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Ernst Baasland

# Parables and Rhetoric in the Sermon on the Mount

New Approaches to a Classical Text

Mohr Siebeck

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## Preface

The Sermon on the Mount belongs to the prestigious group of classical texts that have changed the world. Every generation has to reinterpret its significance, and it is indeed possible – in spite of the vast literature on the Sermon on the Mount – to give new insights to this classical text.

The present book on the Sermon on the Mount investigates primarily the parables and metaphorical language in the speech. Parable-research has to a large degree ignored the Sermon on the Mount, and the research of the Sermon on the Mount has vice versa ignored the parables. The fact that more than one third of the Sermon on the Mount has this kind of language must have great impact on the interpretation of the text. These insights give in fact a new approach to the Sermon on the Mount; taking this into consideration new insights can be given to the questions of the “radicalism”, the audience of the Sermon on the Mount and many ethical and theological issues in the text.

The second focus in the book is the rhetoric of the Sermon on the Mount. The rhetorical features have great impact on the interpretation of the text, and the overall rhetorical structure illuminates the whole composition of the Sermon. The rhetoric of the Sermon is only to a certain degree the result of Matthew’s editorial work, and the parallels to Luke compel a theory of an Inaugural speech. Insights in the rhetoric of the Sermon on the Mount challenge the source problem in a new way.

The parables and rhetoric of the Sermon on the Mount illuminate its religious and philosophical setting. The Jewish background for the Sermon is often investigated and this task is continued here, but simultaneously with more emphasis on the parallels in the (Greek) Hellenistic literature. Through the parables and rhetoric in the Sermon and its parallels in Jewish and Graeco-Roman Literature we obtain a better understanding of the philosophy of life in the Sermon.

I have always had a scholarly interest in the Sermon on the Mount, but my students at Humboldt University (Berlin) in 2010 inspired me to write this book. I am grateful to them and more so to the staff at the libraries in Berlin, Tübingen, Cambridge, Stavanger and Oslo for providing all kinds of sources to this project. I am not least grateful to my colleagues Jostein Ådna (Stavanger), Hermann Lichtenberger (Tübingen), Cilliers Breytenbach,

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As retired professor one has more time for doing such an immense piece of work, but still I am grateful to my wife and family for giving me ample time for reading and writing.

Oslo/Stavanger, June 2015

Ernst Baasland

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## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations usually follow the *SBL Handbook of Style*.

AASF	<i>Annales Academiae scientiarum fenniae</i>
AB	<i>Anchor Bible</i>
ABW	<i>Archaeology in the Biblical World</i>
ACW	<i>Ancient Christian Writers</i>
AGJU	<i>Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums</i>
ANTF	<i>Arbeiten zur neutestamentlichen Textforschung</i>
AnBib	<i>Analecta biblica</i>
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> . Hildegard Temporini and Wolfgang Haase, eds. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter 1972ff.
AR	<i>Archiv für Religionswissenschaft</i>
ArBib	<i>The Aramaic Bible</i>
ASNU	<i>Acta seminarii neotestamentici Upsaliensis</i>
ASTI	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
ASV	<i>American Standard Version</i>
ATANT	<i>Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments</i>
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BAGD	Walter Bauer/William F. Arndt/F. Wilbur Gingrich/Frederick W. Danker, <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . Chicago: Chicago University Press <sup>2</sup> 1979
BBB	<i>Bonner biblische Beiträge</i>
BDF	Friedrich Blass/Albert Debrunner/Robert W. Funk, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1961
BDR	Friedrich Blass/Albert Debrunner/Friedrich Rehkopf, <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i> . Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht <sup>18</sup> 2001
BETL	<i>Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum Lovaniensium</i>
BEvT	<i>Beiträge zur Evangelischen Theologie</i>
BFCT	<i>Beiträge zur Förderung christlicher Theologie</i>
BGBE	<i>Beiträge zur Geschichte der biblischen Exegese</i>
BGU	<i>Ägyptische Urkunden aus den Königlichen Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin, Griechische Urkunden</i> . 15 vols. Berlin: Weidmann 1895–1983
BHT	<i>Beiträge zur historischen Theologie</i>
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
BibInt	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibLeb	<i>Bibel und Leben</i>

Bill.	(Hermann L. Strack/)Paul Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> . 6 vols. Munich: Beck 1922–1961
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BK	<i>Bibel und Kirche</i>
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar. Altes Testament
BN	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BR	<i>Biblical Research</i>
BT	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CahRB	Cahiers de la Revue Biblique
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum. Series Latina
CNT	Commentaire du Nouveau Testament
ConBNT	Coniectanea biblica: New Testament Series
DNP	<i>Der neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike</i> . Hubert Cancik et al., eds. Stuttgart: Metzler 1 (1996)–16 (2003)
EBib	Études bibliques
EJ <sup>2</sup>	<i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i> . 2nd edn. Fred Skolnik, ed. 21 vols. Detroit: Macmillan 2007
EKKNT	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
ETL	<i>Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses</i>
ETS	Erfurter theologische Studien
EvQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
EvT	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
EWNT	<i>Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> . 3 vols. Horst R. Balz/Gerhard Schneider, eds. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer <sup>3</sup> 2011
ExpTim	<i>Expository Times</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FB	Forschung zur Bibel
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten (drei) Jahrhunderte
GN	Grundrisse zum Neuen Testament
GST	Rudolf Bultmann, <i>Die Geschichte der synoptischen Tradition</i> . FRLANT 29. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht <sup>8</sup> 1970 (¹1921)
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HST	Rudolf Bultmann, <i>The History of the Synoptic Tradition</i> . Translated by John Marsh. Oxford: Blackwell 1963
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
HWR	<i>Historisches Wörterbuch der Rhetorik</i> . Gert Ueding/Walter Jens/Wilfried Barner/Gregor Kalivoda, eds. 10 vols. Tübingen: Niemeyer/Berlin: De Gruyter 1992–2009

ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDB	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . George A. Buttrick, ed. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon 1962
Imm	<i>Immanuel</i>
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
IS	Inaugural Sermon
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSHRZ	<i>Jüdische Schriften aus hellenistisch-römischer Zeit</i> . Werner Georg Kümmel, ed. Gütersloh: Mohn 1 (1973) ff.
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JSPSup	Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KEK	Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament
KJV	King James Version
KIPauly	<i>Der kleine Pauly: Lexikon der Antike</i> . Konrat Ziegler, ed. Stuttgart: Druckenmüller 1 (1964)–5 (1975)
KNT	Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
Laur	<i>Laurentianum</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LD	<i>Lectio divina</i>
LSJ	Henry George Liddell/Robert Scott/Henry Stuart Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th edition with revised Supplement. Oxford: Clarendon 1996
LTK <sup>2</sup>	<i>Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche</i> . Josef Höfer and Karl Rahner, eds. 10 vols. Freiburg i. Br.: Herder 1957–1965
LUÅ	Lunds universitets årsskrift
NAC	The New American Commentary
Neot	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version
NKZ	<i>Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift</i>
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
NPNF <sup>1</sup>	<i>A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church</i> . Philipp Schaff, ed. Series 1, 14 vols. Oxford: Christian Literature Publishing 1887–1892 (repr. Peabody: Hendrickson 1999)
NTA	Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen
NTD	Das Neue Testament Deutsch
NTOA	<i>Novum testamentum et orbis antiquus</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NTTS	New Testament Tools and Studies
OBO	<i>Orbis biblicus et orientalis</i>
OCT	<i>Oxford Classical Texts/Scriptorum classicorum bibliotheca Oxoniensis</i>

OECT	Oxford Early Christian Texts
OTP	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . James H. Charlesworth, ed. 2 vols. New York: Doubleday 1983
PG	Patrologia Graeca
PL	Patrologia Latina
PTS	Patristische Texte und Studien
PW	Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft. New edition by Georg Wissowa. Stuttgart: Druckenmüller 1893ff.
QD	Quaestiones disputatae
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i> . Theodor Klauser et al., eds. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 1950ff.
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RevExp	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
RevQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RGG	(Die) <i>Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Handwörterbuch in gemeinverständlicher Darstellung</i> . Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck (RGG <sup>1</sup> ; Die <i>Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i> . Friedrich Michael Schiele/Hermann Gunkel/Otto Scheel, eds. 5 vols. 1909–1912; RGG <sup>2</sup> ; Hermann Gunkel/Ludwig Zscharnack, eds. 5 vols. 1922–1929; RGG <sup>3</sup> ; Kurt Galli, ed. 6 vols. 1957–1962; RGG <sup>4</sup> . Hans Dieter Betz/Don S. Browning/Bernd Janowski/Eberhard Jüngel, eds. 8 vols. 1998–2007; ET: <i>Religion in Past &amp; Present: Encyclopedia of Theology and Religion</i> . 13 vols. + Index. Leiden: Brill 2007–2013)
RivBib	<i>Rivista biblica</i>
RNT	Regensburger Neues Testament
RSR	<i>Revue des sciences religieuses</i>
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Testament
SBLSP	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SBS	Stuttgarter Bibelstudien
SC	Sources chrétiennes
SCHNT	<i>Studia ad corpus hellenisticum Novi Testamenti</i>
SEÅ	<i>Svensk exegetisk årsbok</i>
SHAW	Sitzungsberichte der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften. Philosophisch-historische Klasse
SJ	<i>Studia Judaica</i>
SJT	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SM	Sermon on the Mount
SNTA	<i>Studiorum Novi Testamenti Auxilia</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTSU	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt</i>
SOTSMS	Society for Old Testament Study Monographs
SP	Sermon on the Plain
ST	<i>Studia theologica</i>
STK	<i>Svensk teologisk kvartalskrift</i>
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
TB	Theologische Bücherei
TBei	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
TBl	<i>Theologische Blätter</i>

<i>THAT</i>	<i>Theologisches Handwörterbuch zum Alten Testament.</i> Ernst Jenni, ed. 2 vols. Munich: Chr. Kaiser 1971–1976
<i>THKNT</i>	<i>Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ThKNT</i>	<i>Theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ThWAT</i>	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament.</i> Gerhard Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren and Heinz-Josef Fabry, eds. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 1 (1973)– 10 (2000).
<i>TLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TP</i>	<i>Theologie und Philosophie</i>
<i>TQ</i>	<i>Theologische Quartalschrift</i>
<i>TRE</i>	<i>Theologische Realenzyklopädie.</i> Gerhard Krause and Gerhard Müller, eds. 36 vols. + Index. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter 1977–2004
<i>TRev</i>	<i>Theologische Revue</i>
<i>TRu</i>	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
<i>TSAJ</i>	Texte und Studien zum Antiken Judentum/Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism
<i>TSK</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
<i>TTKi</i>	<i>Tidsskrift for Teologi og Kirke</i>
<i>TTZ</i>	<i>Trierer theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>TU</i>	Texte und Untersuchungen
<i>TWNT</i>	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament.</i> Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich, eds. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 1 (1932)–10 (1979)
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vigiliae christianae</i>
<i>WBC</i>	Word Biblical Commentary
<i>WdF</i>	Wege der Forschung
<i>WD</i>	<i>Wort und Dienst</i>
<i>WMANT</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament</i>
<i>WUNT</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZDPV</i>	<i>Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZTK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>



## Chapter 1

### Introduction: Enigmas of the Sermon on the Mount and Ways to Solve Them

Speeches can change reality. “The Sermon on the Mount” (= the SM) has probably changed the world more than any other speech. It has influenced millions of Christians, and its influence goes far beyond the Christian communities.<sup>1</sup> In spite of its immense influence the SM is mostly perceived as a riddle, and scholars speak more about the *problems* than about the *challenge* of the SM.<sup>2</sup>

Scholarship has often dealt with *radicalism*<sup>3</sup> as the problem of the SM.<sup>4</sup> It is indeed surprising that a fundamental speech is such an extremely radical sermon. In the very beginning the radicalism of the SM was shocking. In Justin’s *Dialogue with Trypho* (about 150 C.E.) the Jew Trypho said: “I am aware that your precepts in the so-called Gospel are so wonderful and so great, that I suspect no one can keep them, for I have carefully read them.”<sup>5</sup> This radicalism has too often resulted in “only”-statements: The SM was “only for the first generation”, “only for monks”, “only for utopians”, “only for ascetics”, “only for devoted Christian disciples”, “only for individuals”

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Swami Prabhavananda, *The Sermon on the Mount according to Vedanta* (London: Allen and Unwin 1964). Gandhi was an example of comprehensive use of the SM, see Heikki Räisänen, “Mahatma Gandhi and the Sermon on the Mount”, *Temenos* 27 (1991) 83–108. The Marxists’ use of the SM is well known.

<sup>2</sup> The SM-research has to solve seven major problems: the historical question, the radicalism, the audience, the composition, the Jewish character, the ethics and the theological issues of the SM.

<sup>3</sup> The term “radicalism” is too wide and modern as category. B. Schüller, “Zur Rede von der radikalen sittlichen Forderung”, *TP* 46 (1971) 321–341 has analysed from a philosophical point of view the use of “radicalism” in NT scholarship. G. Lohfink has followed in his footsteps in *Wem gilt die Bergpredigt? Beiträge zur christlichen Ethik* (Freiburg i. Br.: Herder 1988) 66ff.

<sup>4</sup> H. Windisch, *The Meaning of the Sermon on the Mount* (= *Der Sinn der Bergpredigt: Ein Beitrag zum geschichtlichen Verständnis der Evangelien und zum Problem der richtigen Exegese* [UNT 16. Leipzig: Hinrichs 1928, <sup>2</sup>1937]) indicates that solving the problem of radicalism is to grasp its meaning, cf. L. Goppelt, “Das Problem der Bergpredigt”, in idem, *Christologie und Ethik* 26–45 and R. Schnackenburg, *Christliche Existenz* 117 (“wie schwierig und schwerwiegend die Frage der Erfüllbarkeit ist”).

<sup>5</sup> Justin Martyr, *Dial.* 10. “Trypho” could be Justin’s own rhetorical construct, but the statement still reflects an early reaction on the radicalism in the SM.

(not for a state), etc.<sup>6</sup> This kind of reductionism is for good reasons mostly rejected in recent scholarship, but what is the alternative? This book will give some premises for an alternative through an analysis of the rhetoric and the parables in the SM. This book argues that the metaphorical and rhetorical language clarifies the radical nature of the demands much better.

Closely related to the rhetoric of radicalism is the notion of audience. Fundamental speeches usually presuppose a general audience, whereas extreme, radical speeches are mostly addressed to a smaller group. Many exegetes think that the SM in fact was designed for Jesus' disciples, like Buddha's Benares Sermon to his monks.<sup>7</sup> My analysis of the rhetoric and the parables leads in a different direction. Both the frame<sup>8</sup> and the intrinsic arguments<sup>9</sup> give force to the thesis that the audience was the (Jewish) crowd.

A fundamental question is *the Jewish setting* of the SM. The impressive 'Jewish Lexicon' from 1927 has still an article on the SM. The SM was simply perceived as part of the Jewish heritage. However, many Jewish readers of the SM ended up with ambivalence.<sup>10</sup> For a Jew the SM was and is both a favourite part of the Christian tradition and an obstacle. People who are familiar with Jewish texts will more easily understand the metaphorical character of the SM. The rhetorical character is easier to be detected if you are familiar with Hellenistic sources. Most Christian interpreters emphasise the Jewish character of the SM.<sup>11</sup> However, the Hellenistic setting is also vital for its understanding. J. J. Wettstein (1751), C. F. G. Heinrici (1900/1905), H. D. Betz (1995) and *Neuer Wettstein*<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The best analysis of the history of research from this point of view is that of Clarence Bauman, *The Sermon on the Mount: The Modern Quest for Its Meaning* (Macon: Mercer 1985).

<sup>7</sup> Lohfink, *Wem gilt die Bergpredigt?* and D. Patte, *Discipleship according to the Sermon on the Mount* and others have recently formulated this position.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Matt 5,1 ("Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him") and 7,27 ("the crowds were amazed at his teaching").

<sup>9</sup> My article "Audience in the Sermon on the Mount" (forthcoming) gives a broader assessment.

<sup>10</sup> G. Herlitz/B. Kirschner, eds., *Jüdisches Lexikon* (Berlin: Jüdischer Verlag 1927) I, 857–860 (by Max Joseph). It states (p. 858) that the SM contains "genaue Parallelen im talmudisch-midraschischen Schrifttum". The Antitheses and some other texts are problematic from a Jewish perspective, but even these texts have been interpreted positively by C. G. Montefiore, P. Lapide, and other Jewish scholars. However, many Jewish scholars have a different view, e.g. G. Friedlander who speaks about an "Un-Jewish asceticism in the Gospels" (*Comm* 166ff). It is a sad development that *EJ*<sup>2</sup> lacks an article on the SM and did not recognise the SM as part of Jewish history.

<sup>11</sup> G. Friedlander and C. G. Montefiore knew John Lightfoot (1658), A. Wünsche (1878), etc. P. Billerbeck, P. Fiebig and later M. Hengel, W. D. Davies/D. C. Allison, etc. offered even broader Jewish material.

<sup>12</sup> *Neuer Wettstein* I/I.2: *Texte zum Matthäusevangelium. I: Matthäus 1–10* (U. Schnelle, ed. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter 2013).

have documented that nearly every saying in the SM has Hellenistic parallels. The influences from both Jewish and Hellenistic sources sharpen the understanding of the ethical and theological concepts in the SM and clarify its rhetorical and metaphorical character.

The parables and metaphorical sayings also give a better foundation for the evaluation of *the ethical and theological issues in the SM*. The SM has a *wisdom* character and most of the SM gives ethical instructions for everyday life. The question of wisdom versus eschatology is indeed crucial for the understanding of the SM, and is one of the theological issues we have to analyse more thoroughly. An analysis of the parables can clarify the relation between wisdom and eschatology in the SM in a new way.

The *source problem* has *historical* significance: Has Matthew shaped the SM? The differences between the SM and “the Sermon on the Plain” (= SP) in Luke 6,20–49 are obvious. On the other hand, the similarities between the SM and the SP are even more striking and indicate a memory of a fundamental inaugural sermon (= IS).<sup>13</sup> This speech was apparently fundamental in their common source (Q). But how far can we reconstruct this fundamental speech?<sup>14</sup> An analysis of the parables and the metaphorical texts in the SM can lead to some general conclusions about the IS and the nature of Q.

The fundamental historical “quest” (on the SM and the historical Jesus, on authenticity, etc.) must be investigated in a broader way than this present book allows. The theme in this book is an historical analysis of *the parables and the rhetoric* in the SM. It started with the observation that the parables in the SM play an important role in the SM, but this is mostly overlooked in scholarship. The goal of the book is to illuminate this and to argue that this gives a more comprehensive understanding of most of the problems and challenges in the SM.

## 1.1 Parables in the Sermon on the Mount

The question of the literal versus metaphorical meaning of the SM is fundamental not only in the exegesis of the antitheses, but in the exegesis of all parts of the SM.

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<sup>13</sup> D. R. Catchpole, *Quest* (79–134 on “The Inaugural Discourse”) and L. E. Vaage (“Composite Texts and Oral Mythology: The Case of the ‘Sermon’ on Q”), S. Carruth (“Strategies of Authority: A Rhetorical Study of the Character of the Speaker of Q 6:20–49”) and R. Conrad Douglas (“‘Love Your Enemies’: Rhetoric, Tradents, and Ethos”), in J. S. Kloppenborg, *Conflict and Invention: Literary, Rhetorical, and Social Studies on the Sayings Gospel Q* (Valley Forge: Trinity 1995) 75–97, 98–115, 116–131 have recently suggested this term.

<sup>14</sup> My article “Auf der Spur einer ‘Grundsatzrede’ vor der Bergpredigt?” (forthcoming) goes more into details.

It is too little observed that *about one third of the SM are parables or metaphorical language*. Already the statistics indicate that the parables or the metaphorical language must have an impact on the understanding of the SM.

It is seldom advisable to start reading a book with the last pages. However, we discover the importance of the parables in the SM more easily if we do so. The SM concludes with a parable (Matt 7,24–27) and five other parables underline the conclusion: “Two gates and two roads” (7,13–14), “Wolves in sheep skins” (7,15), “Fruit and trees” (7,16–20) and the “Day of Judgement” scene (7,21–23). The six or seven parables entirely dominate the concluding part (*peroratio*).

Moving back towards the beginning of Matthew’s Gospel, we continue to find elaborated parables like “Giving a loaf or a fish to your son” (7,9–11), “A speck or a log in the eye” (7,3–4), and metaphorical sayings about dogs and pigs (7,6) and about measurements (7,2).

In Matt 6,19–34 we have parables about, for instance, “birds of the air” (6,26) and “lilies of the field” (6,28–30), and numerous metaphorical sayings: “Moths and rust” (6,19–20), “eye and light” (6,22) and “two masters” (6,24). Sayings like Matt 6,2.3.5.6.16 and 17 also contain metaphorical language. Even the Antitheses have four parables: on “offerings and reconciliation” (5,23–24), “adversary and judge” (5,25–26), “*skandalon*” (5,29–30) and “sun and rain” (5,45).

The first part of the SM contains similes (“*Bildworte*”<sup>15</sup>) like “necessity of salt” (5,13), “light of the world” (5,14–16) and “city on the mount” (5,14).

This means that about thirty sayings, more than forty verses (about one third of the SM) is *parables*. Additionally, the SM uses the rhetorical form *παραδείγματα*, “examples”, like Solomon (Matt 6,29) and the prophets (5,12), and negative examples like “Scribes and Pharisees” (5,20), “publicans” (5,46; 6,7), “pagans” (5,47) or “hypocrites” (6,2.5.16; 7,5). Even more important is the rhetorical figure of *examples as proofs*,<sup>16</sup> which the Antitheses and other texts in the SM use abundantly.

One reason for introducing the word *parable* (*παραβολή*<sup>17</sup>) in Matt 13 is Matthew’s conservative attitude towards Mark as a source.<sup>18</sup> This general

<sup>15</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 181ff/*HST* 167ff.

<sup>16</sup> K. Berger, *Formen* 85 differentiates between “comparison” (“Vergleich”), “example” (“Beispiel”) and “model” (“moralisches Vorbild”).

<sup>17</sup> Matt 13,3.10.13.18.24.31.33.34.35.36.53 and also 15,15; 21,33.45; 22,1; 24,32.

<sup>18</sup> *παραβολή* denotes for Matthew *narrative* parables. The only exception is Matt 15,15 where he follows Mark 7,17. Both Mark (3,23) and Luke (4,23; 5,36, and in the SP: 6,39) use *παραβολή* for similes before the big parable speech, Matthew follows Mark’s pattern and adds only other narrative parables (Matt 13,3.10.13.18.24.31.33.34.35.36.53, cf. Mark

term, like the Hebrew מַשָּׁל, has a wide range of meanings and covers both similes and the narrative parables.<sup>19</sup> “Metaphorical language” is a slippery term. We have few narrative parables in the SM, but many texts have to be classified as similes and sayings with metaphorical character.

### 1.1.1 A Neglected Feature in New Testament Scholarship

The form-historical approach and research on the parables (even research on Matthew’s parables) have contributed to the neglect of the parable-character of the SM. The classical studies on *form-history* were mainly interested in the decomposition of the SM. Rudolf Bultmann’s work, *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*,<sup>20</sup> included in his chapter on “Similitudes, etc.” only one or two narrative texts from the SM (Matt 5,23–24; 7,24–27),<sup>21</sup> and M. Dibelius’ *Form-History* concluded similarly.<sup>22</sup> More recent books<sup>23</sup> on form analysis do the same,<sup>24</sup> with Zeller’s book on wisdom-sayings being a remarkable exception.<sup>25</sup>

Parable research has also neglected the parables in the SM. Studies on the parables of Jesus concentrate on the extensive narrative parables in

4,2,10.11.13.30.33.34; Luke 8,4.9.10.11 – and later in Matt 21,33.45; 24,32, cf. Mark 12,1.12; Luke 20,9.19). The only addition from Q seems to be Matt 22,1 = Luke 14,15ff.

<sup>19</sup> B. Gerhardsson, “Meshalim in the OT” 289ff and R. Zimmermann, in *idem*, ed., *Kompendium der Gleichnisse Jesu* (Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlag 2007) 17ff and *idem*, “Parabeln – sonst nichts! Gattungsbestimmungen jenseits der Klassifikation in ‘Bildwort’, ‘Gleichnis’, ‘Parabel’ und ‘Gleichniserzählung’”, in *idem*, ed., *Hermeneutik der Gleichnisse Jesu: Methodische Neuansätze zum Verstehen urchristlicher Parabeltexte* (WUNT 231. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2008) 383–419, esp. 409ff. Gerhardsson and Zimmermann started from totally different positions and reached similar conclusions.

<sup>20</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 196. *GST/HST* was until the 1990s part of the curriculum at German universities. For a comprehensive evaluation, see E. Baasland, *Theologie* 162–302.

<sup>21</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 179–222 (187, 218–219). In addition Matt 5,14.25–26; 6,24; 7,9ff (7,16 = Luke 6,43) are understood as “figures” (“*Bildworte*”). He uses them in order to illuminate the growth of the tradition (*GST* 181–182/*HST* 168ff).

<sup>22</sup> M. Dibelius, *Formgeschichte* (³1959) 247–258 calls Matt 7,24ff “*kurze Lehrerzählung*” (251) and Matt 5,13–14; 6,22–23.24; 7,6 “*Bildworte*” (so also Bultmann). He categorises Matt 5,29–30.44–45; 6,2ff.25ff both as “*kurze Gebote*” and also as “metaphorical language”.

<sup>23</sup> G. Theißen, *Die Geschichte der synoptischen Tradition: Ergänzungsheft* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht <sup>5</sup>1979) 65–76.

<sup>24</sup> K. Berger, *Formen* 101ff mentions some parables in the SM, and differentiates between “parables that entail something incredible” (Matt 6,24.27; 7,9ff.16.18) and “parables that entail something typical” (Matt 7,24ff).

<sup>25</sup> D. Zeller, *Die weisheitlichen Mahnsprüche bei den Synoptikern* (FB 17. Würzburg: Echter 1977) analyses the wisdom-sayings in the synoptic tradition. He did not focus on the parables as such, but still he recognises the parable-character of many wisdom-sayings in the SM.

Matthew and Luke.<sup>26</sup> The two rather short parables in the SM (Matt 7,9–11 and 7,24–27 = Luke 6,46–49) have not received much attention. Even Jewish scholars,<sup>27</sup> or scholars who are reading parables from a Jewish perspective,<sup>28</sup> have overlooked the parables in the SM. Snodgrass's book, subtitled *A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*, is in this respect not comprehensive.<sup>29</sup> There are, however, some exceptions: Adolf Jülicher,<sup>30</sup> T. W. Manson,<sup>31</sup> and also J. Jeremias gave brief comments on some parables,<sup>32</sup> and *Kompendium der Gleichnisse Jesu* (ed. Ruben Zimmermann) analyses even more parables in the SM.<sup>33</sup> Chr. Münch in his overview recognises thirteen parables in the SM, but not all of them are analysed specifically.<sup>34</sup> Consequently an analysis of all the parables in the SM is still lacking in the field of parable research.

It is more surprising that works on the *parables in Matthew* overlook the parables in the SM. They focus mostly on the parables in Matt 13 and Matt 18; 24–25,<sup>35</sup> perhaps due to the fact that Matthew first introduces the

<sup>26</sup> Some books intend to cover all parables, e.g. A. Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden*; J. Jeremias, *Gleichnisse/Parables*; C. L. Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*; C. W. Hedrick, *Parables*; R. Longenecker, ed., *Challenge*; A. J. Hultgren, *Parables*; R. Zimmermann, ed., *Kompendium* and K. Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2008).

<sup>27</sup> D. Flusser, *Gleichnisse*. The parable in Matt 7,24ff is, however, very important for him (pp. 98ff).

<sup>28</sup> B. H. Young, *Parables* 124–127, 244–245.

<sup>29</sup> Snodgrass, *Stories* 327ff analyses only Matt 7,24ff and mentions briefly Matt 6,25ff; 7,9ff (in connection with Luke 11,5ff, pp. 427ff). Hultgren, *Parables* also overlooks the parables in the SM.

<sup>30</sup> Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden* II, 25–36, 67–79, 79–88, 88–91, 98–108, 108–115, 116–128, 240–246, 259–265.

<sup>31</sup> T. W. Manson counts a few more in *Teaching* 67–68.

<sup>32</sup> Jeremias, *Gleichnisse/Parables* has a thematic approach, but he refers briefly to most parables in the SM.

<sup>33</sup> R. Zimmermann, ed., *Kompendium* lists three parables from the SP (SM), six from Q, two from the SM in addition to Mark 4,24 (= Matt 7,2).

<sup>34</sup> R. Zimmermann, ed., *Kompendium* 3.

<sup>35</sup> Cf. J. D. Kingsbury, *Parables*; J. Lambrecht, *Treasure*; C. Münch, *Gleichnisse*; I. H. Jones, *Matthean Parables*; W. Carter/J. P. Heil, *Matthew's Parables*. They analyse at most two of the parables in Matt 7. Most books on the parables in Matthew start with Matt 13, recently also J. Roloff, *Jesu Gleichnisse im Matthäusevangelium: Ein Kommentar zu Mt 13,1–52* (Biblisch-theologische Studien 73. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener Verlag 2005), Peter Yaw Oppong Kumi, *Matthean Sets of Parables* (WUNT 2/340. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2013) and even R. Zimmermann in an important study on “Ethico-Aesthetic” in Matthew: “Die Ethico-Ästhetik der Gleichnisse Jesu: Ethik durch literarische Ästhetik am Beispiel der Parabeln im Matthäus-Evangelium”, in F. W. Horn/ idem, eds., *Jenseits von Imperativ und Indikativ* (WUNT 238. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2009) 252–265.

word “parable” in Matt 13.<sup>36</sup> The parables in the SM so far have not been analysed in the overwhelming number of studies on the SM.<sup>37</sup> Jewish scholars have observed this feature best, but a thematic analysis is lacking.<sup>38</sup>

One reason for neglecting the parables in the SM could be the understanding of the audience. “[Jesus] did not say anything to them without using a parable”, according to Mark 4,34. The formulation that Jesus *exclusively* spoke in parables is of course an exaggeration and part of the parable theory in Mark.<sup>39</sup> The Synoptic Gospels convey more than forty narrative parables and the speeches to the public (in Matt 13 and 24–25) consist entirely of parables.<sup>40</sup> Jesus explained everything to his own disciples according to the same “parable theory” (Mark 4,34). This might also be an exaggeration, but the two disciple instructions, Matt 10 and 18, have indeed relatively few parables.<sup>41</sup> What about the SM, the fifth speech in Matthew? Most scholars tend to read the SM as a speech to Jesus’ disciples, with relatively few parables.

Matthew gives three different titles of the speeches: 7,28, 19,1 and 26,1 conclude with the words καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν λόγον τούτους. This general phrase, τὸν λόγον τούτους, is replaced in the disciple-speech Matt 10 by “demands” (11,1: διατάσσων τοῖς δώδεκα μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ) and in 13,53 by “parables” (τὰς παραβολὰς ταύτας). It is significant that Matt 10 – and *not* the SM – is called an instruction speech/“demands to the twelve disciples” (διατάσσων). The SM is called λόγοι like Matt 18 (with two concluding parables) and Matt 24–25, which is entirely a metaphorical speech.

The parables are not dominant in the SM as they are in Matt 13 and 24–25, but they occur more frequently than in Matt 10; 18; 23. The chiastic *inclusio*-structure in Matthew indicates that the SM is a speech to the general public using many parables.

<sup>36</sup> Lambrecht, *Treasure* 20 counts four parables in Matt 5–12.

<sup>37</sup> The commentaries on Matthew are most comprehensive, esp. Luz, *Comm*, Davies/Allison, *Comm* and not least H. D. Betz, *Comm*. Except for Betz’s contributions the studies on the SM in the 1980s – e.g. Guelich, *Comm*; G. Strecker, *Comm*; Weder, *Comm* – do not pay attention to the parables.

<sup>38</sup> C. G. Montefiore, *Synoptic Gospels*; idem, *Rabbinic Literature* and Friedlander, *Comm*.

<sup>39</sup> Since W. Wrede, *Das Messiasgeheimnis in den Evangelien: Zugleich ein Beitrag zum Verständnis des Markusevangeliums* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht <sup>3</sup>1963) 54–65.

<sup>40</sup> Also Matt 23 should be analysed from this perspective. There are relatively few parables, but many metaphorical sayings in the polemics against the Pharisees.

<sup>41</sup> W. Pesch, “Die sogenannte Gemeindeordnung Matt 18”, *BZ* 7 (1963) 220–235 and extensively in idem, *Matthäus als Seelsorger* (SBS 2. Stuttgart: Katholisches Bibelwerk 1966). He has correctly seen that the two parables in Matt 18 (18,9–14 and 18,22–35) are the climax of the two parts of the instruction in Matt 18.

<i>Matt 5–7</i>	<i>Matt 10</i>	<i>Matt 13</i>	<i>Matt 18</i>	<i>Matt 23–25</i>
1937 words	640 words	929 words	639 words	2221 words
About 7 narrative parables, at least 20 metaphorical sayings	No narrative parables, a few metaphorical sayings	7 narrative parables + some metaphorical sayings	2 parables + some metaphorical sayings	7 narrative parables + a few metaphorical sayings

The main reason for neglecting the theme could be that the SM is read as basically instructions and commandments and the parables are accordingly perceived as peripheral illustrations. This book challenges this view. *The parables are in fact crucial for the understanding of the instructions and commandments in the SM.*

### 1.1.2 Parables in Recent Research

The history of “parable-research since Jülicher” has often been told.<sup>42</sup> It is, however, an amazing fact that Adolf Jülicher represents a milestone and turning point in scholarly research. He wrote his famous book on parables (published in 1886) when he was a 29-year-old clergyman at an institution for social work (*Waisenhaus*) in Berlin.<sup>43</sup> The book earned him a “lic. theol.” title, and he would hardly have expected that it would become the model for parable research for 100 years. The legacy of his work persists in current research, but most of Jülicher’s principles are highly disputed in the recent comprehensive studies on parables (K. Snodgrass<sup>44</sup> and R. Zimmermann<sup>45</sup>). We will in the following comment on *five important issues*.

#### 1.1.2.1 Categories and Their Relation to Jewish משלים and Hellenistic Rhetoric

Jülicher’s clear categories (parables, similitude/“Gleichnis”, example-stories) are based on the differentiation between simile and metaphor. C. A. Bugge<sup>46</sup> and P. Fiebig<sup>47</sup> criticised Jülicher’s western, rationalistic

<sup>42</sup> More recently G. Theissen/A. Merz, *The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide* (London: SCM 1998) 287–292; K. Erlemann, *Gleichnisauslegung* 11–52; C. L. Blomberg, “The Parables of Jesus: Current Trends and Needs in Research”, in B. D. Chilton/C. A. Evans, eds., *Studying the Historical Jesus: Evaluations of the State of Current Research* (NTTS 19. Leiden: Brill 1994) 231–254; K. Snodgrass, “From Allegorizing to Allegorizing”, in R. Longenecker, ed., *Challenge* 3–29; R. Zimmermann, “Gleichnis-hermeneutik in Rückblick und Vorblick”, in idem, ed., *Hermeneutik* 25–63.

<sup>43</sup> At Großes Friedrichs-Waisenhaus in Berlin (Rummelsburg). Two years later a revised version came out, and as professor in Marburg (from 1888) he completed vol. II in 1899.

<sup>44</sup> Snodgrass, *Stories*.

<sup>45</sup> The contributions of R. Zimmermann (in idem, ed., *Kompendium* and idem, ed., *Hermeneutik*).

<sup>46</sup> Bugge, *Die Haupt-Parabeln Jesu* (Gießen: Ricker 1903), esp. 4–14.

approach to the parables early on. The OT and other Jewish texts make abundant use of metaphors, similes and parables without operating with such differentiations. Jülicher simply overlooked the משל-form<sup>48</sup> and the parallels in Jewish wisdom literature,<sup>49</sup> but D. Flusser has more recently renewed Fiebig's position. B. Gerhardsson suggested similarly that we should call all parables 'meshalim' (משלים). He divides them into "aphoristic meshalim" and "narrative meshalim".<sup>50</sup> In the SM we have relatively few narrative *meshalim*, but quite a number of aphoristic *meshalim*. The study of the Jewish משלים gives a different starting point for studying the parables, because it challenges the one-point approach without returning to an allegorical method.<sup>51</sup>

Jülicher's position implied at the same time a limited use of Hellenistic rhetoric. He avoided even the classical definitions from the rhetorical handbooks. Jülicher made limited use of Aristotle (basically *Rhet.* 3.4ff), but Bultmann had no dialogue with classical rhetoric at all, and J. Jeremias argued similarly: "An inappropriate law is imposed on Jesus' parables when one forces them into the categories of Greek rhetoric."<sup>52</sup> This is in fact a false alternative.

Before Jülicher's book, the parables were seen in the framework of "hermeneutics"<sup>53</sup> and the rhetorical tradition. Jülicher refers occasionally to the rhetorical handbooks, rhetorical theories and practices, but only a few passages in the *Rhetoric* of Aristotle were import-

<sup>47</sup> P. Fiebig, *Altjüdische Gleichnisse* (p. V) starts with a quotation from J. Wellhausen who claimed that the משל includes all aspects: comparison, riddle, gnome, parable and allegory. On the very first page he criticises Jülicher (pp. 1ff, 107ff) and concludes (148–149): to operate with a clear-cut "either-or" may satisfy logical thinking, but wisdom literature and Jesus think in terms of "both-and".

<sup>48</sup> This criticism was launched very early (Bugge, Fiebig, etc.) and is repeated and strengthened in recent contributions, e.g. Snodgrass, *Stories* 570–575 and Gerhardsson, "Meshalim in the OT" 289, 297ff.

<sup>49</sup> Cf. Flusser, *Gleichnisse*; Young, *Parables*; and Fiebig, *Altjüdische Gleichnisse*; idem, *Gleichnisreden*; idem, *Rabbinische Gleichnisse*. Cf. more recent contributions by C. Thoma/S. Lauer/H. Ernst, eds., *Die Gleichnisse der Rabbinen I–IV* (Bern: P. Lang 1986–2001) and P. Dschulnigg, *Rabbinische Gleichnisse und das Neue Testament: Die Gleichnisse der PesK im Vergleich mit den Gleichnissen Jesu und dem Neuen Testament* (Bern: P. Lang 1988).

<sup>50</sup> B. Gerhardsson, "Meshalim in the Synoptic Gospels" 339–342.

<sup>51</sup> J. Jeremias's book on the parables became a model for scholarly research in several decades. He still advocated the one-point approach, despite his studies on Jewish משלים. He added an eschatological interpretation of many parables to Jülicher's approach.

<sup>52</sup> Jeremias, *Gleichnisse* 13 ("Es heißt den Gleichnissen Jesu ein sachfremdes Gesetz aufzwingen, wenn man sie in die Kategorien griechischer Rhetorik preßt").

<sup>53</sup> Schleiermacher, Tholuck, W. M. L. de Wette and his teacher B. Weiß represented this heritage in Berlin.

ant for him.<sup>54</sup> Jülicher's lack of interest in rhetoric and hermeneutics was typical of his generation, and his one-sidedness and limited use of rhetorical tools became an object for criticism after the renewal of *rhetorical analysis* in the 1980s. This renewal has led to more emphasis on the *Hellenistic* sources. For Jülicher the dialogue with ancient rhetorical theorists was not important<sup>55</sup> except for his overall view of similes and parables as "proof" ("Beweismittel").<sup>56</sup>

The rabbinic interpretation (developed by Hillel and his contemporaries) shows links to Hellenistic rhetorical traditions.<sup>57</sup> In Hellenistic rhetorical handbooks metaphorical language (the use of tropes, similes/parables) was a major issue,<sup>58</sup> and Jewish and Hellenistic speeches in the first century C.E. show how frequently metaphorical language was used. K. Berger<sup>59</sup> has shown that the Hellenistic parallels to the Jesus tradition are important: for the wording (use of τίς, μήτι, οὐδείς, etc.), for the categories (τίς δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν,<sup>60</sup> *exemplum*<sup>61</sup>), for much of the imagery and for ways of arguing in the parables.<sup>62</sup>

#### 1.1.2.1.1 The So-Called Marburg School and Its Critics

The phrase "Marburg School"<sup>63</sup> has meaning because Jülicher and Bultmann had basic assumptions in common, e.g. the definitions of parable<sup>64</sup> as the opposite of allegory, the one-point interpretation of parables (similes and example stories), and the clear-cut separation of image and life-setting ("Bild- und Sachhälften").<sup>65</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Cf. R. Zimmermann, "Urchristliche Parabeln im Horizont der antiken Rhetorik", in Linus Hauser et al., eds., *Jesus als Bote des Heils* (FS D. Dormeyer. Stuttgart: Katholisches Bibelwerk 2008) 201–225 (= ET in R. Zimmermann, ed., *Hermeneutik* 238–258)

<sup>55</sup> Quintilian is mentioned only once, Cicero three times. Aristotle is referred to more than 10 times.

<sup>56</sup> Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden* I, 202, 205.

<sup>57</sup> A. Schwarz, "Enthymematische Analogieschlüsse".

<sup>58</sup> Aristotle, *Poet.* 21 (1457b); *Rhet.* 3.2.6–9 (1404b/1405a) or Quintilian, *Inst.* 5.11.22–23 ("*Similitudo* has much the same force as Example especially when it is based on nearly equal things without any mixture of metaphors"), cf. 8.6.

<sup>59</sup> K. Berger, "Hellenistische Gattungen" 1111 ("die Beziehungen der neutestamentlichen Gleichnisse zur Literatur der hellenistischen Umwelt sind fast völlig unerforscht").

<sup>60</sup> K. Berger, "Materialien" 31–32.

<sup>61</sup> E. Baasland, "Zum Beispiel der Beispielerzählungen: Zur Formenlehre der Gleichnisse und zur Methodik der Gleichnisauslegung", *NovT* 28 (1986) 193–219.

<sup>62</sup> K. Berger, "Materialien" 20ff.

<sup>63</sup> U. Mell, ed., *Die Gleichnisreden Jesu 1899–1999: Beiträge zum Dialog mit Adolf Jülicher* (BZNW 103. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter 1999). Jülicher and Bultmann developed their theories on parables before 1920. The term "Marburg School" is also used for the philosophical school in Marburg before 1920 and for Bultmann's Heidegger-influenced approach to theology.

<sup>64</sup> Both saw parables, similes ("Gleichnisse") and "example-stories" ("Beispielerzählungen") as different categories.

<sup>65</sup> The image and life-setting is identical in the example-stories.

However, Jülicher and Bultmann disagreed on the exact classification.<sup>66</sup> Bultmann follows his teacher's classification only in one single case in the SM (Matt 5,25–26):<sup>67</sup>

<i>Jülicher's categories in the SM</i>	<i>Bultmann's categories in the SM</i>
Parable: 7,24–27	No parable
7 similitudes: 7,9–11; 5,13; 5,14; 5,25–26; 6,22–23; 6,24; 7,16–20	2 similitudes (“ <i>Gleichnisse</i> ”): 5,25–26; 7,24–27; 5,23 <sup>68</sup> is a special case.
	Similes (“ <i>Bildworte</i> ”): 5,14; 6,24; 7,9–10
	Metaphors: <sup>69</sup> 5,13.14.16; 7,3–5.6.13–14.16.20

This demonstrates the general difference between Jülicher and Bultmann:

<i>Jülicher</i>	<i>Bultmann</i>
22 parables	15 parables
28 similitudes (“ <i>Gleichnisse</i> ”)	17 similitudes (“ <i>Gleichnisse</i> ”)
9 (only one third) in common with Bultmann (Matt 11,16–19; 13,33; Mark 13,28–29.34–37; Luke 12,42–48.54–56.57–59; 14,28–30; 17,7–10)	Bultmann calls 7 of Jülicher's “parables” similitudes (Matt 7,24–27; 13,44–46.47–49; Mark 4,26–29.30–32; Luke 15,4–7.8–10).
	Bultmann labels 12 of Jülicher's similitudes as “similes” (= “ <i>Bildworte</i> ”).

The differences reflect partly Jülicher's and Bultmann's interests. Jülicher makes the similitudes the dominating category, because they illustrate most clearly his principles (opposite to allegory, the one-point interpretation, the clear-cut separation of image and life-setting/“*Bild- und Sachhälfte*”). Bultmann's main concern is the development of the tradition. He therefore puts more emphasis on the smaller units.<sup>70</sup> Partly Jülicher and

<sup>66</sup> For Jülicher's and Bultmann's different views, cf. R. Zimmermann, ed., *Kompendium 5–8*, 17–23 and idem, “Parabeln, sonst nichts!”, in idem, ed., *Hermeneutik* 385ff; Baasland, *Theologie* 273.

<sup>67</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 181 on figures/similes (“*Bildworte*”).

<sup>68</sup> Jülicher did not analyse the parable in Matt 5,23–24. Bultmann reads it as “Church order”, *GST* 140.

<sup>69</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 181ff is not consistent or is perhaps purposely vague in his definition of “metaphor”. He presupposes a development starting with “*Bildworte*” (figures) and ending with metaphors. “Not infrequently particular elements are used by the evangelists as metaphors in their editorial formulations” (*HST* 169). *GST* 183/*HST* 169: Matt 7,6 is something in-between simile and metaphor.

<sup>70</sup> In his study on ‘form-history’ Bultmann was less interested in the parable as a form. His interest was the smallest entities and to describe the growth of the tradition from the smaller units “figures” and similes (“*Bildworte*”), also hyperbole, paradox, comparison, metaphor to the similitude (“*Gleichnis*”), parable and example-stories. The subdivision of the smaller units is “comparison” (explicitly so), “metaphor” (without any particle indicating a comparison) and the original “figures”/similes (“*Bildworte*”), which have more similarity with the Jewish *meshalim* (*GST* 181/*HST* 167–168).

Bultmann have slightly different approaches to the categories. “Similitude”, according to Jülicher, is comparison with a similar or different area of life,<sup>71</sup> and parable has a different form;<sup>72</sup> he defines parables more in analogy to Aesop’s fables.<sup>73</sup> According to Bultmann a “similitude” is an extended “figure” (simile, “*Bildwort*”),<sup>74</sup> and he sees similitude as a level before the “parable”.<sup>75</sup> The parable elaborates the similes and metaphors into a narrative that is not a typical situation, but a peculiar event.<sup>76</sup>

The internal debate within the “Marburg School” is often overlooked and also the disagreement among the “form-critics” is too often harmonised in scholarship.<sup>77</sup> One should note that Dibelius had a different approach from Bultmann and is closer to Jülicher. He used “comparison” and “fable” as general categories; the fables<sup>78</sup> tell about normal but also about extraordinary events. He also observed that some of Jesus’ parables were constructed in order to give the imagery direction and meaning. This latter aspect included a criticism of basic conceptions in both Bultmann and Jülicher, which is – together with his fable category – often overlooked.<sup>79</sup>

The distinction between “similitude” and “parable” has never really functioned in Anglo-Saxon scholarship. Recently Snodgrass suggested the

<sup>71</sup> Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden* I, 80: “diejenige Redefigur, in welcher die Wirkung eines Satzes (Gedankens) gesichert werden soll durch Nebenstellung eines ähnlichen, einem andern Gebiet angehörigen, seiner Wirkung gewissen Satzes”.

<sup>72</sup> Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden* I, 93.

<sup>73</sup> Jülicher, *Gleichnisreden* I, 98: “Ich kann die *Fabel* nur definieren als die *Redefigur*, in welcher die Wirkung eines Satzes (Gedankens) gesichert werden soll durch Nebenstellung einer auf anderm Gebiet abzulaufenden, ihrer Wirkung gewissen erdichteten Geschichte, deren Gedankengerippe dem jenes Satzes ähnlich ist.” This means: only two categories are sufficient, and all parables must fit into one of these categories (except for example stories/“*Beispielerzählungen*”, Luke 10,29ff; 12,16ff; 16,19ff; 18,9ff).

<sup>74</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 184: “die sich … nur durch die Ausführlichkeit … unterscheiden” (*HST* 170: “distinguished … only by the detail in which the picture is painted”).

<sup>75</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 184/*HST* 170, also *GST* 193 (similar to Luke 14,7ff, a preliminary stage to the example-stories) and in general *GST* 181–182/*HST* 167–168).

<sup>76</sup> Bultmann, *GST* 188: “als Bild nicht einen typischen Zustand oder typischen bzw. regelmäßigen Vorgang, sondern einen interessierenden Einzelfall bringt” (*HST* 174: “gives as its picture not a typical condition or a typical, recurrent event, but some interesting particular situation”).

<sup>77</sup> Cf. G. Strecker, *Literaturgeschichte* 181–184; G. Sellin, “Allegorie und Gleichnis”, *ZTK* 75 (1978) 281–335; Theissen/Merz, *Jesus* 294–296 underline the difference between short comparison versus longer narrative (or normal versus peculiar, hyperbolic or doubtful).

<sup>78</sup> M. Dibelius, *Formgeschichte* 252–257.

<sup>79</sup> W. Harnisch, *Gleichniserzählungen* 97–105; F. Vouga, “Formgeschichtliche Überlegungen zu den Gleichnissen und zu den Fabeln der Jesus-Trradition auf dem Hintergrund der hellenistischen Literaturgeschichte”, in F. van Segbroeck et al., eds., *The Four Gospels* 1992 (FS F. Neirynck. BETL 100. Leuven: Leuven University Press 1992) I, 173–187, here 175ff.

following categories: aphoristic sayings, similes (double indirect), interrogative parables (also double indirect), narrative parables.<sup>80</sup> The German scholar Ruben Zimmermann makes “parable” the general term and claims boldly that we have “parables and nothing else”.<sup>81</sup> His claim is in general correct, but one should be open for divisions into subgroups of parables.

### 1.1.2.2 Jülicher and the Recent Discussion on Metaphors/Metaphorical Language

According to Aristotle, metaphor is “the application of a strange term either transferred from the genus and applied to the species or from the species and applied to the genus, or from one species to another or else by analogy”.<sup>82</sup> The revival of ancient rhetoric in scholarship and society also implies the rethinking of metaphors and of metaphorical language. The metaphor was neglected in Jülicher’s approach, contrary to recent interest in the metaphor, inspired by studies of literature (Max Black), cognitive linguistics (G. Lakoff<sup>83</sup>) and philosophical (P. Ricoeur, M. Johnson) and theological (R. W. Funk, E. Jüngel, H. Weder, W. Harnisch) reflections.<sup>84</sup> It is impossible to put the different and sometimes contradicting approaches into one consistent definition. One has to choose one definition or give a consistent perspective on metaphors and interpret the metaphors accordingly.

The first step is to evaluate the metaphor as one of the tropes. Taxonomically, the metaphor can be placed among other figures of speech, but is the crown of all tropes. The Marburg School (Jülicher, Bultmann) did in fact subordinate the metaphor under the simile. They used the famous example of Achilles, mentioned by Aristotle: Homer said he was a lion (= metaphor) and not that he fought like a lion (= simile), and consequently metaphors are understood as a shorter form (*brevior*) of similitude.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Snodgrass, *Stories* 11.

<sup>81</sup> R. Zimmermann, ed., *Hermeneutik* 383–419 (“Parabeln – sonst nichts!”). He uses four types of arguments: the categories in the Gospels, ancient rhetoric, the vagueness in scholarly works and the lack of precise criteria when it comes to content (395–404).

<sup>82</sup> Aristotle, *Rhet.* 3.2.8ff (1405a); 3.10 (1410b14–15); *Poet.* 21 (1457b), esp. 9–16 and 20–22.

<sup>83</sup> G. Lakoff/M. Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2003); also G. Lakoff, “The Contemporary Theory of Metaphor”, in A. Ortony, ed., *Metaphor and Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1993) 202–251.

<sup>84</sup> R. Banschbach Eggen, *Gleichnis, Allegorie, Metapher: Zur Theorie und Praxis der Gleichnisauslegung* (Texte und Arbeiten zum neutestamentlichen Zeitalter 47. Tübingen: Francke 2007) 270–298.

<sup>85</sup> M. H. MacCall, *Ancient Rhetorical Theories of Simile and Comparison* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1969). This common view is based on the definition in Quintilian, *Inst.* 8.6.8: “Metaphor is a shorter form of simile” (*in totum autem metaphora brevior est similitudo*) and continues with the problematic statement that the simile gives a comparison whereas the metaphor gives “*ipsa re*”.

The second step is to define what exactly μετά + φέρειν or μετά + φορά means. Is the imagery transferred to a similar or to a different level? Shall everything be transferred or only one aspect of the imagery?

The third step is to differentiate between a metaphor in a narrative (e.g. the king as metaphor in some parables) and the elaboration of a metaphor into a narrative, which means that the whole narrative must be seen as metaphor. The phrase “Kingdom of God” is developed into many different stories in the Gospels.<sup>86</sup>

The fourth step is to see that metaphors have a bigger potential than any other figure of speech. The very function of opening up reality gives the metaphor this potential. The metaphor can – theoretically – open up for the following: for the beauty of a phenomenon, for feelings involved, for the many aspects of a matter or an event (the secrets, the most important feature, the focus), and for the purpose of persuasion.

A fifth step is to avoid the confusion between metaphor and allegory. A metaphor can never say “something else” (ἄλλος) whereas the allegory can bring the imagery to a different level. Jülicher’s polemic against the allegory correctly made allegorical exegesis a place of no return for scholarly research.

The SM has at least thirty different metaphors (salt, light, city, shrine, court, eye, trumpet, closet, treasure, moth, rust, thieves, eye, body, master, bird, stature, lilies, measure, beam, log, dog, swine, stone, snake, way, gate, wolves, sheep, tree, fruit, house, foundation, rock). Some of them are significant, some nearly invisible.

According to Lakoff and Johnson’s understanding of metaphors, they are “conceptual constructions”, and the application of one domain of knowledge to another domain of knowledge offers new perceptions and understandings. We put the metaphors into a frame of associations and create “conceptually sustained metaphors”. Many of the metaphors in the SM like “way”, “fruit”, “foundation”, “light”, “master”, “treasure” have this potential. They are, according to Lakoff and Johnson’s terminology, the “source domain”, and we have to see how the metaphors are used (“goal/target-domain”).

#### *1.1.2.2.1 Tropes and Other Figures of Speech in the More Basic Rhetorical Argumentation*

The investigation of tropes and figures of speech is also neglected in scholarship. Many observations on the tropes and figures are of course given in

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<sup>86</sup> N. Perrin, *Jesus and the Language of the Kingdom: Symbol and Metaphor in New Testament Interpretation* (Philadelphia: Fortress 1976) and my article “Jesu Verkündigung vom Reich Gottes: Semantische Analyse von βασιλείᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ”, in H. Foerster, ed., *Reich Gottes und Kirche* (Veröffentlichungen der Luther-Akademie Ratzeburg 12. Erlangen: Martin-Luther-Verlag 1988) 15–35.

the commentaries on the SM,<sup>87</sup> but the rhetorical force of the tropes and figures must be focused in a more comprehensive approach. The system of tropes and word- and thought-figures is complicated, and Cicero's or Quintilian's comprehensive lists were never standard for rhetoricians.

If we concentrate on their rhetorical function, I suggest three ways of persuasion in the tropes and figures:<sup>88</sup>

a. *Confirming reality* by repetitions and paraphrases. Tools can be tropes like periphrasis, euphemism, etc. or “*word-figures of addition*” (like epanalepsis, anadiplosis, anaphor, antistrophe, symploke, synonymia, epitheton, polysyndeton, climax and also *genitatio*, figura etymologica) and sometimes also “*thought-figures*” like e.g. parallelism.

b. *Correcting or focusing on one aspect* of reality will use the following tools: The tropes emphasis, synecdoche, litotes, often isocolon and homeoteleuton, or irony (often taken as a trope) are designed for this purpose. The same are “*word-figures of transposition*” (like hyperbaton, synchresis, chiasm and also isocolon and homeoteleuton) and some “*thought-figures*” (epimone, metabasis, exclamatio, enargeia and irony, taken as a thought-figure and not a trope).

c. *Changing reality or appealing to the feeling of the audience*. Tropes like similes and metaphor can often focus on one aspect, but particularly the crown of the tropes, the metaphor, can change the reality and appeal to feelings. Allegory is less powerful, and is hardly used in the SM. The “*word-figures of omission*” (like ellipsis, zeugma, often interrogatio) and the “*thought-figures*” (antithesis, correctio, often interrogatio, apostrophe, synchoresis, proparaskeue) are often used in the SM.

Some of the tropes in the SM are merely embellishments, and some are more poetical than rhetorical, but an analysis of the tropes and figures in the parables can contribute to a better understanding of the parables. The tropes and figures are frequently parts of a narrative and we call these narratives parables. The distinction between similitude and parable (typical versus peculiar event) is seldom important. We concentrate therefore on three types of rhetorical arguments:

- The sentences (maxims, *gnomai, sententiae*) are very powerful.<sup>89</sup>
- The examples – metaphorical, historical or imaginative – are also effective.<sup>90</sup>
- The parable (narrative with one or more similes and metaphor) is most powerful.

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<sup>87</sup> More recently W. Petersen, *Eigenart* 88ff and 313ff has collected most of them, but he uses them primarily in order to differentiate between “tradition” and redaction.

<sup>88</sup> The most extensive treatments are found in *Rhet. Her.* 4.19–69; Cicero, *De or.* 3.177, 201; Quintilian, *Inst.* 8.6 and in modern handbooks: M. Fuhrmann, *Rhetorik* 126–138; G. O. Rowe, “Style” 125–150; H. Lausberg, *Handbuch I*, 282–307.

<sup>89</sup> Aristotle, *Rhet.* 2.21.2 (1394a); 2.21.15–16 (1395b).

<sup>90</sup> Cicero, *De or.* 3.205 (*similitudo et exemplum*); 1.180; 2.173 (on irony); Cicero, *Inv.* 1.31, 51; Quintilian, *Inst.* 5.11.6.

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