether of them twain did the will of his father?" They say unto him, "The first." Jesus saith unto them, "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

你們想，這兩個兒子是那一個遵行父命呢？他們說：大兒子。耶穌說：我實在告訴你們，稅吏和娼妓倒比你們先進神的國。

³²For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

因為約翰遵著義路到你們這裡來，你們卻不信他；稅吏和娼妓倒信他。你們看見了，後來還是不懊悔去信他。

³³Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

你們再聽一個比喻：有個家主栽了一個葡萄園，周圍圈上籬笆，裡面挖了一個壓酒池，蓋了一座樓，租給園戶，就往外國去了。

³⁴And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

收果子的時候近了，就打發僕人到園戶那裡去收果子。

³⁵And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

園戶拿住僕人，打了一個，殺了一個，用石頭打死一個。

³⁶Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

主人又打發別的僕人去，比先前更多；園戶還是照樣待他們。

³⁷But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, "They will reverence my son."

後來打發他的兒子到他們那裡去，意思說：他們必尊敬我的兒子。

³⁸But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."

不料，園戶看見他兒子，就彼此說：這是承受產業的。來罷，我們殺他，佔他的產業！

³⁹And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

他們就拿住他，推出葡萄園外，殺了。

⁴⁰When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

園主來的時候要怎樣處治這些園戶呢？

⁴¹They say unto him, "He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons."

他們說：要下毒手除滅那些惡人，將葡萄園另租給那按著時候交果子的園戶。

⁴²Jesus saith unto them, "Did ye never read in the scriptures (*Psalms 118:22-23*), The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

耶穌說：經上寫著：匠人所棄的石頭已作了房角的頭塊石頭。這是主所做的，在我們眼中看為希奇。這經你們沒有念過麼？

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| <p>Psalm 118:22-23</p> | <p>²²The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 匠人所棄的石頭已成了房角的頭塊石頭。</p> <p>²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. 這是耶和華所做的，在我們眼中看為希奇。</p> |
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⁴³Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

所以我告訴你們，神的國必從你們奪去，賜給那能結果子的百姓。

⁴⁴And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

誰掉在這石頭上，必要跌碎；這石頭掉在誰的身上，就要把誰砸得稀爛。

⁴⁵And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.
祭司長和法利賽人聽見他的比喻，就看出他是指著他們說的。

⁴⁶But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.
他們想要捉拿他，只是怕眾人，因為眾人以他為先知。

Friday: Matthew 22:1-14

¹And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
耶穌又用比喻對他們說：

²The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
天國好比一個王為他兒子擺設娶親的筵席，

³And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
就打發僕人去，請那些被召的人來赴席，他們卻不肯來。

⁴Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, “Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.”
王又打發別的僕人，說：你們告訴那被召的人，我的筵席已經預備好了，牛和肥畜已經宰了，各樣都齊備，請你們來赴席。

⁵But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
那些人不理就走了；一個到自己田裡去；一個作買賣去；

⁶And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.
其餘的拿住僕人，凌辱他們，把他們殺了。

⁷But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
王就大怒，發兵除滅那些兇手，燒燬他們的城。

⁸Then saith he to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.
於是對僕人說：喜筵已經齊備，只是所召的人不配。

⁹Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.”
所以你們要往岔路口上去，凡遇見的，都召來赴席。

¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
那些僕人就出去，到大路上，凡遇見的，不論善惡都召聚了來，筵席上就坐滿了客。

¹¹And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:
王進來觀看賓客，見那裡有一個沒有穿禮服的，

¹²And he saith unto him, “Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?” And he was speechless.
就對他說：朋友，你到這裡來怎麼不穿禮服呢？那人無言可答。

¹³Then said the king to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
於是王對使喚的人說：捆起他的手腳來，把他丟在外邊的黑暗裡；在那裡必要哀哭切齒了。

¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”
因為被召的人多，選上的人少。

Saturday: Luke 15:1-10

¹Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

眾稅吏和罪人都挨近耶穌，要聽他講道。

²And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, “This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.”

法利賽人和文士私下議論說：這個人接待罪人，又同他們吃飯。

³And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

耶穌就用比喻說：

⁴”What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

你們中間誰有一百隻羊失去一隻，不把這九十九隻撇在曠野、去找那失去的羊，直到找著呢？

⁵And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

找著了，就歡歡喜喜的扛在肩上，回到家裡，

⁶And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

就請朋友鄰舍來，對他們說：我失去的羊已經找著了，你們和我一同歡喜罷！

⁷I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

我告訴你們，一個罪人悔改，在天上也要這樣為他歡喜，較比為九十九個不用悔改的義人歡喜更大。

⁸Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

或是一個婦人有十塊錢，若失落一塊，豈不點上燈，打掃屋子，細細的找，直到找著麼？

⁹And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

找著了，就請朋友鄰舍來，對他們說：我失落的那塊錢已經找著了，你們和我一同歡喜罷！

¹⁰Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

我告訴你們，一個罪人悔改，在神的使者面前也是這樣為他歡喜。」

Sunday: Luke 15:11-32

¹¹And he said, A certain man had two sons:

耶穌又說：一個人有兩個兒子。

¹²And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

小兒子對父親說：父親，請你把我應得的家業分給我。他父親就把產業分給他們。

¹³And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

過了不多幾日，小兒子就把他一切所有的都收拾起來，往遠方去了。在那裡任意放蕩，浪費貲財。

¹⁴And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

既耗盡了一切所有的，又遇著那地方大遭饑荒，就窮苦起來。

¹⁵And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

於是去投靠那地方的一個人；那人打發他到田裡去放豬。

¹⁶And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

他恨不得拿豬所吃的豆莢充飢，也沒有人給他。

¹⁷And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

他醒悟過來，就說：我父親有多少的雇工，口糧有餘，我倒在這裡餓死麼？

¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, I am not worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

我要起來，到我父親那裡去，向他說：父親！我得罪了天，又得罪了你；

¹⁹And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

從今以後，我不配稱為你的兒子，把我當作一個雇工罷！

²⁰And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

於是起來，往他父親那裡去。相離還遠，他父親看見，就動了慈心，跑去抱著他的頸項，連連與他親嘴。

²¹And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

兒子說：父親！我得罪了天，又得罪了你；從今以後，我不配稱為你的兒子。

²²But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

父親卻吩咐僕人說：把那上好的袍子快拿出來給他穿；把戒指戴在他指頭上；把鞋穿在他腳上；

²³And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

把那肥牛犢牽來宰了，我們可以吃喝快樂；

²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.
因為我這個兒子是死而復活，失而又得的。他們就快樂起來。

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.
那時，大兒子正在田裡。他回來，離家不遠，聽見作樂跳舞的聲音，

²⁶And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
便叫過一個僕人來，問是甚麼事。

²⁷And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

僕人說：你兄弟來了；你父親因為得他無災無病的回來，把肥牛犢宰了。

²⁸And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.
大兒子卻生氣，不肯進去；他父親就出來勸他。

²⁹And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:
他對父親說：我服事你這多年，從來沒有違背過你的命，你並沒有給我一隻山羊羔，叫我和朋友一同快樂。

³⁰But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

但你這個兒子和娼妓吞盡了你的產業，他一來了，你倒為他宰了肥牛犢。

³¹And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.
父親對他說：兒阿！你常和我同在，我一切所有的都是你的；

³²It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

只是你這個兄弟是死而復活、失而又得的，所以我們理當歡喜快樂。

The Authority of Jesus Challenged

Matthew 21:23-32

²³And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?"

耶穌進了殿，正教訓人的時候，祭司長和民間的長老來問他說：你仗著甚麼權柄做這些事？給你這權柄的是誰呢？

²⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, "*I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.*"

耶穌回答說：我也要問你們一句話，你們若告訴我，我就告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄做這些事。

²⁵*The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?"* And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?"

約翰的洗禮是從那裡來的？是從天上來的？是從人間來的呢？他們彼此商議說：我們若說從天上來，他必對我們說：這樣，你們為甚麼不信他呢？

²⁶But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet."

若說從人間來，我們又怕百姓，因為他們都以約翰為先知。

²⁷And they answered Jesus, and said, "We cannot tell." And he said

Mark 11:27-33

²⁷And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,

他們又來到耶路撒冷。耶穌在殿裡行走的時候，祭司長和文士並長老進前來，

²⁸And say unto him, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?"

問他說：你仗著甚麼權柄作這些事？給你這權柄的是誰呢？

²⁹And Jesus answered and said unto them, "*I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.*"

耶穌對他們說：我要問你們一句話，你們回答我，我就告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄作這些事。

³⁰*The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me."*

約翰的洗禮是從天上來的？是從人間來的呢？你們可以回答我。

³¹And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him?"

他們彼此商議說：我們若說從天上來，他必說：這樣，你們為甚麼不信他呢？

³²But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed."

Luke 20:1-8

¹And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders,

有一天，耶穌在殿裡教訓百姓，講福音的時候，祭司長和文士並長老上前來，

²And spake unto him, saying, "Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?"

問他說：你告訴我們，你仗著甚麼權柄做這些事？給你這權柄的是誰呢？

³And he answered and said unto them, "*I will also ask you one thing; and answer me:*"

耶穌回答說：我也要問你們一句話，你們且告訴我。

⁴*The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?"*

約翰的洗禮是從天上來的？是從人間來的呢？

⁵And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not?"

他們彼此商議說：我們若說從天上來，他必說：你們為甚麼不信他呢？

⁶But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet."

若說從人間來，百姓都要用石頭打死我們，因為他們信約翰是先知。

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| <p>unto them, <i>“Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”</i></p> <p>於是回答耶穌說：我們不知道。耶穌說：我也不告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄做這些事。</p> | <p>若說從人間來，卻又怕百姓，因為眾人真以約翰為先知。</p> <p>³³And they answered and said unto Jesus, “We cannot tell.” And Jesus answering saith unto them, <i>“Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.”</i></p> <p>於是回答耶穌說：我們不知道。耶穌說：我也不告訴你們我仗著甚麼權柄作這些事。</p> | <p>⁷And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was. 於是回答說：不知道是從那裡來的。</p> <p>⁸And Jesus said unto them, <i>“Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”</i></p> <p>耶穌說：我也不告訴你們，我仗著甚麼權柄做這些事。</p> |
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