

Sayings of Jesus

The Lost Gospel of Q

Some scholars call it “The Lost Gospel of Q” - “Q” standing for *Quelle*, a German word for “source.” As early as 1838, a German scholar Christian Weisse at the University of Leipzig, developed proof that Matthew and Luke not only copied large parts of their gospels from the book of Mark, but also shared another source of material, primarily sayings of Jesus. This leads us to believe that there were copies of Q being circulated among early Christians. To date, no manuscripts of Q have been found.

However, a group of scholars have dug through many layers of New Testament writings and have compiled what they believe is the original written sayings of Jesus that circulated between Jesus’ crucifixion and the writing of Matthew’s gospel about 80 C.E.

You may want to consult the new book “*The Lost Gospel of Q*,” Dr. Marcus Borg, Consulting Editor, Mark Powelson and Ray Riegert are the editors. It is published by Ulysses Press, Berkeley, CA.

This *Sayings of Jesus* booklet has put together “the source” in one easy-to-read format using the *New Revised Standard Version* text and other translations including my own. It reads quite quickly, and it presents a new light on the early Christian understanding of who they understood Jesus to be.

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Q1

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the realm of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Mt 3:1-3; Lk 3:2b-4

Q2

Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

John said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

The people asked him, “What are we to do, then?” John answered, “Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it.” (Mt 3:5-10; Lk 3:7-11)

Q3

Even tax collectors came to John to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” Lk 3:12-14

Q4

John the Baptist said, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Mt 3:11-12; Lk 3:16-17

Q5

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, the sky opened up. The Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Mt 3:13, 16-17; Lk 3:21b-22

Q6

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “One cannot live by bread alone.” Mt 4:1-4; Lk 4:1-4

Q7

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

Mt 4:5-7; Lk 4:9-12

Q8

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “It is written, ‘You must worship God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him to return at a later time. (Mt 4:8-11; Lk 5-8, 13)

Q9

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. (Mt 5:1-2, 3, 6; Lk 6:12, 17, 20-21)

Q10

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

“Blessed are you who weep, for you shall laugh. (Mt 5:6, 4; Lk 6:21)

Q11

“Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth.” (Mt 5:5)

Q12

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see the face of God.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Mt 5:7-9)

Q13

“Blessed are you when people hate you and exclude you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Remember, the prophets were treated in the same way.” (Mt 5:11-12; Lk 6:22-23)

Q14

“Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you.” (Mt 44, 46; Lk 6:27-28)

Q15

“If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give them your shirt as well. Give to everyone who begs from you, and if someone robs you, don’t demand you property back.” (Mt 5:39b-42; Lk 29-30)

Q16

“Treat others as you would like them to treat you; ”

“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even sinners do the same? And if you do good to those who do good to you, what good is there in that? Even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what reward is there in that? Even sinners lend to sinners.”

“Instead love you enemies and do good, expecting nothing in return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of your

Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on the bad and the good. He sends rain to fall on both the just and the unjust.” (Mt 7:12, 5:46-47; Lk 6:31-33, 35b)

Q17

“Be compassionate, therefore, as your heavenly Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.”

(Mt 5:48, 7:1-2; Lk 6:36-37)

Q18

“Give to others and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands - all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.” (Lk 6:38)

Q19

“Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a servant above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the servant like the master.” (Mt 15:14, 10:24-25; Lk 6:39-40)

Q20

“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.” (Mt 7:3-5; Lk 6:41-42)

Q21

“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.”

“A person’s words flow from what is treasured in the heart.” (Mt 7:16-20, 12:35; Lk 12:43-45)

Q22

“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!” (Mt 7:21-27; Lk 6:46-49)

Q23

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and the servant does it.” When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour. (Mt 8:5-13; Lk 7:1b-10)

Q24

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (Mt 11:2-11; Lk 7:18-20, 22-28)

Q25

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violent attacks and violent men try to seize it. Until the time of John all the prophets and the Law of Moses spoke about the Kingdom. (Mt 11:12-13; Lk 16:16)

Q26

“But to what will I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang sad songs, and you did not mourn.’”

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; now the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” (Mt 11:16-19; Lk 7:31-35)

Q27

A scribe then approached Jesus and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But that person replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; your duty is to spread the news of the realm of God.”

Another man said, “I will follow you, sir; but first, let me go say good-bye to my family.” Jesus said to him, “Anyone who starts to plow and then keeps looking back is of no use for the realm of God.”

(Mt 8:19-22; Lk 9:57-60)

Q28

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Mt 10:16, 9:37; Lk 10:2-3)

Q29

“Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff. Don’t stop to greet anyone on the road.” (Mt 10:9-10; Lk 9:3, 10:4)

Q30

“Whenever you enter someones’s home, let your first words be, ‘Peace be to this house!’ If a person who loves peace lives there, they will accept your blessing. If not, your words will return to you. Stay in this house, receiving what food and drink they offer, for the laborer deserves his reward. Do not keep moving from house to house. When you enter a town and the people welcome you, eat the food they provide. Heal the sick who are there. Say to the people of the town, ‘The kingdom of God is at your door.’” (Mt 10:11-12; Lk 10:5-9)

Q31

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of

power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to the dead.”

“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” (Mt 10:40, 11:21-23; Lk 10:10-12, 13-16)

Q32

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

(Mt 11:25-27; 10:21-22)

Q33

But blessed are your eyes that see what you are seeing. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. (Mt

13:16-17; Lk 10:23-24)

Q34

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be honored; may your reign begin. Grant us each day the food we need. And forgive us our failures, for we ourselves forgive everyone who fails us. And do not put us to the test.” (Mt 6:9-13; Lk 11:1-4)

Q35

“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. (Mt 7:7-8; Lk 11:9-11)

Q36

“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!” (Mt 7:9-11; Lk 11:11-13)

Q37

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” But some of them said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.” He knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the realm of God has come to you. (Mt 12:22-28; Lk 11:14-20)

Q38

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (Mt 12:30; Lk 11:23)

Q39

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but it finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.” (Mt 12:43-45; Lk 11:24-26)

Q40

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and observe it!” (Lk 11:27-28)

Q41

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was a symbol for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be for today’s generation.”

“The Queen of the Sheba will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! (Mt 12:38-42; Lk 11:16, 29-32)

Q42

“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. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Be careful to keep your whole body full of light.” (Mt 5:15, 16:22-23; Lk 11:33-36)

Q43

“Woe to you, who call yourselves perfect in your obedience to the law. For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.”

“First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean. Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?” (Mt 23:23, 26; Lk 11:39-42)

Q44

“You who claim to be the most devout are hopeless! You love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call you rabbi. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it.”

“Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors

killed. So you are witnesses and approve of the deeds of your ancestors; for they killed them, and you build their tombs.”

“Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation.” (Mt 23:6-7, 29-35; Lk 11:43-51)

Q45

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.” (Mt 10:26-27; Lk 12:2-3)

Q46

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Mt 10:28-31; Lk 12:4-7)

Q47

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” (Mt 10:32; Lk 12:8)

Q48

“Whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”

“When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.” (Mt 10:19-20, 12:32; Lk 12:9-12)

Q49

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who made me a judge?” (Lk 12:13-14)

Q50

Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’”

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” (Lk 12:16-21)

Q51

“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?” (Mt 6:25-27; Lk 12:22-26)

Q52

“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?” (Mt 6:28-30; Lk 12:27-28)

Q53

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the realm of God and his

righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mt 6:31-33; Lk 12:29-31)

Q54

“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.” (Mt 6:19-21; Lk 12:33-34)

Q55

“If the owner of a house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the son of man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Mt 24:42-44; Lk 12:39-40)

Q56

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other servant their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and he begins to beat his fellow servant, and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. Instead of receiving a reward, that servant will be cut off and will share the fate of the unfaithful. (Mt 24:45-51; Lk 12:42-46)

Q57

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For my coming may set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:34-36; Lk 12:51-53)

Q58

“Those who clutch at life will lose it, and those who let go of their life for my sake will find it.” (Mt 10:39; Lk 17:33)

Q59

“When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ In the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” (Mt 16:2-3; Lk 12:54-56)

Q60

“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.”

(Mt 5:25-26; Lk 12:57-59)

Q61

He put before them another parable: “The realm of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and tossed into his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” (Mt 13:31-32; Lk 13:18-19)

Q62

He told them another parable: “The realm of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three cups of flour until all of it was leavened.” (Mt 13:33; Lk 13:20-21)

Q63

“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. (Mt 7:13-14; Lk 13:24)

Q64

“I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the realm of heaven, while those who think the realm of God belongs to them will be thrown into the

outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

(Mt 8:11-12; Lk 13:28-29)

Q65

So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Mt 20:16; Lk 13:30)

Q66

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you are a city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to you! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house will be abandoned and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Mt 23:37-39;

Lk 13:34-35)

Q67

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Mt 23:12; Lk 14:11)

Q68

“Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will share my dinner.’”

(Mt 22:1-10; Lk 14:16-24)

Q69

“If you love your father or mother, son or daughter more than me, you cannot follow me. Unless you take up your cross and let go of all that you possess, you cannot truly follow me.” (Mt 10:37-38; Lk 14:26-27)

Q70

“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.” (Mt 5:13; Lk 14:34-35)

Q71

“What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.” (Mt 18:12-13; Lk 15:4-7)

Q72

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’” (Lk 15:8-10)

Q73

“No one can serve two masters; you 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. (Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13)

Q74

“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.” (Mt 5:18; Lk 16:17)

Q75

“Anyone who divorces his wife and remarries commits adultery. So does a man who marries a divorced woman.” (Mt 5:32; Lk 16:18)

Q76

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth

of the sea. Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!” (Mt 18:6-7; Lk 17:1-2)

Q77

“If a person does something against you, go to the person and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If your friend listens to you and says ‘I’m sorry,’ forgive and your bond will be strengthened.”

One of his disciples said to him, “How often should I forgive the same person? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” (Mt 18:15, 21-22; Lk 17:3-4)

Q78

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Mt 17:20; Lk 17:6)

Q79

Once Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” (Lk 17:20-21)

Q80

Then he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, ‘Look there!’ or ‘Look here!’ Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.”

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.” (Mt 24:26, 37-41; Lk 17:22-26, 34)

Q81

“A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his servants, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, ‘Do business with these until I come back.’ But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to rule over us.’ When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, ‘Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds.’ He said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities.’ Then the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your pound has made five pounds.’ He said to him, ‘And you, rule over five cities.’ Then the other came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ He said to him, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.’ He said to the bystanders, ‘Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds!’ ‘I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.’” (Mt 25:14-30; Lk 19:12-23)

Q82

Jesus said to them, “You are those who have stood by me in my trials. You will eat and drink with me in the realm of God.” (Mt 19:28; Lk 22:28-30)

Some Notes ...

Most of the verses I have taken from the Gospel of Matthew, however in many cases Luke seems to capture the earlier version. In many instances, I have chosen words to translate the Greek that are more understandable in our culture. For instance, I have used the word “servant” rather than “slave” because in our society “slave” has a negative connotation. “Kingdom” may be interpreted today as a physical place in which a king rules rather than a “realm” which I use to indicate a “culture” or a kind of “society.”

The original Greek language has no punctuation. As we translate this into English, we add punctuation marks in order to clarify the meaning. Any translation will show the translator’s frame of reference or theological approach by the words he/she chooses to convey the meaning of the author of the original Greek document. I hope you will read more than one translation in order to understand better the message from those in the first century.

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