

## APPENDIX C

(Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus*, p. 437)

### Common Figures of Speech Used by Jesus

Name	Description	Examples
Proverbs and Aphorisms	Short, memorable statements of wisdom or truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Do not judge, or you too will be judged” (Matt 7:1).</li> <li>• “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).</li> </ul>
Metaphor	An implicit comparison between two unlike things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “You are the light of the world” (Matt 5:14).</li> <li>• “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:1).</li> </ul>
Simile	An explicit comparison between two things, usually with the words “as” or “like”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves” (Luke 10:3).</li> <li>• “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others” (Matt 11:16).</li> </ul>
Paradox	A seemingly contradictory statement that is nonetheless true	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it” (Luke 9:24).</li> <li>• “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).</li> </ul>
Hyperbole	An exaggeration used for emphasis or effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).</li> <li>• “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:25).</li> </ul>
Pun	A play on words using terms that sound or look alike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “And I tell you that you are Peter [<i>petros</i>], and on this rock [<i>petra</i>] I will build my church” (Matt 16:18).</li> <li>• “You blind guides! You strain out a gnat [Aramaic: <i>galma</i>] but swallow a camel [Aramaic: <i>gamla</i>]” (Matt 23:24).</li> </ul>
Riddle	A question or statement requiring thought to answer or understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days’” (John 2:19, referring to His own body).</li> <li>• “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-24).</li> </ul>
Irony	<p>(1) An expression marked by a deliberate contrast between apparent and intended meaning</p> <p>(2) Also, incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs</p>	<p>(1) “Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’” (John 10:32).</p> <p>(2) “Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt 8:11-12).</p>