

I have been talking about the differences between John and the Synoptics, and have discussed the overall contents of John and its unusual take on Jesus' deeds. Nowhere is this more obvious than in Jesus' teachings, which are very different here from what you find in the other three Gospels. Here is how I explain it in my New Testament textbook.

John's unique understanding of Jesus' miracles is matched by his distinctive portrayal of Jesus' teachings. In the Synoptic Gospels, you will have noticed that Jesus scarcely ever speaks about himself. There his message is about the coming kingdom of God and about what people must do to prepare for it. His regular mode of instruction is the parable. In John, however, Jesus does not speak in parables (which he never uses), nor does he proclaim the imminent appearance of the kingdom (which he never mentions). He instead focuses his words on identifying himself as the one sent from God.

In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus...

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