

Traveling with Thomas



A Journey through the

Days of Lent:

14 February - 1 April 2018

Reflecting on

“The Gospel of Thomas”

Sayings # 24 – 70

Cover illustration

Stained-glass Window: Apostle Thomas
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Reflecting on The Thomas Texts

Commonly Known as: “The Gospel of Thomas”

Sayings # 24-70

Introduction

The document known as “The Gospel of Thomas” is an ancient collection of one hundred and fourteen Sayings (or “Logion”) attributed to Jesus.

It was common practice in the ancient world for students to pass around in oral form the words of their teacher, or to create sayings and stories in the spirit of the teaching, which would later be written down and attributed to the teacher. The actual authorship of “The Gospel of Thomas” cannot be accurately ascertained.

Although it is referred to in a few ancient writings, “The Gospel of Thomas” was largely unknown, until it was discovered buried in a small cave in the desert near the Arab village of Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt in 1945, along with fifty-three other ancient manuscripts.

The date of “The Gospel of Thomas”, which was translated into Coptic from either a Greek or Syriac original, is not known. Estimates range from as early as 40 CE to 140 CE. (nb: The Canonical Gospels are generally believed to have been written down between 60 and 100 CE.)

Eusebius (c.260-339 CE), bishop of Caesarea, included the “Gospel of Thomas” among a group of books he deemed “heretical”. Eusebius believed that the Emperor Constantine had been ordained by God to inaugurate God’s kingdom on earth. He argued that if the Emperor was going to maintain the order of heaven on earth, he must establish a uniform system of belief and practice that would be shared by all Christians. According to the vision of Eusebius, under Constantine’s rule, Christian religion would be “catholic” or “universal”, reaching to the full extent of imperial power which would enforce uniformity in Christian beliefs, practices, and social organizations.

Whatever may be the date in which they were composed, the Sayings of “The Gospel of Thomas” reflect an early attempt by an unknown Christian community to transmit their understanding of the teachings of Jesus.

As the early Christian church began to take shape, it was felt necessary to identify, from among a variety of texts circulating at the time and claiming to be the teachings of Jesus, which writings the church believed most authentically carried his authentic voice. This process of establishing the authorized “canon” (list) of books to include in the Bible was not finalized until sometime in the mid to late fourth century.

Either because “The Gospel of Thomas” was felt to fall outside the authoritative parameters of Christian teaching,

or because at the time it was not widely known, it was not included in the canonical books of the Bible.

While “The Gospel of Thomas” does not share the authority of canonical Scripture, it is a document of spiritual insight that attempts to convey some of the power and truth of the teachings we have learned to associate with Jesus.

Whatever else “The Gospel of Thomas” may be it is at least an early formulation that some people in the earliest church believed was a faithful representation of the teachings of Jesus. To dismiss “The Gospel of Thomas” simply because it did not end up representing the majority opinion, is like dismissing the Protestant Reformation simply because it remains to this day a minority position in the Christian church.

This booklet contains all one hundred and fourteen sayings included in “The Gospel of Thomas”. These versions of Thomas’ Sayings are not a translation from the original language. They are my personal paraphrase based on comparing a variety of English translations and attempting to render the Sayings a little more clear and readable in my own mind.

Each day through Lent, I will publish at <https://inaspaciousplace.wordpress.com/> comments on a Saying for that day, starting on 14 February with Saying #24 and concluding on 1 April with Saying #70.

It seems worthwhile to me to take an interest in “The Gospel of Thomas”, not in order to attempt to re-write or

“correct” the Gospels of Scripture or to put “The Gospel of Thomas” on the same footing as those texts that have been sanctified by time and tradition in the life of the Christian community. Rather, reading these Sayings is an attempt to discern if an ancient text that emerged in an early Christian context might speak to us today about our understanding of Jesus as we find him in the Bible and might have the power to nourish us in our journey as we travel through life guided and inspired by the Spirit of Jesus living within our lives.

The Sayings in “The Gospel of Thomas” are given no context. There is no narrative around any of the Sayings. No details are offered about the life of the speaker. Many of the Sayings in “The Gospel of Thomas” have almost exact parallels in the canonical Gospels, others resonate quite closely with the Gospels in the Bible. A few of the Sayings in “The Gospel of Thomas” are extremely cryptic, and enigmatic.

In an attempt to maintain some distinction between the voice of Jesus as he speaks in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the voice of the teacher speaking in “The Gospel of Thomas” I will refer to the teacher in “Thomas” using the Aramaic name Yeshua.

Attached to each of the Sayings in this booklet are citations from passages in the canonical text of Scripture. This is not an attempt to prove that “The Gospel of Thomas” and the Bible are the same; they are not. I cite these Scriptures from the Bible in order to attempt to illuminate the Sayings of “The Gospel of Thomas” and to try to show that there

may not be as much distance as we might have been led to believe between the sometimes strange and challenging Sayings of Thomas and the more familiar words of the Bible.

There are passages in the canonical Gospels that, if they were not sanctified by centuries of sacred tradition, would seem every bit as strange and unsettling as almost anything that appears in “The Gospel of Thomas.” Imagine trying to explain to someone who was not starting with the assumption that it was divine wisdom, Jesus’ saying, “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.” (Matthew 5:29)

Reading Thomas – My goal in reading and commenting on “The Gospel of Thomas” is quite specific. I read these Sayings in order to discern if there are ways in which they speak to my heart and can shape my spiritual life in a healthy direction. I come to these Sayings seeking the voice of wisdom that I hear consistently in the words of Jesus as they are recorded in the canonical Gospels.

In commenting on these Sayings, I am not attempting to analyse or argue with “The Gospel of Thomas”. I am not hunting down heresy or attempting to prove Thomas right/orthodox or wrong/heterodox. These categories do not interest me in reflecting on “The Gospel of Thomas.” I am not trying to explain the meaning of these Sayings, or give an authoritative interpretation, or make them palatable.

There are certainly things in these Sayings that I do not understand, things that seem strange, and perplexing, like most of my life. If there is an aspect of one of these Sayings I do not find edifying, I will leave it aside without feeling troubled. This may be a luxury of reading and reflecting upon a non-canonical sacred text. I do not feel bound to wrestle with absolutely every aspect of every Saying in the way I would if these Sayings appeared in our officially sanctioned sacred texts.

I am only interested in finding inner spiritual nourishment from these words, not in getting into a fight with the content they convey. If there is truth here, that truth will resonate with my heart in which the Spirit of truth dwells. This is the Spirit I trust and that I hear speaking in a multitude of voices and a variety of sacred texts.

Prologue

These are the hidden Sayings
that the living Yeshua spoke
and that Didymos Judas Thomas recorded.

The Sayings:

1

(Matthew 13:10-15; John 8:51-52)

Yeshua says: If you live the meaning of these words
you will not taste death.

2

(Matthew 7:7-8; John 16:33)

Yeshua says: When you seek you should not
cease from your seeking until you find.
When you find, you will be troubled.

When you are troubled, you will marvel.
Then you will reign over everything.

3

(Matthew 24:26-27; Luke 17:21; Romans 10:6-8)

Yeshua says: If those who seek to guide you say,
'Look, the kingdom is in the sky!'
then the birds of the air will precede you.
If they say, 'The kingdom is in the sea,'
then the fish will go ahead of you.

Rather, the kingdom is within you,
as well as outside of you.

When you know yourself, you will be known,
and you will realize that you are a child
of the living Father.

But if you do not come to know yourself,
then you live in poverty, and you are that poverty.

4

(Isaiah 11:6; Matthew 18:3; Matthew 19:30)

Yeshua says: The person who is old in years
will not hesitate to ask an infant of just seven days about
the place of life;
and one who asks will live.

For many who are first will be last,
and they will become single ones.

5

(Matthew 10:26; Luke 8:17)

Yeshua says: Come to know that which is
in front of you,
then what is hidden will be disclosed.

For there is nothing hidden
that will not be revealed.

6

(Matthew 6:2,7,16; Matthew 5:37;
Romans 7:15; Ephesians 4:25; Luke 12:2)

Yeshua's students questioned him asking:
Do you want us to fast?
How should we pray?
Do you want us to give alms?
What diet should we observe?

Yeshua replied: Stop lying.
Don't do what you hate,
for everything is revealed beneath heaven.

Nothing hidden will fail to be seen.
Everything covered will be uncovered.

7

(Matthew 26:26-28; I Peter 5:8)

Yeshua says:

Happy is the lion that a person eats
because that lion becomes human.
But cursed is the person a lion eats
because that lion becomes human.

8

(Matthew 13:44-48; Matthew 11:15)

Yeshua says: A human being is like
a sensible fisherman who casts his net into the sea
and draws it up full of little fish.
Hidden among the little fish he finds
one fine large fish.
He throws back all the little fish,
and easily chooses to keep the large fish.

Anyone with two good ears to hear
will understand.

9

(Matthew 13:3-9)

Yeshua says: Look, a farmer went out to plant.
He filled his hands with seeds
and scattered them everywhere.

Some fell on the path,
and the birds came and pecked them up.
Others fell on rocky ground,
and could not take root in the soil,
and so did not put forth ears.
Some fell among the thorns that choked
the new shoots,
and worms ate them.
But other seed fell on fertile soil,
and produced good fruit,
yielding as much as sixty and
one hundred and twenty-fold.

10

(Luke 12:49)

Yeshua says: I have sown fire upon the world,
and see, I am guarding it until it blazes.

11

(Mark 13:31; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Luke 3:10)

Yeshua says: This sky will pass away,
and the sky above it will pass away.

The dead do not live, and the living will not die.
In the days when you ate what was dead,
you made it alive.

When you are in the light, what will you do?

On the day when you were one, you became two.
But now you are two, what will you do?

12

(Luke 9:46)

His students said to Yeshua:

We know that you will leave us.
Who then will be our leader?

Yeshua replied: Wherever you are,
turn to James the Just.

All that concerns heaven and earth is his domain.

13

(Matthew 16:13-15)

Yeshua said to his students: What am I like for you?

Simon Peter said to him: You are like
a just messenger.

Matthew said: You are like
an especially wise philosopher.

Thomas replied: Teacher, I am utterly unable
to say what you are like.

Yeshua said:

Thomas I am no longer your teacher.
For you have drunk and become intoxicated
at the bubbling spring that I have poured out.

Then Yeshua took Thomas aside
and said three things to him in private.

When Thomas returned to his companions,
they asked him: What did Yeshua say to you?

Thomas answered: If I tell you even one
of the sayings he spoke to me,
you will pick up these rocks and stone me,
and then fire will come out of these stones
and burn you up.

14

(Luke 10:8-11; Mark 7:15)

Yeshua said to his students: If you fast,
you will bring forth sin.

And if you pray, you will be at fault.

And if you give alms, you will harm your spirits.

But if you go into anyone and they welcome you,
then eat what they set before you.

You will be able to heal their sick.

For it is not what goes into your mouth
that defiles you.

Rather, what comes out of your mouth
defiles you.

15

(Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 3:3-6; Romans 8:9)

Yeshua says: When you see one
who was not born of woman,
fall on your face and worship.
That one is your Father.

16

(Matthew 10:34-36)

Yeshua says: Perhaps you think I have come
to cast peace upon the earth.

Do you not see that I have come
to cast dissension upon the earth:
fire, sword, and struggle?

There will be five in one household:
three against two and two against three,
parent against child and child against parent.
And they will stand as solitary ones.

17

(I Corinthians 2:9; Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5)

Yeshua says: What no eye has seen,
and what no ear has heard,
what no hand has touched,
and no human mind has conceived,
this I will give to you.

18

(Matthew 24:3-6; Revelation 22:13)

His students said to Yeshua:
Tell us how our end will be.

Yeshua replied: Have you already discovered
the beginning that you are now
asking about the end?
Where the beginning is, there will the end be also.

Blessed is the one who stands at the beginning.
That one will know the end
and will not taste death.

19

(Jeremiah 1:5; John 8:58; John 5:24; Matthew 3:9)

Yeshua says: Happy is the one who was,
before coming into being.

If you become my students, and listen to my words,
these stones will serve you.

In Paradise there are five trees that do not change
from summer to winter; their leaves do not fall.

Whoever comes to know them will not taste death.

20

(Matthew 13:31,32)

His students said to Yeshua:
Tell us what the kingdom of heaven is like!

Yeshua said: It is like a mustard seed
which is the smallest of all seeds.

But when the mustard seed falls on cultivated soil,
it produces a great bush
and offers shelter to the birds of the sky.

21

(Matthew 24:42, 43; James 4:4)

Mary said to Yeshua: What are your students like?

Yeshua answered her: They are like little children
in a field not their own. When the owner returns, he
demands: 'Give us back our field.'

The children return the field by stripping
and standing naked in the owners' presence.

That is why I say: 'When the owner of the house
knows thieves are coming, he will keep watch
and will not let thieves break into his house to carry away
his possessions.'

You too must keep watch against the world!
Strengthen yourselves so that robbers
will find no way to get to you.

For the necessities you await with longing
will be found.

Let there be within you a person of wisdom!

When the grain is ripe, the wise one comes quickly
with sickle in hand, and harvests it.

Whoever has two good ears will hear.

22

(Matthew 18:1-3; John 17:11;
Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 2:14-18)

Yeshua saw infants being nursed.

He said to his students: These little ones being fed are like
those who enter the kingdom.

Then his students asked: If we too are little ones
will we enter the kingdom?

Yeshua answered:

When you make the two into one,
the inside like the outside
and the outside like the inside
and the above like the below –
that is, to make the male and the female
into a single one,
so that the man is no longer male
and the woman no longer female –

and when you make eyes into one eye
and a hand into a hand

and a foot into a foot,
even an image into an image,
then you will enter the kingdom.

23

(Matthew 22:14)

Yeshua says: I choose you, one from a thousand
and two from ten thousand.

And you will stand as a single one.

14 Feb. 2018 - Ash Wednesday

24

(Matthew 5:14, 6:22-23; John 8:12)

Yeshua's students said:
Show us the place where you are,
because it is necessary for us to seek it.

Yeshua replied:
Whoever has two good ears will hear!

There is light within a person of light,
and the light shines on the whole world.
If it does not shine, there is darkness.

15 Feb. Thursday

25

(Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:9;
Galatians 5:14; James 2:8)

Yeshua says: Love all people as your own self!
Protect them like the pupil of your eye!

16 Feb. Friday

26

(Matthew 7:3-5; I Corinthians 13:12)

Yeshua says: You see the splinter
that is in the eye of another,
but you do not see the plank in your own eye.

Remove the plank from your eye,
then you will see clearly
to remove the splinter from the other's eye.

17 Feb. Saturday

27

(Luke 10:40-45; John 6:27;
James 4:4; Hebrews 4:9; Psalm 46:10)

Yeshua says: If you do not abstain
from the distractions of the world,
you will not know the kingdom.

If you do not find rest on the Sabbath,
you will not see the Father.

18 Feb. - 1st Sunday in Lent

28

(I Thessalonians 5:6,7; Matthew 5:6)

Yeshua says: I stood in the midst of the world;
in flesh I manifested to them.

I found that all were drunk.
and none was thirsty.

My soul was saddened for the children of humanity, for
they are blind in their hearts.

They do not see that they came into the world naked, and
naked they will leave.

Now they are drunk.

When they sober up, they will repent.

19 Feb. Monday

29

(II Corinthians 4:7)

Yeshua says: If flesh came into being
because of spirit, it is a wonder.

But if spirit came into being
because of the body, it is a wonder of wonders.

Yet I marvel at how this great wealth
has come to dwell in such poverty.

20 Feb. Tuesday

30

(Mark 9:38-41; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:20)

Yeshua says: Where there are three gods,
they are gods.

Where there are two or one,
I am with them.

21 Feb. Wednesday

31

(Matthew 13:54-58)

Yeshua says: No prophet is accepted at home.
No doctor heals those by whom
the doctor is known.

22 Feb. Thursday

32

(Matthew 5:14-16)

Yeshua says: A strong city
built upon a high mountain
cannot be taken,
nor can it be hidden.

23 Feb. Friday

33

(Matthew 5:14, 15; Matthew 10:27)

Yeshua says: What you hear with two ears
proclaim from your rooftops.

For no one lights a lamp to put it in a hiding place.
Rather, you put it on a lampstand, so that everyone who
comes in and goes out may see its light.

24 Feb. Saturday

34

(Matthew 15:14)

Yeshua says: When the blind leads the blind,
both fall into a pit.

25 Feb. - 2nd Sunday in Lent

35

(Matthew 12:29; Romans 7:19-20)

Yeshua says:

It is not possible for anyone to overthrow
the house of someone powerful
unless first the hands of the powerful one
are bound.

Then everything can be taken from the house.

26 Feb. Monday

36

(Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6)

Yeshua says: Do not worry from morning to evening and
from evening to morning
about what you will wear.

27 Feb. Tuesday

37

(Matthew 24:3; Matthew 18:3)

Yeshua's students asked: When will you appear to us, and when will we see you?

Yeshua answered: When you strip naked without being ashamed and trample your clothes underfoot like little children, then you will see the Son of the Living One and you will be fearless.

28 Feb. Wednesday

38

(Luke 10:23,24)

Yeshua says: Many times you have desired to hear these words, I speak to you, and you have no one else from whom to hear them.

There will be days you will look for me and you will not find me.

1 March Thursday

39

(Matthew 23:13; Matthew 10:16)

Yeshua says: The Pharisees and the scribes
have taken the keys of knowledge
and hidden them away.
They did not go in themselves,
nor did they allow to enter those who wish to.
You, however, be as shrewd as serpents
and simple as doves!

2 March Friday

40

(Matthew 3:10; Matthew 7:19; Matthew 15:13)

Yeshua says:
A grapevine was planted away from the Father.
Since it is not strong,
it will be uprooted and will perish.

3 March Saturday

41

(Matthew 13:10-13; Matthew 25:29)

Yeshua says: To whoever has something in hand, more will be given.

Whoever has nothing,
even that little will be taken away.

4 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent

42

(Matthew 8:20; Matthew 10:9,10;
I Corinthians 7:29-31)

Yeshua says: Become passers-by.

5 March Monday

43

(Mark 6:2,3; Matthew 7:15-20; Matthew 12:33)

Yeshua's students said to him:
Who are you to say these things?

Yeshua replied: Do you not know me
from what I say?
Or have you become like the Judeans?

For they love the tree, but hate its fruit,
or love the fruit but hate the tree.

6 March Tuesday

44

(Matthew 12:31,32)

Yeshua says: Whoever blasphemes against
the Father, will be forgiven.
And whoever blasphemes against
the Son, will be forgiven.

But whoever blasphemes against
the Holy Spirit, will never be forgiven,
neither on earth nor in heaven.

7 March Wednesday

45

(Matthew 7:15-20; Luke 6:43-45)

Yeshua says: Grapes are not harvested from thorn bushes or figs from thistles. They do not produce fruit.

A good person brings forth good from an inner storehouse.

A bad person brings forth evil from the bad treasure in the heart, and speaks evil.

For words come from the overflow of the heart.

8 March Thursday

46

(Matthew 11:7-15; Matthew 18:3; Matthew 19:14)

Yeshua says: From Adam to John the Baptist, no one born of a woman surpasses John the Baptist so that John need not lower his eyes.

But I have also said: 'Whoever among you becomes a child will know the kingdom, and will surpass the Baptist.'

9 March Friday

47

(Matthew 6:24; Matthew 9:16,17)

Yeshua says: No one can mount two horses
or stretch two bows.

A servant cannot serve two masters;
the servant will honour the one
and insult the other.

No person who drinks aged wine
immediately wants to drink new wine.
New wine is not poured into old wineskins,
or they burst; nor is old wine
put into a new wineskin, or it may spoil.

An old patch is not sewn onto a new garment,
lest the tear become worse.

10 March Saturday

48

(Matthew 17:19-21; Matthew 21:21;
Romans 12:18)

Yeshua says: If two make peace in this one house,
they will tell the mountain:
'Move away,' and it will move.

11 March - 4th Sunday in Lent

49

(John 15:16; John 15:19; Romans 9:10-16;
John 13:3)

Yeshua says: Happy are the single ones,
the chosen.

You will find the kingdom,
for it is your source
and to it you shall return.

12 March Monday

50

(Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 16:8; John 12:36;
Hebrews 4:9)

Yeshua says: If they say to you:
'Where do you come from?' say to them:
'We come from the Light.
The place where the Light is manifest from itself,
has established itself and manifests
through their image.'

If they ask: 'Is it you?' answer: 'We are children
of the Light, the chosen of the living Father.'

If they ask: 'What is the sign
of your Father in you?' reply:
'It is movement and it is rest.'

13 March Tuesday

51

(Luke 17:20,21; John 1:26; Mark 8:17, 18)

Yeshua's students asked him:
When will the dead be at rest?
When will the new world come?

Yeshua replied:
All that you await has come already,
but you do not perceive it.

14 March Wednesday

52

(John 1:45; Mark 12:27; Luke 24:5;
Matthew 22:31,32)

Yeshua's students said to him:
Twenty-four prophets have spoken in Israel,
and they all spoke about you.

Yeshua replied: You have pushed away
the living one who is with you,
and have begun to speak of those who are dead.

15 March Thursday

53

(Mark 2:27; John 4:24; I Corinthians 7:19;
Galatians 5:6; Galatians 6:15; Colossians 2:11)

Yeshua's students said to him:

Is circumcision beneficial?

He answered: If it were useful,
you would be born circumcised.

But true circumcision in the spirit
is entirely beneficial.

16 March Friday

54

(Luke 6:20)

Yeshua says: Happy are you who are poor.

For yours is the kingdom of heaven

17 March Saturday

55

(Luke 14:26, 27; Matthew 10:37,38; Luke 9:23,24)

Yeshua says: Those who do not hate
father and mother
cannot be my students.

And those who do not hate brothers and sisters
and do not carry the cross as I do,
will not be in accord with me.

18 March - 5th Sunday in Lent

56

(Matthew 16:26; I Corinthians 7:29-31;
Colossians 3:2; II Timothy 2:4; James 4:4)

Yeshua says: Whoever has come to know the world
has found a corpse.

The world cannot contain
anyone who discovers this corpse.

19 March Monday

57

(Matthew 13:24-30)

Yeshua says: The kingdom of the Father is like a farmer who had good seed. An enemy came at night and sowed weeds in among the good seed.

The farmer refused to allow the servants to pull up the weeds.

He said to them: 'When you go to remove the weeds you may pull up wheat also.'

But, on the day of the harvest, the weeds will be clearly visible then they can be pulled up and burned.

20 March Tuesday

58

(John 16:33; James 1:12)

Yeshua says: Happy are they who have struggled, for they have found life.

21 March Wednesday

59

(John 8:21; Luke 24:5)

Yeshua says: Look to the Living One while you live, so that you will not die and then, seeking him, find you are unable to see him.

22 March Thursday

60

(Romans 7:14-23)

Yeshua saw a Samaritan carrying a lamb into Judea.

Yeshua asked his students:

Why is the Samaritan carrying that lamb?

They answered: In order to kill it and eat it.

Yeshua replied: As long as it is alive

he will not eat it, but only when he has killed it and it has become a corpse.

They said: Otherwise he cannot eat it.

Yeshua said: You, too, look for a place of rest so you will not become a corpse and be eaten.

23 March Friday

61

(Matthew 24:37-44; Luke 17:34)

Yeshua said: Two will recline on a couch.
One will die, the other will live.

Salome asked: Who are you? You have taken a place on my
couch as a stranger
and have eaten at my table.

Yeshua said to Salome: I am he who comes
from the Undivided One.
I have been given that which belongs to my Father.

Salome replied: I am your student!

Yeshua told her: That is why I say,
when you are unified, you are full of light.
When you are divided you are full of darkness.

24 March Saturday

62

(Matthew 13:10,11; Matthew 6:3,4)

Yeshua says: I tell my mysteries
to those who are in accord with my mysteries.
Do not let your right hand know
what your left hand is doing.

25 March Passion/Palm Sunday

63

(Luke 12:16-21)

Yeshua says: There was a man
who had many possessions.

He said to himself: 'I will use my riches to sow, plant, and
harvest. Then my storehouses will be full and I will lack
nothing.'

This was what he thought in his heart.

That night he died.

Whoever has two good ears will hear.

26 March Monday

64

(Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 10:40-42)

Yeshua says: A certain man prepared
a dinner party.

When all was ready, he sent his servant,
to invite the guests.

The servant came to the first one and said:
'My master invites you to his dinner.'

But this one replied: 'I have business with
some merchants who are coming this evening.'

I must give them instructions.

Please excuse me from the dinner.'

The servant came to another and said:

'My master invites you to his dinner.'

This one replied: 'I have just bought a house, and must spend the day there. I do not have time to come to your master's dinner.'

The servant came to another and said:

'My master invites you to his dinner.'

This one replied: 'My friend is getting married, and I must prepare the banquet.

I will not be able to come.

Please excuse me from the dinner.'

The servant came to another and said:

'My master invites you to his dinner.'

This one replied: 'I have just bought an estate.

I must go and collect the rent, so am unable to come. I must be excused.'

The servant returned to his master and reported:

'Those whom you invited to the dinner have all asked to be excused.'

The master said: 'Then go out into the streets.

Bring back anyone you find, so they may dine with me.

Those who are too busy with their own affairs will not enter the place of my Father.'

27 March Tuesday

65

(Matthew 21:33-41; Isaiah 5:1-5)

Yeshua said: A good man owned a vineyard.
He entrusted it to tenant farmers
to work it in return for a portion of the produce.

At harvest time the owner sent his servant
to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard.
The tenants seized the servant, beat him,
and almost killed him.

The servant returned and reported to his master what had
happened.

His master said: 'Perhaps they did not recognize my
servant.' He sent another servant;
the farmers beat this one as well.

Then the master sent his son saying: 'Perhaps
they will respect my son.'

But those farmers, knowing that this was the heir, seized
him and killed him.

Whoever has two good ears will hear.

28 March Wednesday

66

(Matthew 22:42,43; I Corinthians 3:11-17;
I Peter 2:4,7)

Yeshua says: Show me the stone
the builders have rejected.
It is the cornerstone.

29 March Maundy Thursday

67

(Matthew 6:33; Matthew 13:45,46; Luke 10:42; Luke 9:25)

Yeshua says: One who knows all
but lacks one thing,
lacks everything.

30 March Good Friday

68

(Matthew 5:10-12)

Yeshua says: Happy are you when they hate you and
persecute you.
But there is a place they will never find
where you cannot be persecuted.

31 March Holy Saturday

69

(Matthew 5:6)

Yeshua says: Happy are those
who have been persecuted in their heart.

They have truly come to know the Father.

Happy are those who suffer from hunger
for the belly of the one who longs will be filled.

April 1 Easter Sunday

70

(Luke 6:37,38; James 1:22-25)

Yeshua says: If you bring forth
that which is within you,
that which you have will save you.
If you do not bring it forth,
that which you lack will kill you.

71

(Matthew 26:59-61)

Yeshua says: I will overturn this house,
and no one will be able to rebuild it.

72

(Luke 12:13-15; Matthew 12:25,26)

A person said to Yeshua:
Tell my brothers
to divide my father's possessions with me.

Yeshua replied: Who has made me a divider?

Then he turned to his students and asked:
Am I a divider?

73

(Matthew 9:35-38)

Yeshua says: The harvest is plentiful,
but the labourers are few.
Beg the Master to send workers into the harvest.

74

(Matthew 26:27; John 4:13,14)

Yeshua said: O Lord, there are many
around the well,
but no one goes down into the well.

75

(Matthew 25:1-13)

Yeshua says: Many are standing before the door,
but only the single ones enter the wedding hall.

76

(Matthew 13:45,46; Matthew 6:19-23)

Yeshua says: The kingdom of the Father
is like a prudent merchant
who had merchandise to sell.
He found a pearl, sold his goods
and bought the one pearl for himself.

Look for treasure, which does not perish,
which remains in the place
where no moth can reach and no worm destroy.

77

(John 8:12; John 1:3; Psalm 139:7-12)

Yeshua says: I am the light that is over all.
I am the All.
Everything comes forth from me.
And all bends toward me.

Split a piece of wood, I am there.
Lift a stone, you will find me there.

78

(Matthew 11:7,8; John 8:31,32)

Yeshua asks: Why did you go out into the desert?
To see a reed shaken by the wind,
or a person dressed in soft clothing
like a ruler or a person of power?
They are dressed in soft clothing
and will not know the truth.

79

(Luke 11:27, 28; Matthew 24:19)

A woman in the crowd said to Yeshua:
Happy are the womb that bore you
and the breasts that fed you.

Yeshua replied: Happy are those who have heard the word
of the Father and have truly kept it.

There will be days when you say:
'Happy are the womb that has not conceived
and the breasts that have not given milk.'

80

(I Corinthians 1:27, 28)

Yeshua says: Whoever has come to know the world has found the body.

But whoever has found the body,
of him the world is not worthy.

81

(II Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:1-6)

Yeshua says:

Whoever has become spiritually rich should rule.

The one who has worldly power
should renounce it.

82

(John 1:38,39)

Yeshua says: One who is near me is near the fire.
One who is far from me is far from the kingdom.

83

(Genesis 1:27; Colossians 1:15-17;
Ephesians 5:8-14)

Yeshua says: Images are visible to humanity;
the Father's light is hidden in the image.
God is revealed, his image hidden in his light.

84

(II Corinthians 3:17,18)

Yeshua says: When you see your manifestation
you are full of joy.
But when you see your image
that came into being before you were born -
which neither dies nor yet has been fully revealed - how
much more will you have to bear!

85

(Psalm 8:3-5; John 8:51,52)

Yeshua says: Adam came from great power
and great wealth.
But he did not come into accord with you.
Had he been in accord with you,
he would not have died.

86

(Matthew 8:19,20; Matthew 11:28,29)

Yeshua says: Foxes have holes and birds have nests.
But the Son of Man
has no place to lay his head and rest.

87

(Psalm 20:6-8; Psalm 33:16,17; Jeremiah 17:5)

Yeshua says: Wretched is the body
that depends on a body.
And wretched is the soul
that depends on these two.

88

(Matthew 13:17; Luke 6:37,38;
Ecclesiasticus 51:23-26)

Yeshua says: The messengers and the prophets
will come to you, and will give you what is yours.
You, then, give them what you have and wonder: 'When
will they come and take what is theirs?'

89

(Matthew 23:25-28)

Yeshua asked:

Why do you wash the outside of the cup?

Do you not understand that
the one who created the inside
also made the outside?

90

(Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 14:13)

Yeshua says: Come to me, for my yoke is easy.

My rule is gentle.

And you will find rest.

91

(Matthew 16:1-4)

They said to Yeshua: Tell us who you are
so that we may believe in you.

Yeshua replied: You examine the face of sky and earth, but
you do not recognize
the one who is before you.

You do not know how to read the present moment.

92

(Matthew 6:33; Matthew 7:7)

Yeshua says: Seek and you will find.

The things you asked about in the past,
that I did not tell you then,
now I am willing to reveal,
but you are not asking.

93

(Matthew 7:6; Matthew 10:14;
Matthew 15:26; Matthew 22:8)

Do not give what is holy to dogs,
they may throw it on the manure pile.

Do not throw pearls to swine,
they may turn them into mud.

94

(Matthew 7:8)

Yeshua says: Anyone who seeks will find.
To the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

95

(Matthew 5:42; Matthew 10:5-8)

Yeshua says: If you have money,
do not lend it at interest.
Rather, give it to the one
from whom you will get nothing in return.

96

(Mathew 13:33; I Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9)

Yeshua says: The kingdom of the Father
is like a woman.
She took a little yeast, hid it in dough
and made large loaves of bread.

Whoever has two good ears will hear.

97

(Matthew 24:42; Matthew 25:13;
Matthew 26:40, 41; Mark 13:33-37; Mark 14:38;
Luke 21:36; I Corinthians 16:13;
Ephesians 6:18; I Peter 5:8)

Yeshua says: The kingdom of the Father
is like a woman carrying a jar full of grain.
While she was walking along far from home,
a handle broke off the jar;

grain leaked out behind her.
As she was unaware,
she could not be troubled by it.
When she reached home,
she put the jar on the ground
and found it empty.

98

(Luke 14:28-32; Ephesians 6:10-20)

Yeshua says: The kingdom of the Father
is like a man who wanted to kill someone powerful.
He drew the sword in his own house
and stabbed it into the wall
in order to be sure
his hand would be strong enough.
Then he killed the powerful one.

99

(Matthew 12:46-50)

Yeshua's students said to him:
Your brothers and your mother
are standing outside.

Yeshua replied:
Those who do the will of my Father,
are my brothers and my mother.
They will enter the kingdom of my Father.

100

(Matthew 22:15-22; Psalm 50:10-12;
I Chronicles 29:14; Romans 11:33-36)

They showed Yeshua a gold coin and said:
Caesar's people demand taxes from us.

Yeshua said to them: Give Caesar what is Caesar's.
Give God what is God's. Give me what is mine.

101

(Matthew 10:37-39)

Whoever does not hate father and mother
as I do cannot be my student.
And whoever does not love father and mother
as I do cannot be my student.
For my mother brought me forth,
but Truth gave me Life.

102

(Matthew 23:13-27)

Yeshua says: Woe to the Pharisees.
They are like a dog sleeping in a cattle trough,
who neither eats nor lets the cattle eat.

103

(Matthew 24:36-44; I Thessalonians 5:2;
II Peter 3:10)

Yeshua says: Happy are those who know
when robbers will come.

They will arise, gather strength,
and be prepared for action when the thieves arrive.

104

(Matthew 9:14,15; Amos 5:21-23; Isaiah 1:11-13)

They said to Yeshua:

Come, let us pray and fast today!

Yeshua answered: What sin have I committed,
and how have I been overcome?

When the bridegroom comes out of the wedding chamber,
then it will be time to fast and pray.

105

(Luke 14:25-27; Matthew 22:37,38;
John 12:25; Exodus 20:1-5)

Yeshua says: Whoever knows father and mother,
will be called child of a whore.

106

(Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6; Mark 11:22,23;
I Corinthians 13:2)

Yeshua says: When you make the two into one,
you will become a Son of Man.

And when you say 'Mountain, move away,'
it will move away.

107

(Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:7)

Yeshua says: The kingdom is like a shepherd
who had one hundred sheep.

The largest of his sheep wandered off.

He left the ninety-nine,

and sought the lost one until he found it.

After his toil, the shepherd said to that sheep:

'I love you more than the ninety-nine.'

108

(John 6:53; John 7:37,38; Revelation 22:17)

Yeshua says: Anyone who drinks from my mouth will
become like me.

I myself will become that person,

and things that are hidden

will be revealed to that one.

109

(Matthew 13:44; Luke 16:1-8)

Yeshua says: The kingdom is like a person whose field had hidden treasure, of which he knew nothing.

When he died, his son inherited the field.

The son knew nothing about the treasure either. The son sold that field.

The new owner, while ploughing, found the treasure and began to lend money at interest to anyone he wished.

110

(Matthew 19:21-24; Mark 10:28-30; Luke 5:27,28; Luke 14:33)

Yeshua says: Whoever has found the world and become rich should renounce the world.

111

(Matthew 24:34,35; Hebrews 1:10-12;
Revelation 6:12-14)

Yeshua says: The heavens and the earth
will roll up before you.

And whoever is living from the Living One
will not see death.

Does not Yeshua say: The world is not worthy
of the one who has come to know the Self?

112

(John 3:6; Romans 7:14; Romans 8:5-12;
I Corinthians 3:1-3)

Yeshua says: Woe to the flesh
that depends on the soul.

Woe to the soul
that depends on the flesh.

113

(Matthew 24:23-28)

Yeshua's students asked him:
When will the kingdom come?

Yeshua answered: It will not come
because you watch and wait for it.
It is not a matter of saying:
'Look, here it is!' or 'Look, there it is!'
The Father's kingdom is already spread out
upon the earth, yet people do not perceive it.

114

(Matthew 15:21-28; I Corinthians 6:17;
Galatians 3:28, 29; Colossians 3:11)

Simon Peter said to them: Let Mary leave us. Women are
not worthy of the Life.

Yeshua answered: I will draw her in
to make her male,
so she like you may become a living spirit.

I say to you: Every woman who makes herself male will
enter the kingdom of God.

