

About this Book

*Some trust in chariots,
and some in horses: but
we will remember the
name of the Lord our
God.*

—Psalm 20:7

In this book, we present a complete system for remembering the parables of Jesus using the ancient Art of Memory. This easy to learn but powerful memory system can also be used to remember other kinds of information (*e.g.*, lists, tasks, poems, speeches, important dates, and so on).

You may also choose to use this book primarily as a tool to learn more about Jesus' parables and the Art of Memory, without engaging in the Art of Memory yourself. However, we urge you to actively participate in the mnemonic techniques that we walk you through. By practicing the Art of Memory, you will become acquainted with Jesus' parables in a deeper way and grow to see remembering not as a tiresome and time-consuming task but as a relaxing pleasure. See your memories for what they are—treasures and enduring gifts.

This book explores a convergence of two ancient customs: an oral tradition and the Art of Memory. An oral tradition is one that disseminates information by word of mouth. The Art of Memory refers to a specific mental organizational system used to store information. Both of these traditions thrived at the beginning of the Common Era (C.E.; the time period beginning with the year of Christ's birth) when only a small portion of the population of Palestine was literate.

In this book, you will learn the specific Art of Memory techniques that were used in ancient Greece and Rome. As you'll see, the techniques are simple yet extraordinarily powerful if practiced the

way ancient orators (*e.g.*, Cicero), Christian figures (*e.g.*, Thomas Aquinas), and modern practitioners (*e.g.*, Dominic O’Brien) have suggested.

Remembering The Parables consists of three parts:

I. Jesus’ Parables & The Art of Memory

- Jesus Parables & Sayings
- Learning by Heart: A Child’s Memory
- How to Remember
- The Country Church

II. Jesus’ Parables

- Poems & Paintings: Thirty of Jesus’ parables in poetic form with accompanying art—to help you create your own mnemonic images
- The parables in their King James versions (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and the Gospel of Thomas—for easy reference

III. A Deeper Understanding

- Remembering Chapters & Verses
- Mysticism, Meditation, & Sacred Memory
- Recommended Reading

A great and beautiful invention is memory, always useful both for learning and for life.

This is the first thing: if you pay attention

(direct your mind), the judgment will better

perceive the things going through it (the mind).

—the *Dialexeis*

The Dialexeis is one of the earliest references to the Art of Memory. Anonymous, it was written in literary Doric sometime just after the Peloponnesian War in ca. 400 B.C.