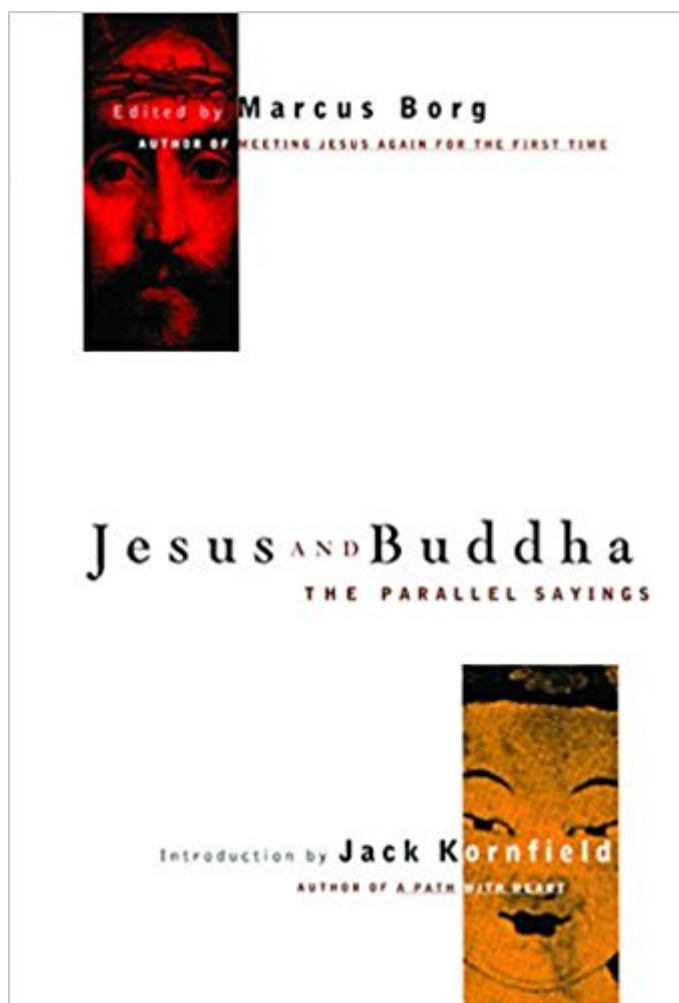


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# Jesus And Buddha: The Parallel Sayings



## Synopsis

Gathers over one hundred examples of Jesus' and Buddha's teachings on matching pages to reveal strikingly similar teachings.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

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## Customer Reviews

"An eloquent overview of the similarities between Christianity and Buddhism." - Detroit Free Press  
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Jesus & Buddha (Illustrated)|||1569753180|25.00|Ulysses Press|08/2002|5000Jesus and Buddha (trade)|||1569751692|14.00|Ulysses Press|01/1999|25K life --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The first thing you notice about JESUS AND BUDDHA: THE PARALLEL SAYINGS is that the book itself is very attractive. The sayings of Jesus are on the left page with the sayings of Buddha on the right, and the paper is deckle edged. Jack Kornfield, both a Buddhist monk and Buddhist scholar, has written the introduction; Marcus Borg, a progressive Christian and Jesus scholar and the editor of the book, has provided a thoughtful Preface. Both of these scholars come to the same conclusion: there are many similarities between both these great teachers' lives and their sayings. Dr. Borg, however, in his preface and elsewhere in the book gives a more thorough analysis of what they have in common. His purpose in collecting the parallels in this book

is not, he says, to make a scholarly case for the similarities. It is rather to provide for reflection and meditation. The book is divided into several sections some of which are Compassion, Wisdom, Inner Life, Temptation, The Future and Discipleship with the parallels listed for each of these topics. Since I know practically nothing about the teaching of Buddha, I read the sayings of Jesus first and then those of Buddha. The similarities for many of them are so obvious that I was completely taken aback. Here are just a few of the hundred or more examples: Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6.31) Consider others as yourself. (Dhammapada 10.1) This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15.12-13) Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so, cultivate a boundless heart towards all beings. Let your thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world. (Sutta Nipata 149-150) Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. (Luke 6.20) Let us live most happily, possessing nothing; let us feed on joy, like the radiant gods. (Dhammapada 15.4) Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14.27) May fear and dread not conquer me. (Majjhima Nikaya 6.8) Dr. Borg says that he inherited the belief from childhood that Christianity was the only way, "the only true religion. He, however, came to appreciate "religious pluralism. If you have similar feelings, you will find this book to your liking.

I was raised Christian and have long practiced vipassana meditation and follow many of the non-dogmatic principles of Buddhism, so I have had many moments of cross-cultural epiphany, over the years, in which Buddhism and Christianity confirm each other. So I browsed this book with real pleasure. The side-by-side quotes often achieve a greater depth of significance than they tend to on their own, and I feel a growing sense of the universality of the basic tenets of both traditions. Whether Jesus actually came into contact with Buddhism before the age of 30 may be impossible to determine, but, as I see it, he at least had access, through insight, to the fundamental rightness of compassion as a path, and oneness as the goal. I find the book well-conceived, lucid, approachable, and beautifully designed, too. It is also interesting to note that this format unexpectedly foregrounds the difference between principles and mere cultural accretions. In this light, ritual practice, questions of authority and lineage, orthodoxies of all kinds, and all the other

culturally-determined trappings of religion-as-practiced can be easily shucked off to reveal the "heart of the lotus" [the "plain and simple truths"] within. In this sense, the fundamental principles of each tradition serve as a sort of Bessamer furnace for the other, ridding it of the unnecessary and increasing its universal appeal at once. Quite a brilliant idea, and well done.

This is an enlightening list of the similarities between the life and teachings of Jesus and Buddha. It inspires the reader to learn more about the connections.

Jesus was a Buddhist?

This book is beautiful. You can read start to finish or just open to any page if you only have a second and find something interesting and thought provoking.

A gift quality book for those who follow the teachings of both masters. The introduction by Marcus Borg is worth the price of the whole book!

This is not a good book to read via kindle because of the formatting. Apparently the comparable sayings are indented and separated in the book however on the kindle ... Often Only Part of one saying is on one page and it is then continued on the next page, and then the comparable saying is on yet a third page. It is very distracting to see the comparisons if I keep having to flip pages.

I recommend this book to anyone who thinks there is a difference in religions and teachings. They are all saying the same things and They complement one another rather than dispute the message.

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