

Jesus' Teaching and the Great Controversy

Matthew 11: 28.



"Come to Me,
all you who labor and
are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest."
Matthew 11: 28



I. Introduction: JESUS AS TEACHER

God with us, Jesus Christ, is the best teacher, sharing with us the truth of the true character of God, and leading us to fully understand the hope of the eternal life in His presence.



"If Jesus is the Son of God, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher; they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life."
Lee Strobel



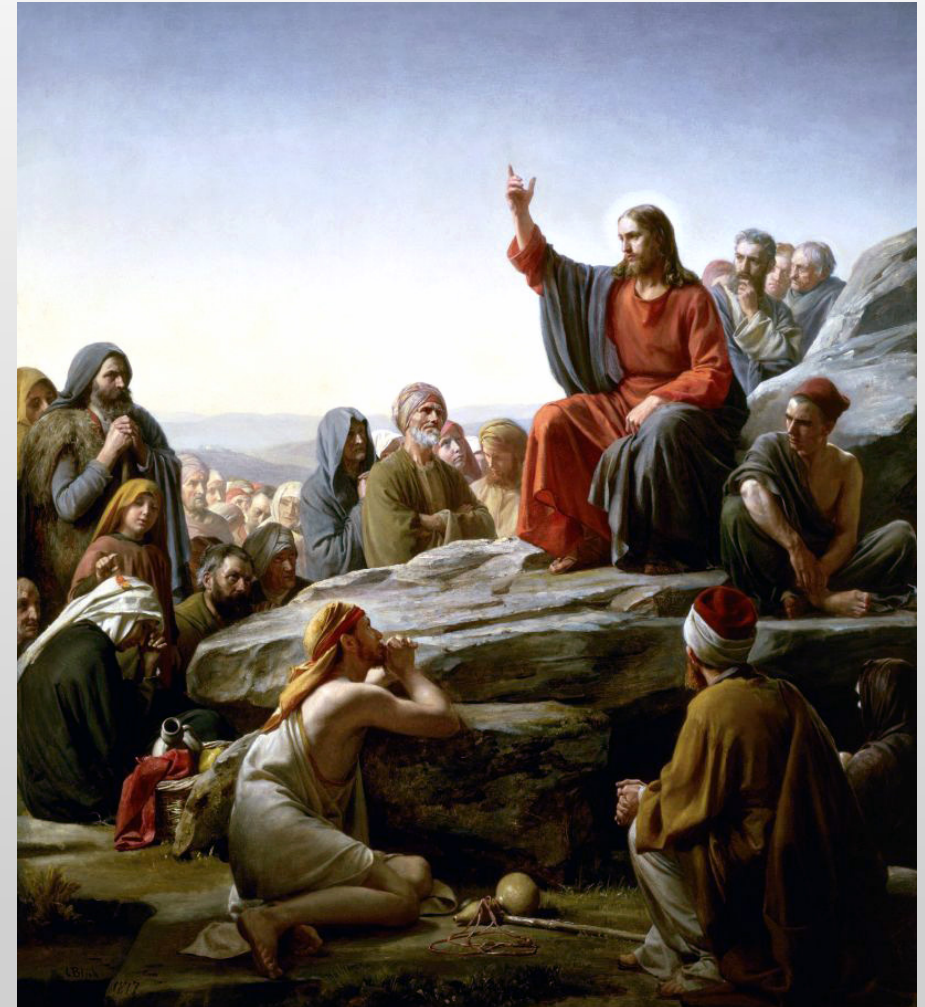
"Jesus assumed humanity, that He might meet humanity. He brings men under the transforming power of truth by meeting them where they are. He gains access to the heart by securing sympathy and confidence, making all feel that His identification with their nature and interest is complete. The truth came from His lips beautiful in its simplicity, yet clothed with dignity and power. What a teacher was our Lord Jesus Christ! How tenderly did He treat every honest enquirer after truth, that He might gain admission to the sympathies, and find a home in the heart."
Ellen G. White, Manuscript 44, 1894.



“Some modern scholars overlook Jesus as a teacher, feeling that this aspect of His life is either inconsequential or irrelevant. To Jesus’ contemporaries, however, it is clear that Christ was considered a teacher of considerable consequence. Regardless of position, belief, or association, whether one was a scribe, Pharisee, Sadducee, tax collector, commoner, disciple, or Apostle, the term most often used when addressing Jesus was Master. In fact, even Christ used this term to refer to Himself. In almost every instance, master is translated from the Greek didaskalos, or “teacher.” With the exception of the King James Version, most New Testament translations textually favor “teacher” over “master” when translating didaskalos. The term rabbi did not displace Jesus as a teacher but rather elevated His teaching status. Rabbi was considered an honorary title of respect for an instructor or teacher. “To the disciples,” President Packer wrote, “Jesus was their Lord and their Rabbi or Master, or, in other words, their Teacher, and they were His disciples, pupils, or scholars.”

Matthew O. Richardson

“For the Jesus Christ of the true Christian religion is not only a teacher and an example. He is God incarnate with his people who himself empowers his followers to do the incredible things He commands and to imitate Him truly.”
Dr. Leroy Huizenga



Jesus' content was God-centered. His aim was to empower his learners in the development of character. "

Annick M. Brennen,
Philosophy of
Education, p. 11.



“Here is a profoundly significant fact: In our culture, among Christians and non-Christians alike, Jesus Christ is automatically disassociated from brilliance or intellectual capacity. Not one in a thousand will spontaneously think of him in conjunction with words such as well-informed, brilliant, or smart. Far too often he is regarded as hardly conscious. He is looked on as a mere icon, a wraithlike semblance of a man, fit for the role of sacrificial lamb or alienated social critic, perhaps, but little more. A well-known “scholarly” picture has him wandering the hills of Palestine, deeply confused about who he was and even about crucial points in his basic topic, the kingdom of the heavens.

Would you be able to trust your life to such a person? If this is how he seems to you, are you going to be inclined to become his student? Of course not. We all know that action must be based on knowledge, and we grant the right to lead and teach only to those we believe to know what is real and what is best.”

Dallas Willard

"Jesus made everything so simple and we have made it so complicated. He spoke to the people in short sentences and everyday words, illustrating His messages with never-to-be forgotten stories."
Billy Graham



II. Context



The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as teacher, as the new Moses, as someone who gives the right perspective in the great controversy between good and evil.



The Gospel of Matthew, Structure

Jesus: God With Us	1: 1 – 1: 25	Genealogy of Jesus, son of David and of Abraham
	2: 1 – 2: 23	Mystery of Incarnation
Part I	3: 1 – 7: 25	The Meaning of the Law The New Deuteronomy Narrative: (Ch. 3 – 4; Teaching: Ch. 5 – 7)
Part II	8: 1 – 10: 42	The Discipleship The New Numbers Narrative: (Ch. 8: 1 – 9:34; Teaching: Ch. 9:35 – 10:42)
Part III	11: 1 – 13: 52	God's kingdom The New Leviticus Narrative: (Ch. 11: 1 – 12: 50; Teaching: Ch. 13: 1 – 52)
Part IV	13:53 – 18:35	The Church The New Exodus Narrative: (Ch. 14: 1 – 17: 27; Teaching: Ch. 18: 1 – 35)
Part V	19: 1 – 25: 46	The Judgment The New Genesis Narrative: (Ch. 19 – 22; Teaching: Ch. 23 – 25)
Jesus: God with Us Obtained Victory For Us	26: 1 – 27: 66	Crucifixion
	28: 1 – 28: 20	Resurrection

Five Speeches in the Gospel of Matthew

Speech #1 **(Chapters 5 – 7)**

The New Meaning of the Law (DEUTERONOMY)

Jesus' explanation of the Spirit of the Law, underlining the beauty of God's Revelation on Sinai

Speech #2 **(Chapter 10)**

The New Concept of Discipleship (NUMBERS)

The role of twelve disciples, their authority, and their mission. The new way of conceiving leadership.

Speech #3 **(Chapter 13)**

The New Vision of God's Kingdom (LEVITICUS)

God's plans for the triumph of His concept of love in the context of the Great Controversy

Speech #4 **(Chapter 18)**

The New Call to Come Out and to be Part of God's people (Exodus)

God's church (Ecclesia in Greek, which means "called out or forth").

Speech #5 **(Chapter 23-25)**

The New Presentation of God's Kingdom (Genesis)

After a long conflict, Jesus presents a place where we can live with God forever.

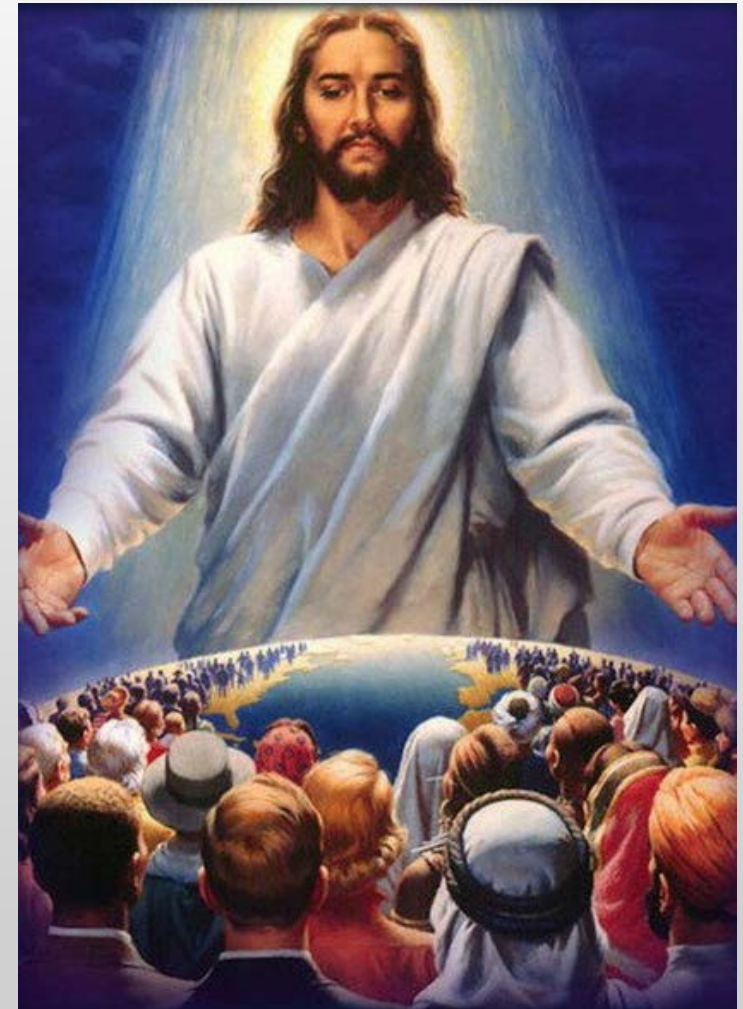
Gospel of Matthew: The Structure of 11: 2 – 12: 50 (3 CYCLES)

Cycle #1 (11: 2 – 30)	Come to Me	
	11: 2 - 19	Rejecting John the Baptist and Jesus
	11: 20 - 24	Unrepentance despite mighty works
	11: 25 - 30	"Take my yoke and learn from me"
Cycle #2 (12: 1 – 21)	There is One greater than the Temple	
	12: 1 – 8	A criticism from the Pharisees
	12: 9 – 14	A conspiracy by the Pharisees
	12: 15 – 21	In His name the Gentiles will hope
Cycle #3 (12: 22 – 50)	He who is not with Me is against Me	
	12: 22 – 37	Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
	12: 38 – 45	The evil and adulterous generation
	12: 46 – 50	Here are my mother and my brothers

III. The teaching of Jesus is powerful because He is transforming our challenging reality in an oasis of peace.



1. The essence of Jesus' Teaching
is the invitation to connect
with Him
"Come to Me"



“Coming to Christ is coming to Him with the heart by simple FAITH. It is that act of the soul which takes place when a man, feeling his own sins, and despairing of all other hope, commits himself to Christ for salvation, ventures on Him, trusts Him, and casts himself wholly on Him. When a man turns to Christ empty that he may be filled, sick that he may be healed, hungry that he may be satisfied, thirsty that he may be refreshed, needy that he may be enriched, dying that he may have life, lost that he may be saved, guilty that he may be pardoned, sin-defiled that he may be cleansed, confessing that Christ alone can supply his need — then he comes to Christ.”

Ken Silva

“God sent His Son to show His true character and to affirm that He wants to be close to us. He is not afraid of rejection. His perfect love confirms that we are always welcome.”
(DS)



"Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence."

Sarah Young

2. Heavy laden are the consequence of being far from Jesus

"All you who labor and are heavy laden"



"Jesus Christ is not just the solution to your problems; Jesus Christ is in your problems and your solutions. Without him nothing moves. (John 1:3)."

Felix Wantang, God's
Blueprint of the Holy Bible



“We are not very attractive witnesses for God when we are tired, grumpy and powerless. Jesus’ invitation enables us to be refreshed and renewed by our relationship with him and by the power of the Spirit in our lives.”
Kevin Ruffcorn



"If the burden is heavy,
it is not from God
because Jesus said that
His burden is light. The
devil has probably given
you the burden to crush
you! Jesus did say that
His burden is light and
His yoke easy. So a life
yoked with Him is
anxiety- and worry-free."
Joseph Prince



3. Jesus is the
Source of the true
peace for our souls
“And I will give you rest.”



“All people become weary and carry heavy burdens in life. He didn’t say that particularly good people should come to him. Nor did he suggest that any special group should come like Jews, Christians, or whatever. It is the word, ALL. All people are to come to God. All people are invited to Jesus.”

Edward F. Markquar



"In all Paul's epistles where grace and peace are coupled together, "grace" always precedes "peace." The reason of this is because grace is the foundation of peace."
R. A. Torrey



"Jesus wanted the man to have the peace that his heart longed for, but the man could not have it because he was living for himself."
Phil Roberts

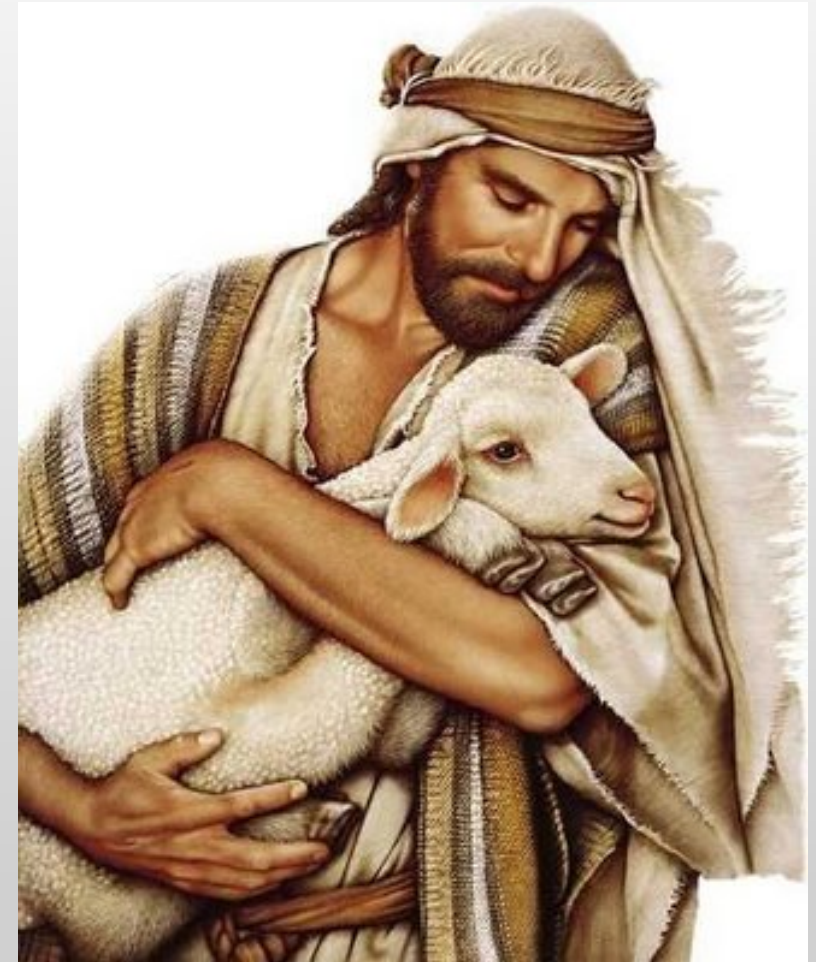


V. Conclusion



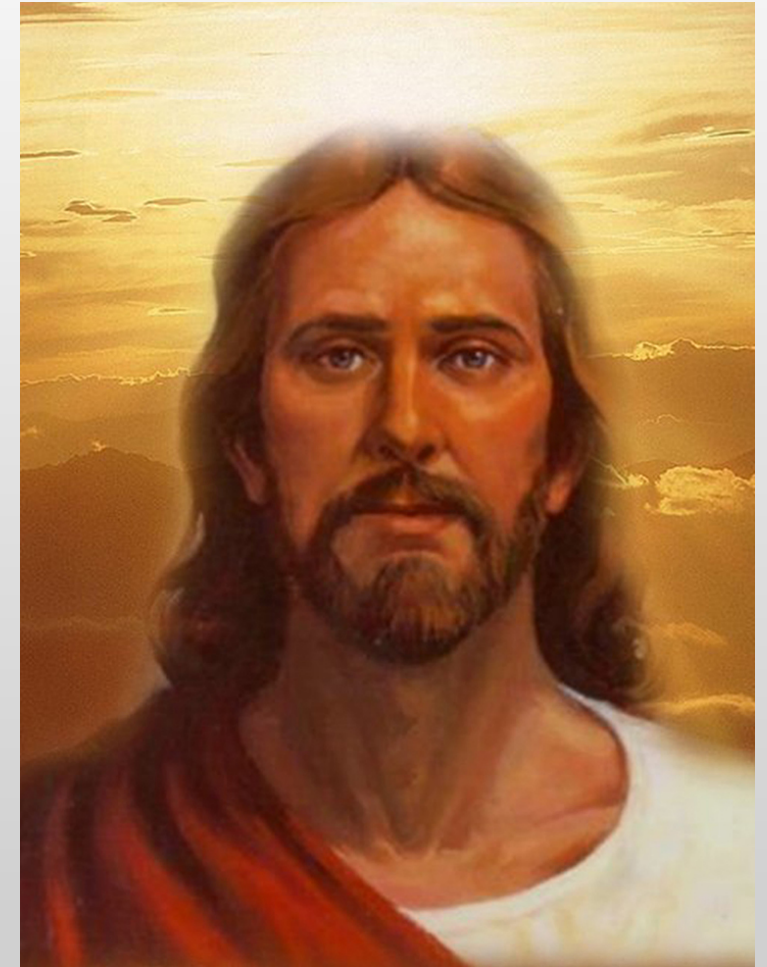
"Jesus of Nazareth, the Prince of Peace, is the only One who can give us unshakable peace in a world of turmoil."

Bill Bright



"The world has no true peace to give, nothing that can bring peace to the troubled soul. The world may offer fame, honor, wealth, popularity, all the pleasures and treasures of sin, but none of these will afford peace—not for a moment. These will bring nothing but the opposite of peace—trouble, turmoil, anxiety, death, destruction! But Jesus has the real thing, the true gift of His peace for us, which He graciously, sovereignly, and irresistibly bestows."

Michael DeVries



“Every one who has to do with the education and training of youth, needs to live very close to the great Teacher, to catch his spirit and manner of work.”
Ellen G. White, Christian Education, p. 200.



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