

Jesus Teaches Us

Comparing Spiritual Ideas from the weekly Bible Lesson
with the sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of Thomas

by Trevor Leach CS

Christ Jesus says:

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;” (John 8:31)

Introduction

The Gospel of Thomas is an English translation of a Coptic copy of a Greek document of Jesus' sayings recorded in Syria **by the disciple Thomas**, in the 1st or 2nd century AD. This document has been divided into 114 Logia (verses).

It is believed the Gospel of Thomas is a primitive version of Jesus' sayings without ecclesiastical additions / interpretations. The Gospel of Thomas gives us a direct understanding of how Jesus taught and inspired his disciples. In these hidden sayings, Jesus is sharing **his keys of knowledge** so we too can seek and find for ourselves the Father's Kingdom (Kingdom of Heaven) and enter it. He teaches about fasting from the world (mortality), and seeking and finding (truth) a place of rest (experiencing the Christ) in oneness.

The meaning of the logia is deliberately presented in this puzzling way so as not to be immediately obvious, as Jesus invites us **to seek and find the truth ourselves, by interacting with his teachings.**

Adam and Fallen Man

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Would you be interested in joining a **“Gospel of Thomas Study Group”** with Trevor Leach? Please email mark@prayerfulliving.com if you are interested. We'll let you know how the idea progresses.

Some may ask: **“Why should we look at the Gospel of Thomas?”** It is the only way we can discover Jesus' keys of knowledge and so transform our knowing as he requested.

Who can resist Jesus' invitation to become disciples? In this exercise we present spiritual ideas from the weekly Bible Lesson with correlative logia (sayings) from the Gospel of Thomas.

GOLDEN TEXT:

Lev_26:12 I will, Lev_26:13 I have

... I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. ...

I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Spiritual Ideas from Golden Text:

You are my people

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:*

Logion 113 His disciples said to him, "When will the kingdom come?"

"It will not come by watching for it. It will not be said, 'Look, here!' or 'Look, there!'

Rather, the Father's kingdom is spread out upon the earth, and people don't see it.

Trevor's comment: See the Father's Kingdom is at hand NOW

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas113.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Responsive Reading:

Stand fast in the counsel of God eternally and be at peace

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:*

Logion 23: Jesus said, "I shall choose you, one from a thousand and two from ten thousand, and they will stand as a single one."

Trevor's comment: Be chosen [H], Stand as a single One

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas23.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 1:

As Mind's spiritual ideas as God's sons/daughters

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:*

Logion 37: His disciples said, "When will you appear to us, and when will we see you?"

Jesus said, "When you strip without being ashamed, and you take your clothes and put them under your feet like little children and trample them, then [you] will see the son of the living one and you will not be afraid."

Trevor's comment: When you strip yourself of pride & shame

Trample mortality, ahamakara, and See the Christ in you

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com:thomas:gospelthomas37.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 2:

Discern the unreality of the imperfect

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:

Logion 21: Mary said to Jesus, "What are your disciples like?"

He said, "They are like little children living in a field that is not theirs. When the owners of the field come, they will say, 'Give us back our field.' They take off their clothes in front of them in order to give it back to them, and they return their field to them.

For this reason I say, if the owners of a house know that a thief is coming, they will be on guard before the thief arrives and will not let the thief break into their house (their domain) and steal their possessions.

As for you, then, be on guard against the world. Prepare yourselves with great strength, so the robbers can't find a way to get to you, for the trouble you expect will come.

Let there be among you a person who understands.

When the crop ripened, he came quickly carrying a sickle and harvested it. Anyone here with two good ears had better listen!"

Trevor's comment: Know & prepare yourself, guard your domain against the world

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas21.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 3:

The mortal dream of material man is false and unreal

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:

Logion 7: Jesus said, "Lucky[blessed] is the lion that the human will eat, so that the lion becomes human. And foul is the human that the lion will eat, and the lion still will become human."

Trevor's comment: This is a beatitude

We are blessed when we overcome ahamkara, quench mortal mind

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas7.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 4:

Man in God's image has dominion over the material senses

Correlative logia from the Gospel of Thomas:

Logion 108: Jesus said, "Whoever drinks from my mouth will become like me; I myself shall become that person, and the hidden things will be revealed [manifested] to him.

Trevor's comment: Whoever drinks from my mouth will become like me, express Christliness

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas108.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 5:

Man as a child of God is immortal and his life is immutable and eternal

Logion 83: Jesus said, "Images are visible to people, but the light within them is hidden in the image of the Father's light. He will be disclosed, but his image is hidden by his light.

Trevor's comment: Be the image of your Father's light in understanding

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas83.html>

Spiritual Ideas from Section 6:

The Christ is expressed in/by you as God's glory

Logion 50: Jesus said, "If they say to you, 'Where have you come from?' say to them, 'We have come from the light, from the place where the light came into being by itself, established [itself], and appeared in their image.'

If they say to you, 'Is it you?' say, 'We are its children, and we are the chosen of the living Father.'

If they ask you, 'What is the evidence of your Father in you?' say to them, 'It is motion and rest.'"["It is a movement with a repose" HMR]

Trevor's comment: The Christ is the evidence of the Father in you, your true self

See also: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/thomas/gospelthomas50.html>

* We are using the "Scholars' Translation" of the Gospel of Thomas by Stephen Patterson and Marvin Meyer. <http://users.misericordia.edu//davies/thomas/Trans.htm>

Trevor Leach has spoken on the significance of the Gospel of Thomas as part of one's prayerful work.

See the Prayerful Living Learning Center:

<http://www.prayerfulliving.com/learningcenter/LCTL075.html>

And

<http://www.prayerfulliving.com/learningcenter/LCTL079-081.html>