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## Luke

Luke was one of the four men who wrote Gospels (stories of the life of Jesus). He is the only one who wrote a second book (Acts) to continue the story about Jesus. He is probably the same Luke who travelled with the apostle Paul (Col. 4:14).

Luke begins by explaining how and why he wrote this book. He notes that others had given reports about the life of Jesus. They had passed on stories from the eyewitnesses and followers of Jesus. Luke did not know Jesus during his life on earth, but he says he had done careful research about Jesus' life. Luke probably knew Mark's Gospel well. He follows the same basic storyline as Mark. But he adds to that story in many places. Luke may also have known Matthew's Gospel. The books of Luke and Matthew share many teachings of Jesus not found in the books of Mark or John.

Luke explains that he used these sources to write a full and organized story of Jesus' life. He wants all who have already heard about Jesus to be sure that what they have been taught is true. He also wants to show how God's purposes have been carried out in Jesus' life. His message is that in Jesus, God has completed the long story of the Bible.

Some of the best-known Gospel stories are found only in the book of Luke. One is the story about the shepherds visiting the baby Jesus. Also well known are the parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the two sons. Jesus' teaching in Luke gives special attention to God's care for the poor. It also points out

the danger of greed and the blessing of God's forgiveness. Especially important is God's love for all kinds of hated and unpopular people. These include non-Jews, women, the poor and people considered to be sinners. Other topics in the book are joyful praise, prayer and the Holy Spirit.

Luke appears to write for people who were familiar with the Old Testament. He presents Jesus as another prophet who spoke boldly for God. Like the Old Testament prophets, Jesus did miracles and was opposed by leaders of the people. Luke's story of Jesus may have reminded non-Jewish people of famous philosophers like Socrates. Why? Because they spoke the truth even if they faced death for it. But for Luke, Jesus is more than just a prophet or philosopher. As in the other Gospels, Jesus is called the Messiah (God's Chosen King). So Jesus' enemies use this claim to accuse him of planning a revolt against the Roman emperor. This finally leads to his execution by order of the Roman governor Pilate.

The highest title Luke uses for Jesus is "Lord". This was a title used for kings, emperors and gods in the ancient world. The Greek Old Testament used "the Lord" for the God of Israel thousands of times. And Luke repeatedly uses "the Lord" for Jesus as well as for God. In Luke's Gospel, who Jesus is cannot be separated from who God is.

The book of Luke tells about...

The births of John the Baptizer and Jesus (1:1 – 2:52)

Jesus' ministry in Galilee (3:1 – 9:50)

Jesus' teaching on the way to Jerusalem (9:51 – 19:27)

Jesus' final days, his death, and resurrection (19:28 – 24:53)

### Luke Writes About the Life of Jesus

**1** Most Honourable Theophilus: Many others have tried to put together a report of the things that happened among us to complete God's plan. <sup>2</sup>What they have written agrees with what we learned from the people who saw those events from the beginning. They also served God by telling people his message. <sup>3</sup>I studied it all carefully from the beginning. Then I also decided to write it down for you in an organized way. <sup>4</sup>I did this so that you can be sure that what you have been taught is true.

### An Angel Announces the Birth of John

<sup>5</sup>During the time when Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He belonged to Abijah's group.\* His wife came from the family of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Zechariah and Elizabeth were both good people who pleased God. They did everything the Lord commanded, always following his instructions completely. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby, and both of them were very old.

<sup>8</sup>Zechariah was serving as a priest before God for his group. It was his group's time to serve. <sup>9</sup>The priests always used lots to choose one priest to offer the incense, and Zechariah was the one chosen this time. So he went into the Temple of the Lord to offer the incense. <sup>10</sup>There was a large crowd outside praying at the time the incense was offered.

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord came and stood before Zechariah at the right side of the incense table. <sup>12</sup>Zechariah was shocked to see the angel and was

filled with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a baby boy, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will be very happy, and many others will share your joy over his birth. <sup>15</sup>He will be a great man for the Lord. He must never drink wine or anything else that could make him drunk. Even before he is born, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>16</sup>"John will help many people of Israel return to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>John himself will go ahead of the Lord and make people ready for his coming. He will be powerful like Elijah and will have the same spirit. He will make peace between parents and their children. He will cause people who are not obeying God to change and start thinking the way they should."

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is also old."

<sup>19</sup>The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, the one who always stands ready before God. He sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup>Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day when these things happen. You will lose your speech because you did not believe what I told you. But everything I said will really happen."

<sup>21</sup>Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was staying so long in the Temple. <sup>22</sup>Then Zechariah came outside, but he could not speak to them. So the people knew that he had seen a vision inside the Temple. He was not able to speak, so he could only make signs to the people. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was finished, he went home.

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\*1:5 *Abijah's group* Jewish priests were divided into 24 groups. See 1 Chr. 24.

<sup>24</sup> Later, Zechariah's wife Elizabeth became pregnant. So she did not go out of her house for five months. She said, <sup>25</sup> "Look what the Lord has done for me! He decided to help me. Now people will stop thinking there is something wrong with me."

### **An Angel Announces the Birth of Jesus**

<sup>26-27</sup> During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin girl who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord is with you; you are very special to him."

<sup>29</sup> But Mary was very confused about what the angel said. She wondered, "What does this mean?"

<sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. <sup>31</sup> Listen! You will become pregnant and have a baby boy. You will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High God, and the Lord God will make him king like his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will rule over the people of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am still a virgin."

<sup>35</sup> The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High God will cover you. The baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And here's something else: Your relative Elizabeth is pregnant. She is very old, but she is going to have a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant now for six months. <sup>37</sup> God can do anything!"

<sup>38</sup> Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!" Then the angel went away.

### **Mary Visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup> Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the hill country of Judah. <sup>40</sup> She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside her jumped, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she said to Mary, "God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby you will have. <sup>43</sup> You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? <sup>44</sup> When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. <sup>45</sup> Great blessings are yours because you believed what the Lord said to you! You believed this would happen."

### **Mary Praises God**

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said,  
"I praise the Lord with all my heart.  
<sup>47</sup> He, my God and Saviour, has made me  
so happy!  
<sup>48</sup> He has shown his care for me, his  
servant,  
a person who is so unimportant.  
And from now on, people will think of  
me  
as a person God blessed in a special way.  
<sup>49</sup> Yes, the Powerful One has done great  
things for me.  
His name is holy.  
<sup>50</sup> He always gives mercy  
to those who worship him.  
<sup>51</sup> He reached out his arm and showed  
his power.  
He scattered those who think they are  
better than anyone else.  
<sup>52</sup> He brought down rulers from their  
thrones

and raised up the humble people.

<sup>53</sup> He filled the hungry with good things, but he sent the rich away with nothing.

<sup>54-55</sup> God has helped Israel, the people he chose to serve him.

He will never forget his promise to be kind to us.

This is what he promised our ancestors, Abraham and his descendants.”

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then went home.

### The Birth of John the Baptizer

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard how very good the Lord had been to her, and they were happy for her.

<sup>59</sup> When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father’s name. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said, “No, his name will be John.”

<sup>61</sup> The people said to Elizabeth, “But no one in your family has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, “What would you like to name him?”

<sup>63</sup> Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, “His name is John.” Everyone was surprised. <sup>64</sup> Then Zechariah could talk again, and he began praising God. <sup>65</sup> And all their neighbours were filled with fear. Everywhere in the hill country of Judea, people were talking about these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard about what had happened wondered about it. They thought, “What will this child be?” They could see that the Lord was with him.

### Zechariah Praises God

<sup>67</sup> Then Zechariah, John’s father, was filled with the Holy Spirit and told the people a message from God:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise to the Lord God of Israel.

He has come to help his people and has given them freedom.

<sup>69</sup> He has given us a powerful Saviour from the family of his servant David.

<sup>70</sup> This is what he promised through his holy prophets long ago.

<sup>71</sup> He promised to save us from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> God said he would show mercy to our fathers

and remember his holy agreement.

<sup>73</sup> This was the promise he made with an oath

to our father Abraham,

<sup>74</sup> a promise to free us from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear <sup>75</sup> in a way that is holy and right before him

for as long as we live.

<sup>76</sup> “Now you, little boy,

will be known as a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go first before the Lord to prepare the way for him.

<sup>77</sup> You will make his people understand that they will be saved

by having their sins forgiven.

<sup>78</sup> “With the loving mercy of our God, a new day<sup>†</sup> from heaven will shine on us.

<sup>79</sup> It will bring light to those who wait in darkness and can see only death.

It will guide us into a life full of peace.”

<sup>80</sup> And so the little boy John grew up and became strong in the Spirit. Then he

<sup>†</sup>1:78 *new day* Literally, “dawn”, used here as a symbol, probably meaning the coming of God’s Messiah as saviour of the world.

lived in the desert until he appeared in public to tell God's message to the people of Israel.

### The Birth of Jesus

(Matt. 1:18-25)

**2** It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order for all people in the countries under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be listed for taxes. <sup>2</sup>This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone travelled to their own home towns to have their name put on the list.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. <sup>5</sup>Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) <sup>6</sup>While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. <sup>7</sup>She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

### Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

<sup>8</sup>That night some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very frightened. <sup>10</sup>The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make all God's people happy. <sup>11</sup>Today

your Saviour was born in David's town. He is the Messiah,<sup>‡</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This is how you will know him: you will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

<sup>13</sup>Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying, <sup>14</sup>"Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him."

<sup>15</sup>The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. <sup>17</sup>When they saw the baby, they told everyone what the angels had said about this child. <sup>18</sup>Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

<sup>21</sup>When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised, and he was named Jesus. This name was given by the angel even before Mary became pregnant.

### Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

<sup>22</sup>The time came for Mary and Joseph to do the things the Law of Moses taught about being made pure.<sup>¶</sup> They brought Jesus to Jerusalem so that they could

<sup>‡</sup>2:11 *the Messiah* Literally, "Christ", a Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah". See Christ and Messiah in the Word List. Also in verse 26 and throughout this book.

<sup>¶</sup>2:22 *pure* The Law of Moses said that 40 days after a Jewish woman gave birth to a baby, she must be made ritually clean by a ceremony at the Temple. See Lev. 12:2-8.

present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>It is written in the law of the Lord: "When a mother's first baby is a boy, he shall be called 'special for the Lord'."<sup>§</sup> <sup>24</sup>The law of the Lord also says that people must give a sacrifice: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons."<sup>\*\*</sup> So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to do this.

### Simeon Sees Jesus

<sup>25</sup>A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man who was devoted to God. He was waiting for the time when God would come to help Israel. The Holy Spirit was with him.

<sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit told him that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup>The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. So he was there when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to do what the Jewish law said they must do. <sup>28</sup>Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, you have kept your promise to me,

so now you can let me, your servant, die in peace.

<sup>30</sup>I have seen with my own eyes how you will save your people.

<sup>31</sup>Now all people can see your plan.

<sup>32</sup>He is a light to show your way to the other nations, and he will bring honour to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon said about him.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many Jews will fall and many will rise because of this boy. He will be a sign from God that some will not accept.

<sup>35</sup>So the secret thoughts of many will be made known. And the things that hap-

pen will be painful for you, like a sword cutting through your heart."

### Anna Sees Jesus

<sup>36</sup>A prophet named Anna was also there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. She was now very old. She had married when she was young but lived with her husband only seven years <sup>37</sup>before he died. She was now 84 years old. Anna never left the Temple. She was there day and night, worshipping God by fasting and praying.

<sup>38</sup>Anna was there when Joseph and Mary came to the Temple. She praised God and talked about Jesus to all those who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

### Joseph and Mary Return Home

<sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary finished doing all the things that the law of the Lord commanded, they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee.

<sup>40</sup>The little boy Jesus was growing up. He became strong and was filled with wisdom. God was blessing him.

### Jesus as a Boy

<sup>41</sup>Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

<sup>42</sup>When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was over, they went home, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know about this. <sup>44</sup>They travelled for a whole day thinking that Jesus was with them in the group. They began looking for him among their family and close friends, <sup>45</sup>but they did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there.

§2:23 See Exod. 13:2,12.

\*\*2:24 Quote from Lev. 12:8.

<sup>46</sup>Three days later they found him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple area with the religious teachers, listening and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and wise answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they wondered how this was possible. And his mother said, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you.”

<sup>49</sup>Jesus said to them, “Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be in my Father’s house.” <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand the meaning of what he said to them.

<sup>51</sup>Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all these things. <sup>52</sup>As Jesus grew older, he also grew in wisdom. God was pleased with him and so were the people who knew him.

**John Prepares the Way for Jesus**

*(Matt. 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-28)*

**3** It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Roman emperor Tiberius. Four men served under Tiberius in these areas:

Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea;

Herod was the ruler of Galilee; Philip, Herod’s brother, was the ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis;

Lysanias was the ruler of Abilene.

<sup>2</sup>Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. During this time, John, the son of Zechariah, was living in the desert, and he received a message from God.

<sup>3</sup>So he went through the whole area around the Jordan River and told the

people God’s message. He told them to be baptized to show that they wanted to change their lives, and then their sins would be forgiven. <sup>4</sup>John is the one Isaiah the prophet was writing about when he said,

“There is someone shouting in the desert:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord! Make the road straight for him.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made flat.

Crooked roads will be made straight, and rough roads will be made smooth.

<sup>6</sup>Then everyone will see how God will save his people!’”<sup>††</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Crowds of people came to be baptized by John. But he said to them, “You are all snakes! Who warned you to run from God’s judgement that is coming?

<sup>8</sup>Change your hearts! And show by the way you live that you have changed. I know what you are about to say— ‘but Abraham is our father!’ That means nothing. I tell you, God could make children for Abraham from these rocks!

<sup>9</sup>The axe is now ready to cut down the trees.<sup>‡‡</sup> Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>The people asked John, “What should we do?”

<sup>11</sup>He answered, “If you have two shirts, share with someone who does not have one. If you have food, share that too.”

<sup>12</sup>Even the tax collectors came to John. They wanted to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>††</sup>**3:6** Quote from Isa. 40:3-5.

<sup>‡‡</sup>**3:9 trees** Meaning the people who don’t obey God. They are like “trees” that will be cut down.

<sup>13</sup>He told them, “Don’t take more taxes from people than you have been ordered to collect.”

<sup>14</sup>The soldiers asked him, “What about us? What should we do?”

He said to them, “Don’t use force or lies to make people give you money. Be happy with the pay you get.”

<sup>15</sup>Everyone was expecting something great to happen, and they wondered about John. They thought, “Maybe he is the Messiah.”

<sup>16</sup>John’s answer to this was, “I baptize you with water, but there is someone coming later who is able to do more than I can. I am not good enough to be the slave who unties his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>He is ready to separate the good part of his harvest from what is useless.<sup>¶</sup> He will put his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the useless part in a fire that cannot be put out.” <sup>18</sup>This is the way John told the Good News to the people. And in many other ways he urged them to change.

### How John’s Work Later Ended

<sup>19</sup>John criticized Herod the ruler for what he had done with Herodias, the wife of Herod’s brother, as well as for all the other bad things he had done. <sup>20</sup>So Herod added another bad thing to all his other wrongs: he put John in jail.

### Jesus Is Baptized by John

(*Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11*)

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus came and was baptized too. And while he was praying, the sky opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit came down on him. The Spirit looked like a real dove. Then a voice came from

heaven and said, “You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you.”

### The Family History of Jesus

(*Matt. 1:1-17*)

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus began to teach, he was about 30 years old. People thought that Jesus was Joseph’s son.

Joseph was the son of Heli.

<sup>24</sup>Heli was the son of Matthat.

Matthat was the son of Levi.

Levi was the son of Melchi.

Melchi was the son of Jannai.

Jannai was the son of Joseph.

<sup>25</sup>Joseph was the son of Mattathias.

Mattathias was the son of Amos.

Amos was the son of Nahum.

Nahum was the son of Esli.

Esli was the son of Naggai.

<sup>26</sup>Naggai was the son of Maath.

Maath was the son of Mattathias.

Mattathias was the son of Semein.

Semein was the son of Josech.

Josech was the son of Joda.

<sup>27</sup>Joda was the son of Joanan.

Joanan was the son of Rhesa.

Rhesa was the son of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the son of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the son of Neri.

<sup>28</sup>Neri was the son of Melchi.

Melchi was the son of Addi.

Addi was the son of Cosam.

Cosam was the son of Elmadam.

Elmadam was the son of Er.

<sup>29</sup>Er was the son of Joshua.

Joshua was the son of Eliezer.

Eliezer was the son of Jorim.

Jorim was the son of Matthat.

Matthat was the son of Levi.

<sup>30</sup>Levi was the son of Simeon.

Simeon was the son of Judah.

Judah was the son of Joseph.

Joseph was the son of Jonam.

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<sup>¶</sup>**3:17 He is ready ... useless** Literally, “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor.” This is a picture of judgement, when good and bad people are separated.

Jonam was the son of Eliakim.  
<sup>31</sup> Eliakim was the son of Melea.  
 Melea was the son of Menna.  
 Menna was the son of Mattatha.  
 Mattatha was the son of Nathan.  
 Nathan was the son of David.  
<sup>32</sup> David was the son of Jesse.  
 Jesse was the son of Obed.  
 Obed was the son of Boaz.  
 Boaz was the son of Salmon.  
 Salmon was the son of Nahshon.  
<sup>33</sup> Nahshon was the son of Amminadab.  
 Amminadab was the son of Admin.  
 Admin was the son of Arni.  
 Arni was the son of Hezron.  
 Hezron was the son of Perez.  
 Perez was the son of Judah.  
<sup>34</sup> Judah was the son of Jacob.  
 Jacob was the son of Isaac.  
 Isaac was the son of Abraham.  
 Abraham was the son of Terah.  
 Terah was the son of Nahor.  
<sup>35</sup> Nahor was the son of Serug.  
 Serug was the son of Reu.  
 Reu was the son of Peleg.  
 Peleg was the son of Eber.  
 Eber was the son of Shelah.  
<sup>36</sup> Shelah was the son of Cainan.  
 Cainan was the son of Arphaxad.  
 Arphaxad was the son of Shem.  
 Shem was the son of Noah.  
 Noah was the son of Lamech.  
<sup>37</sup> Lamech was the son of Methuselah.  
 Methuselah was the son of Enoch.  
 Enoch was the son of Jared.  
 Jared was the son of Mahalaleel.  
 Mahalaleel was the son of Cainan.  
<sup>38</sup> Cainan was the son of Enos.  
 Enos was the son of Seth.  
 Seth was the son of Adam.

Adam was the son of God.

### Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil

(Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13)

**4** Now filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan River. And the Spirit led him in the desert <sup>2</sup> for 40 days, where he was tempted by the devil. Jesus ate nothing during this time, and afterwards he was very hungry.

<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this rock to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “The Scriptures say, ‘People need more than food to live.’”<sup>§§</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Jesus and in a moment of time showed him all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> The devil said to him, “I will make you king over all these places. You will have power over them, and you will get all the glory. It has all been given to me. I can give it to anyone I want. <sup>7</sup> I will give it all to you, if you will only worship me.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “The Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him.’”<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and put him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area. He said to him, “If you are the Son of God, jump off, <sup>10</sup> because the Scriptures say, ‘God will command his angels to take care of you.’”<sup>†</sup>

<sup>11</sup> It is also written, “Their hands will catch you so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.”<sup>‡</sup>

§§4:4 Quote from Deut. 8:3.

\*4:8 Quote from Deut. 6:13.

†4:10 Quote from Ps. 91:11.

‡4:11 Quote from Ps. 91:12.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, "But the Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"<sup>¶</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The devil finished tempting Jesus in every way and went away to wait until a better time.

### **Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee**

*(Matt. 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15)*

<sup>14</sup> Jesus went back to Galilee with the power of the Spirit. Stories about him spread all over the area around Galilee.

<sup>15</sup> He began to teach in the synagogues, and everyone praised him.

### **Jesus Goes to His Home Town**

*(Matt. 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6)*

<sup>16</sup> Jesus travelled to Nazareth, the town where he grew up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue as he always did. He stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me. He has chosen me to tell good news to the poor. He sent me to tell prisoners that they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again.

He sent me to set free those who have been mistreated

<sup>19</sup> and to announce that the time has come for the Lord to show his kindness."<sup>§</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the helper, and sat down. As everyone in the synagogue watched him closely, <sup>21</sup> he began to speak to them. He said, "While you heard me reading this Scripture just now, they were coming true!"

<sup>22</sup> Everyone there said they liked what Jesus said. They were surprised to hear him speak such wonderful words. They said, "But isn't this Joseph's son?"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "I know you will tell me the old saying: 'Doctor, heal yourself.' You want to say, 'We heard about the things you did in Capernaum. Do those same things here in your own home town!'" <sup>24</sup> Then he said, "The truth is, a prophet is not accepted in his own home town.

<sup>25-26</sup> "During the time of Elijah it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years. There was no food anywhere in the whole country. There were many widows in Israel during that time. But the fact is, Elijah was sent to none of those widows in Israel. He was sent only to a widow in Zarephath, a town near Sidon.

<sup>27</sup> "And there were many people with a dreaded skin disease living in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha. But none of them were healed; the only one was Naaman. And he was from the country of Syria, not Israel."

<sup>28</sup> When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were very angry. <sup>29</sup> They got up and forced Jesus to go out of town. Their town was built on a hill. They took Jesus to the edge of the hill to throw him off. <sup>30</sup> But he walked through the middle of the crowd and went away.

### **Jesus Frees a Man From an Evil Spirit**

*(Mark 1:21-28)*

<sup>31</sup> Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee. On the Sabbath day he taught the people. <sup>32</sup> They were amazed at his teaching because he spoke with authority.

<sup>¶</sup>4:12 Quote from Deut. 6:16.

<sup>§</sup>4:19 Quote from Isa. 61:1-2; 58:6.

<sup>33</sup>In the synagogue there was a man who had a demon, an evil spirit, inside him. The man began shouting, <sup>34</sup>“Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!” <sup>35</sup>Jesus answered with a warning: “Be quiet and come out of him!” The demon threw the man down on the ground in front of everyone. Then the evil spirit left the man without doing any harm to him.

<sup>36</sup>The people were amazed. They said to each other, “What does this mean? With authority and power he commands evil spirits and they come out.” <sup>37</sup>And so the news about Jesus spread everywhere in the whole area.

### Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-Law

(*Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34*)

<sup>38</sup>Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon’s<sup>\*\*</sup> house. Simon’s mother-in-law was very sick. She had a high fever. They asked Jesus to help her. <sup>39</sup>He stood very close to her and ordered the fever to go away. The fever left her, and she got up and began serving them.

### Jesus Heals Many Others

<sup>40</sup>When the sun went down, the people who had anyone sick at home brought them to Jesus. They had all kinds of diseases. Jesus laid his hands on each sick person and healed them all. <sup>41</sup>Demons came out of many people. The demons shouted, “You are the Son of God.” But Jesus warned the demons not to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

### Jesus Goes to Other Towns

(*Mark 1:35-39*)

<sup>42</sup>The next day Jesus went to a place where he could be alone. The people looked for him. When they found him, they tried to stop him from leaving. <sup>43</sup>But he said to them, “I must tell the Good News about God’s kingdom in other towns too. This is why I was sent.”

<sup>44</sup>Then Jesus told the Good News in the synagogues in Judea.

### Jesus Chooses Some Followers

(*Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20*)

**5** As Jesus stood beside Lake Galilee,<sup>††</sup> a crowd of people pushed to get closer to him and to hear the teachings of God. <sup>2</sup>Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon. He asked Simon to push off a little from the shore. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people on the shore.

<sup>4</sup>When Jesus finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Take the boat into the deep water. Put your nets into the water, and you will catch some fish.”

<sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish and caught nothing. But you say I should put the nets into the water, so I will.” <sup>6</sup>When they did this, their nets were filled with so many fish that they began to break. <sup>7</sup>They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full of fish that they were almost sinking.

<sup>8-9</sup>The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw this, he knelt down before Je-

<sup>\*\*</sup> 4:38 *Simon* Simon’s other name was Peter. Also in 5:3,4,5,10.

<sup>††</sup> 5:1 *Galilee* Literally, “Gennesaret”.

Jesus said, “Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!”<sup>10</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John worked together with Simon.)

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on your work will be to bring in people, not fish!”

<sup>11</sup> The men brought their boats to the shore. They left everything and followed Jesus.

### Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(*Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45*)

<sup>12</sup> Once Jesus was in a town where a very sick man lived. This man was covered with a dreaded skin disease. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed down with his face to the ground before Jesus and begged him, “Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want.”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” Then he touched the man, and immediately the disease disappeared. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus said, “Don’t tell anyone about what happened. But go and let the priest look at you.<sup>‡‡</sup> And offer a gift to God for your healing as Moses commanded. This will show everyone that you have been healed.”

<sup>15</sup> But the news about Jesus spread more and more. Many people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> Jesus often went away to other places to be alone so that he could pray.

### Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

(*Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12*)

<sup>17</sup> One day Jesus was teaching in a house. Some Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting inside with him.

They had come from every town in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. The Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people. <sup>18</sup> There was a man outside who was paralysed, and some other men were carrying him on a mat. They tried to carry him inside and put him down before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But they could not find a way to get the man to Jesus because of all the people. So they went up on the roof and made a hole by removing some tiles. They lowered the man down on his mat into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>21</sup> This made the teachers of the law and the Pharisees say to themselves, “Who is this man who dares to say such things? What an insult to God! Only God can forgive sins!”

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking and responded, “Why do you have these questions in your minds? <sup>23</sup> Maybe you are thinking it was easy for me to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ because no one can see whether it happened or not. But what if I say to him, ‘Stand up and walk’? <sup>24</sup> Then, if it happens, you will know that I, as the Son of Man, have power on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, stand up! Take your mat and go home!”

<sup>25</sup> The man immediately stood up in front of everyone. He picked up his mat and went home, praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was completely amazed and began to praise God. They were filled with great respect for God’s power. They said, “Today we saw amazing things!”

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<sup>‡‡</sup>**5:14 let the priest look at you** The Law of Moses said a priest must decide when a person with a skin disease was well.

### Levi (Matthew) Follows Jesus

(*Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17*)

<sup>27</sup> After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me!” <sup>28</sup> Levi got up, left everything and went with Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> Then Levi gave a big dinner at his house for Jesus. At the table there were many tax collectors and some other people too. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and those who taught the law for the Pharisees began to complain to the followers of Jesus, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinners?”

<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Sick people are the ones who need a doctor, not those who are healthy. <sup>32</sup> I have come to ask sinners to change the way they live, not those who do everything right.”

### A Question About Fasting

(*Matt. 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22*)

<sup>33</sup> Some people said to Jesus, “John’s followers often fast and pray, the same as the followers of the Pharisees. But your followers are always eating and drinking.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “At a wedding you cannot ask the friends of the bridegroom to fast while he is still with them. <sup>35</sup> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them. Then his friends will be sad and fast.”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus told them this story: “No one takes cloth off a new coat to cover a hole in an old coat. That would ruin the new coat, and the cloth from the new coat would not be the same as the old cloth. <sup>37</sup> Also, no one ever pours new wine<sup>¶</sup> into old wineskins. The new wine will

burst the old wineskins. The wine will spill out, and the wineskins will be ruined. <sup>38</sup> You always put new wine into new wineskins. <sup>39</sup> No one who is used to drinking old wine wants to try new wine. They say, ‘The old wine is good enough for me.’”

### Jesus Is Lord Over the Sabbath Day

(*Matt. 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28*)

**6** One time on a Sabbath day, Jesus was walking through some fields of grain. His followers began to pick some heads of grain. They rubbed them in their hands and ate the grain. <sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees said, “Why are you doing this work that our Law does not allow on the Sabbath day?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered them, “You have read what David did when he and those with him were hungry. <sup>4</sup> He went into God’s house, took the bread that was offered to God and ate it. He also gave some of it to those who were with him. This was against the Law, which says that only the priests can eat that bread.” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord over the Sabbath.”

### Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(*Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6*)

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath day Jesus went into the synagogue and taught the people. A man with a paralysed right hand was there. <sup>7</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees were watching Jesus closely. They were waiting to see if he would heal on the Sabbath day. They wanted to see him do something wrong so that they could accuse him. <sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said to the man with the paralysed hand, “Get up and stand here where every-

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<sup>¶</sup>**5:37 new wine** Grape juice that is just beginning to ferment, which creates pressure inside a sealed container.

one can see.” The man got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, what does the law allow us to do on the Sabbath day: to do good or to do evil? Is it right to save a life or to destroy it?”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus looked around at all of them and then said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” The man held out his hand, and it was healed. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law got so angry they couldn’t think straight. They talked to each other about what they could do to Jesus.

### **Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles**

*(Matt. 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19)*

<sup>12</sup> A few days later, Jesus went out to the hills to pray. He stayed there all night praying to God. <sup>13</sup> The next morning he called together his followers. He chose twelve of them and called them apostles:

<sup>14</sup> Simon, the one Jesus named Peter, Andrew, brother of Peter,

James,

John,

Philip,

Bartholomew,

<sup>15</sup> Matthew,

Thomas,

James, the son of Alphaeus,

Simon, called the Zealot,

<sup>16</sup> Judas, the son of James,

Judas Iscariot, the one who later turned against Jesus.

### **Jesus Teaches and Heals the People**

*(Matt. 4:23-25; 5:1-12)*

<sup>17</sup> Jesus and the apostles came down from the mountain. Jesus stood on a flat place. A large crowd of his followers were there. Also, there were many people from all around Judea, Jerusalem and the coastal areas near Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They all came to hear Jesus

teach and to be healed of their sicknesses. He healed the people who were troubled by evil spirits. <sup>19</sup> Everyone was trying to touch him, because power was coming out from him. Jesus healed them all.

<sup>20</sup> Jesus looked at his followers and said,

“Great blessings belong to you who are poor.

God’s kingdom belongs to you.

<sup>21</sup> Great blessings belong to you who are hungry now.

You will be filled.

Great blessings belong to you who are crying now.

You will be happy and laughing.

<sup>22</sup> “People will hate you because you belong to the Son of Man. They will make you leave their group. They will insult you. They will think it is wrong even to say your name. When these things happen, know that great blessings belong to you. <sup>23</sup> You can be happy then and jump for joy, because you have a great reward in heaven. The ancestors of those people did the same things to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But how bad it will be for you rich people,

because you had your easy life.

<sup>25</sup> How bad it will be for you people who are full now,

because you will be hungry.

How bad it will be for you people who are laughing now,

because you will be sad and cry.

<sup>26</sup> “Expect the worst when everyone says good things about you. Their ancestors did the same thing when they were praising false prophets.

### **Love Your Enemies**

*(Matt. 5:38-48; 7:12a)*

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you people who are listening to me, love your enemies. Do

good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup> Ask God to bless the people who ask for bad things to happen to you. Pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone hits you on the side of your face, let them hit the other side too. If someone takes your coat, don't stop them from taking your shirt too. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you for something. When someone takes something that is yours, don't ask for it back. <sup>31</sup> Do for others what you want them to do for you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, should you get any special praise for doing that? No, even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup> If you do good only to those who do good to you, should you get any special praise for doing that? No, even sinners do that! <sup>34</sup> If you lend things to people, always expecting to get something back, should you get any special praise for that? No, even sinners lend to other sinners so that they can get back the same amount!

<sup>35</sup> "I'm telling you to love your enemies and do good to them. Lend to people without expecting to get anything back. If you do this, you will have a great reward. You will be children of the Most High God. Yes, because God is good even to the people who are full of sin and not thankful. <sup>36</sup> Give love and mercy the same as your Father gives love and mercy.

### **Be Careful About Criticizing Others**

*(Matt. 7:1-5)*

<sup>37</sup> "Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. Don't condemn others, and you will not be condemned. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give to others, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will

spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

<sup>39</sup> Jesus told them this story: "Can a blind man lead another blind man? No. Both of them will fall into a ditch. <sup>40</sup> Students are not better than their teacher. But when they have completed their training, they will all be like their teacher.

<sup>41</sup> "Why do you see the small piece of dust that is in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your friend, 'Let me get that piece of dust out of your eye'? Can you not see that big piece of wood in your own eye? You are a hypocrite. First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to get the dust out of your friend's eye.

### **Only Good Trees Produce Good Fruit**

*(Matt. 7:17-20; 12:34b-35)*

<sup>43</sup> "A good tree does not produce bad fruit. And a bad tree does not produce good fruit. <sup>44</sup> Every tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces. You won't find figs on thorny weeds. And you can't pick grapes from thorn bushes! <sup>45</sup> Good people have good things saved in their hearts. That's why they say good things. But those who are evil have hearts full of evil, and that's why they say things that are evil. What people say with their mouths comes from what fills their hearts.

### **Two Kinds of People**

*(Matt. 7:24-27)*

<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but you don't do what I say? <sup>47</sup> The people who come to me, who listen to my teachings and obey them—I will show you what they are like. <sup>48</sup> They are like a man building a house. He digs deep and builds his house on rock. When the floods come, the water crashes against

the house. But the flood cannot move the house, because it was built well.

<sup>49</sup>“But the people who hear my words and do not obey are like a man who builds a house without preparing a foundation. When the floods come, the house falls down easily and is completely destroyed.”

### **Jesus Heals an Officer's Servant**

*(Matt. 8:5-13; John 4:43-54)*

**7** When Jesus finished all he had to say to the people, he went into Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>An army officer there had a servant who was very important to him. The servant was sick and about to die. <sup>3</sup>When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some older Jewish leaders to him. He wanted them to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup>They went to Jesus and begged him to help the officer. They said, “This man is worthy of your help <sup>5</sup>because he loves our people. He even had a synagogue built for us.”

<sup>6</sup>So Jesus went with them. Just before they reached the house, the officer sent friends to say, “Lord, you don't need to do anything special for me. I am not good enough for you to come into my house. <sup>7</sup>That is why I did not come to you myself. You need only to give the order, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup>I know this because I am a man under the authority of other men. And I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes. And I tell another soldier, ‘Come,’ and he comes. And I say to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He turned to the people following him and said, “I tell you, this is the most faithful I have seen anywhere, even in Israel.”

<sup>10</sup>The group that had been sent to Jesus went back to the house. There they found that the servant was healed.

### **Jesus Brings a Woman's Son Back to Life**

<sup>11</sup>The next day Jesus and his followers went to a town called Nain. A big crowd was travelling with them. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus came near the town gate, he saw some people carrying a dead body. It was the only son of a woman who was a widow. Walking with her were many other people from the town. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw the woman, he felt very sorry for her and said, “Don't cry.” <sup>14</sup>He walked to the open coffin and touched it. The men who were carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus spoke to the dead son: “Young man, I tell you, get up!” <sup>15</sup>Then the boy sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

<sup>16</sup>Everyone was filled with fear. They began praising God and said, “A great prophet is here with us!” and “God has come to help his people.”

<sup>17</sup>This news about Jesus spread all over Judea and to all the other places around there.

### **John Sends Men to Ask Jesus a Question**

*(Matt. 11:2-19)*

<sup>18</sup>John's followers told him about all these things. John called for two of his followers. <sup>19</sup>He sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one we heard was coming, or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>20</sup>So the men came to Jesus. They said, “John the Baptizer sent us to you with this question: ‘Are you the one who is coming, or should we wait for someone else?’”

<sup>21</sup>Right then Jesus healed many people of their sicknesses and diseases. He healed those who had evil spirits and made many who were blind able to see again. <sup>22</sup>Then he said to John's follow-

ers, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: The blind can see. The lame can walk. People with dreaded skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are brought back to life. And the Good News is being told to the poor.<sup>23</sup> Great blessings belong to those who don’t have a problem accepting me.”

<sup>24</sup> When John’s followers left, Jesus began talking to the people about John: “What did you people go out into the desert to see? Someone who is weak, like a stem of grass<sup>§§</sup> blowing in the wind? <sup>25</sup> Really, what did you expect to see? Someone dressed in fine clothes? Of course not. People who wear fancy clothes and live in luxury are all in kings’ palaces. <sup>26</sup> So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, John is a prophet. But I tell you, he is more than that. <sup>27</sup> This Scripture was written about him:

‘Listen! I will send my messenger ahead of you.

He will prepare the way for you.’<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>28</sup> I tell you, no one ever born is greater than John. But even the least important person in God’s kingdom is greater than John.”

<sup>29</sup> (When the people heard this, they all agreed that God’s teaching was good. Even the tax collectors agreed. These were the people who were baptized by John. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and experts in the law refused to accept God’s plan for themselves; they did not let John baptize them.)

<sup>31</sup> “What can I say to describe the people who live today? What can I compare them to? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the marketplace and whining at their friends,  
‘We played flute music for you,

but you would not dance;  
we sang a sad song,  
but you would not cry.’

<sup>33</sup> John the Baptizer came and did not eat the usual food or drink wine. And you say, ‘He has a demon inside him.’

<sup>34</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking. And you say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine! He is a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ <sup>35</sup> But wisdom is shown to be right by those who accept it.”

### A Woman Honours Jesus in a Pharisee’s Home

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus went into the Pharisee’s house and took a place at the table.

<sup>37</sup> There was a sinful woman in that town. She knew that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house. So the woman brought some expensive perfume in an alabaster bottle. <sup>38</sup> She stood at Jesus’ feet, crying. Then she began to wash his feet with her tears. She dried his feet with her hair. She kissed his feet many times and rubbed them with the perfume.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who asked Jesus to come to his house saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet,<sup>†</sup> he would know that the woman who is touching him is a sinner!”

<sup>40</sup> In reply to what the Pharisee was thinking, Jesus said, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

Simon said, “Let me hear it, Teacher.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “There were two men. Both men owed money to the same banker. One man owed him 500 silver coins. The other man owed him 50 silver coins. <sup>42</sup> The men had no money, so they

§§7:24 *stem of grass* Literally, “reed”.

\*7:27 Quote from Mal. 3:1.

†7:39 *prophet* A prophet often knows things that are hidden to other people.

could not pay their debt. But the banker told the men that they did not have to pay him. Which one of those two men will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "I think it would be the one who owed him the most money."

Jesus said to him, "You are right."

<sup>44</sup> Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you gave me no water for my feet. But she washed my feet with her tears and dried my feet with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not greet me with a kiss, but she has been kissing my feet since I came in. <sup>46</sup> You did not honour me with oil for my head, but she rubbed my feet with her expensive perfume. <sup>47</sup> I tell you that her many sins are forgiven. This is clear, because she showed great love. People who are forgiven only a little will love only a little."

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> The people sitting at the table began to think to themselves, "Who does this man think he is? How can he forgive sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Because you believed, you are saved from your sins. Go in peace."

### The Group With Jesus

**8** The next day, Jesus travelled through some cities and small towns. Jesus told the people a message from God, the Good News about God's kingdom. The twelve apostles were with him. <sup>2</sup> There were also some women with him. Jesus had healed these women of sicknesses and evil spirits. One of them was Mary, who was called Magdalene. Seven demons had come out of her. <sup>3</sup> Also with these

women were Joanna, the wife of Chuza (the manager of Herod's property), Susanna and many other women. These women used their own money to help Jesus and his apostles.

### A Story About a Farmer Sowing Seed

(*Matt. 13:1-17; Mark 4:1-12*)

<sup>4</sup> A large crowd came together. People came to Jesus from every town, and he told them this story:

<sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to sow seed. While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell on the path. People walked on the seed, and the birds ate it all. <sup>6</sup> Other seed fell on rock. It began to grow but then died because it had no water. <sup>7</sup> Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. This seed grew, but the weeds grew up with it and slowed the growth of the good plants. <sup>8</sup> The rest of the seed fell on good ground. This seed grew and made 100 times more grain."

Jesus finished the story. Then he called out, "You people who hear me, listen!"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus' followers asked him, "What does this story mean?"

<sup>10</sup> He said, "God has allowed you to know the secret truths about God's kingdom. But I use stories to speak to other people. I do this so that

'They will look,  
but they will not see.  
They will listen,  
but they will not understand.'<sup>‡</sup>

### Jesus Explains the Story About Seed

(*Matt. 13:18-23; Mark 4:13-20*)

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the story means: the seed is God's teaching. <sup>12</sup> Some people are like the seed that fell on the path. They hear God's teaching, but then the devil comes and causes them to stop

<sup>‡</sup>8:10 Quote from Isa. 6:9.

thinking about it. This keeps them from believing it and being saved. <sup>13</sup> Others are like the seed that fell on rock. That is like the people who hear God's teaching and gladly accept it. But they don't have deep roots. They believe for a while. But when trouble comes, they turn away from God.

<sup>14</sup> "What about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches and pleasures of this life slow its growth. So it does not produce good results in their lives."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>15</sup> And what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear God's teaching with a good, honest heart. They obey it and patiently produce a good crop.

### Pay Attention to the Light

*(Mark 4:21-25)*

<sup>16</sup> "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. Instead, they put the lamp on a lampstand so that the people who come in will have enough light to see. <sup>17</sup> Everything that is hidden will become clear. Every secret thing will be made known, and everyone will see it. <sup>18</sup> So think carefully about what you are hearing. The people who have some understanding will receive more. But those who do not have understanding will lose even what they think they have."

### Jesus' Followers Are His True Family

*(Matt. 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35)*

<sup>19</sup> Jesus' mother and brothers came to visit him. But they could not get close to him, because there were so many people. <sup>20</sup> Someone said to Jesus, "Your mother

and your brothers are standing outside. They want to see you."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who listen to God's teaching and obey it."

### Jesus Stops a Storm

*(Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41)*

<sup>22</sup> One day Jesus and his followers got into a boat. He said to them, "Come with me across the lake." And so they started across. <sup>23</sup> While they were sailing, Jesus slept. A big storm blew across the lake, and the boat began to fill with water. They were in danger. <sup>24</sup> The followers went to Jesus and woke him. They said, "Master! Master! We will drown!"

Jesus got up. He gave a command to the wind and the waves. The wind stopped, and the lake became calm. <sup>25</sup> He said to his followers, "Where is your faith?"

They were afraid and amazed. They said to each other, "What kind of man is this? He commands the wind and the water, and they obey him."

### Jesus Frees a Man From Evil Spirits

*(Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20)*

<sup>26</sup> Jesus and his followers sailed on across the lake. They sailed to the area where the Gerasene people<sup>§</sup> live, across from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man from that town came to him. This man had demons inside him. For a long time he had worn no clothes. He did not live in a house but in the caves where the dead are buried.

<sup>28-29</sup> The demon inside the man had often seized him, and he had been put in jail with his hands and feet in chains. But he would always break the chains. The

<sup>1</sup>**8:14 produce ... lives** Literally, "produce a crop to maturity", meaning that these people do not do the good things God wants his people to do.

<sup>§</sup>**8:26 Gerasene people** Some Greek copies have "Gadarenes" and others have "Gergesenes".

demon inside him would force him to go out to the places where no one lived. Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. When the man saw Jesus, he fell down in front of him, shouting loudly, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, don't punish me!"

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

The man answered, "Legion."<sup>\*\*</sup> (He said his name was "Legion" because many demons had gone into him.)<sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.<sup>††</sup> <sup>32</sup> On that hill there was a big herd of pigs eating. The demons begged Jesus to allow them to go into the pigs. So he allowed them to do this.<sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs. The herd of pigs ran down the hill into the lake, and all were drowned.

<sup>34</sup> The men who were caring for the pigs ran away and told the story in the fields and in the town. <sup>35</sup> People went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man sitting there at the feet of Jesus. The man had clothes on and was in his right mind again; the demons were gone. This made the people afraid. <sup>36</sup> The men who saw these things happen told the others all about how Jesus had made the man well. <sup>37</sup> All those who lived in the area around Gerasa asked Jesus to go away because they were afraid.

So Jesus got into the boat to go back to Galilee. <sup>38</sup> The man he had healed begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Go back home and tell people what God has done for you."

So the man went all over town telling what Jesus had done for him.

### Jesus Gives Life to a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

(Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43)

<sup>40</sup> When Jesus went back to Galilee, the people welcomed him. Everyone was waiting for him. <sup>41-42</sup> A man named Jairus came to him. He was a leader of the synagogue. He had only one daughter. She was twelve years old, and she was dying. So Jairus fell down at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house.

While Jesus was going to Jairus' house, the people crowded all around him. <sup>43</sup> A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors,<sup>‡‡</sup> but no doctor was able to heal her. <sup>44</sup> The woman came behind Jesus and touched the bottom of his coat. At that moment, her bleeding stopped. <sup>45</sup> Then Jesus said, "Who touched me?"

They all said they had not touched him. And Peter said, "Master, people are all around you, pushing against you."

<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me. I felt power go out from me."

<sup>47</sup> When the woman saw that she could not hide, she came forward, shaking. She fell to the ground before Jesus. While everyone listened, she explained why she had touched him. Then she said that she had been healed immediately when she touched him. <sup>48</sup> Jesus said to her, "My daughter, you are made well because you believed. Go in peace."

<sup>49</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of the

<sup>\*\*</sup>8:30 *Legion* This name means very many. A legion was about 6000 men in the Roman army.

<sup>††</sup>8:31 *bottomless pit* Literally, "the abyss", something like a deep hole where evil spirits are kept.

<sup>‡‡</sup>8:43 *She had spent ... doctors* Some Greek copies do not have these words.

synagogue leader and said, “Your daughter has died! There is no need to bother the Teacher any more.”

<sup>50</sup> But when Jesus heard this, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid! Just believe and your daughter will be well.”

<sup>51</sup> Jesus went to the house. He let only Peter, John, James and the girl’s father and mother go inside with him. <sup>52</sup> Everyone was crying and feeling sad because the girl was dead. But Jesus said, “Don’t cry. She is not dead. She is only sleeping.”

<sup>53</sup> The people laughed at him, because they knew that the girl was dead. <sup>54</sup> But Jesus held her hand and called to her, “Stand up, my child!” <sup>55</sup> Her spirit came back into her, and she stood up immediately. Jesus said, “Give her something to eat.” <sup>56</sup> The girl’s parents were amazed. He told them not to tell anyone about what had happened.

### **Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission**

*(Matt. 10:5-15; Mark 6:7-13)*

**9** Jesus called his twelve apostles together. He gave them power to heal sicknesses and power to force demons out of people. <sup>2</sup> He sent them to tell about God’s kingdom and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> He said to them, “Take nothing for your trip. Don’t take a walking stick, a bag, food or money. Take only the clothes you are wearing. <sup>4</sup> When you go into a house, stay there until it is time to leave. <sup>5</sup> If the people in the town will not welcome you, go outside the town and shake the dust off your feet as a warning to them.”

<sup>6</sup> The apostles left and went from town to town. They told the Good News and healed people everywhere.

### **Herod Is Confused About Jesus**

*(Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29)*

<sup>7</sup> Herod the ruler heard about all these things that were happening. He was confused because some people said, “John the Baptizer has risen from death.” <sup>8</sup> Others said, “Elijah has come to us.” And some others said, “One of the prophets from long ago has risen from death.” <sup>9</sup> Herod said, “I cut off John’s head. So who is this man I hear these things about?” Herod continued trying to see Jesus.

### **Jesus Feeds More Than 5000**

*(Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-14)*

<sup>10</sup> When the apostles came back, they told Jesus what they had done on their trip. Then he took them away to a town called Bethsaida. There, he and his apostles could be alone together. <sup>11</sup> But the people learned where Jesus went and followed him. He welcomed them and talked with them about God’s kingdom. He healed the people who were sick.

<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon, the twelve apostles came to Jesus and said, “No one lives in this place. Send the people away. They need to find food and places to sleep in the farms and towns around here.”

<sup>13</sup> But Jesus said to the apostles, “You give them something to eat.”

They said, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish. Do you want us to go and buy food for all these people?” <sup>14</sup> (There were about 5000 men there.)

Jesus said to his followers, “Tell the people to sit in groups of about 50 people.”

<sup>15</sup> So the followers did this and everyone sat down. <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish. He looked up into the sky and thanked God for

the food. Then he broke it into pieces, which he gave to the followers to give to the people.<sup>17</sup> They all ate until they were full. And there was a lot of food left. Twelve baskets were filled with the pieces of food that were not eaten.

### **Peter Knows Who Jesus Is**

*(Matt. 16:13-19; Mark 8:27-29)*

<sup>18</sup>One day Jesus was praying alone. His followers came together there, and he asked them, “Who do the people say I am?”

<sup>19</sup>They answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Others say you are Elijah. And some people say you are one of the prophets from long ago that has come back to life.”

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus said to his followers, “And who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus warned them not to tell anyone.

### **Jesus Says He Must Die**

*(Matt. 16:21-28; Mark 8:31 – 9:1)*

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to his followers, “I, the Son of Man, must suffer many things. I will be rejected by the older leaders, the leading priests and teachers of the law. And I will be killed. But three days later, I will be raised from death.”

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to everyone there, “If you want to be my follower, you must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must carry the cross<sup>¶¶</sup> that comes with following me every day.

<sup>24</sup>If you try to save the life you have, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will save it. <sup>25</sup>It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world

if you yourself are destroyed or lose everything.<sup>26</sup> Don’t be ashamed of me and my teaching. If that happens, then I, the Son of Man, will be ashamed of you when I come with my glory and the glory of the Father and the holy angels.<sup>27</sup> Believe me when I say that some of you people standing here will see God’s kingdom before you die.”

### **Jesus Is Seen With Moses and Elijah**

*(Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8)*

<sup>28</sup>About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John and James and went up into the hills to pray. <sup>29</sup>While Jesus was praying, his face began to change. His clothes became shining white.<sup>30</sup> Then two men were there, talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah.<sup>31</sup> They also looked bright and glorious. They were talking with Jesus about how he would leave this earth, which he would soon make happen with his death in Jerusalem.<sup>32</sup> Peter and the others were asleep. But they woke up and saw the glory of Jesus. They also saw the two men who were standing with him.<sup>33</sup> When Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said, “Master, it is good that we are here. We will make three shelters<sup>§§</sup> here—one to honour you, one to honour Moses and one to honour Elijah.” Peter did not know what he was saying.

<sup>34</sup>While Peter was still talking, a cloud came all around them. Peter, John and James were afraid when the cloud covered them.<sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud and said, “This is my Son, the one I have chosen. Do what he says!”

<sup>36</sup>When the voice stopped, only Jesus was there. Peter, John and James said

<sup>¶¶</sup>9:23 *carry the cross* A symbol meaning to accept a new life of shame, suffering and death. See cross in the Word List.

<sup>§§</sup>9:33 *shelters* Or “tents”. The same word is translated “holy tent” in the Old Testament, so it may be used here to mean a place for worship.

nothing. And for a long time after that, they told no one about what they had seen.

### **Jesus Frees a Boy From an Evil Spirit**

*(Matt. 17:14-18; Mark 9:14-27)*

<sup>37</sup>The next day, Jesus, Peter, John and James came down from the mountain. A large group of people met Jesus. <sup>38</sup>A man in the group shouted to him, “Teacher, please come and look at my son. He is the only child I have. <sup>39</sup>An evil spirit comes into him, and then he shouts. He loses control of himself and foams at the mouth. The evil spirit continues to hurt him and almost never leaves him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your followers to make the evil spirit leave my son, but they could not do it.”

<sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, “You people today have no faith. Your lives are all wrong. How long must I be with you and be patient with you?” Then Jesus said to the man, “Bring your son here.”

<sup>42</sup>While the boy was coming, the demon threw the boy to the ground. The boy lost control of himself. But Jesus gave a strong command to the evil spirit. Then the boy was healed, and Jesus gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup>All the people were amazed at the great power of God.

### **Jesus Talks About His Death**

*(Matt. 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32)*

The people were still amazed about all the things Jesus did. He said to his followers, <sup>44</sup>“Don’t forget what I will tell you now: the Son of Man will soon be handed over to the control of other men.” <sup>45</sup>But the followers did not understand what he meant. The meaning was hidden from them so that they could

not understand it. But they were afraid to ask Jesus about what he said.

### **Who Is the Greatest?**

*(Matt. 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37)*

<sup>46</sup>Jesus’ followers began to have an argument about which one of them was the greatest. <sup>47</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he took a little child and stood the child beside him. <sup>48</sup>Then he said to the followers, “When you accept a little child like this as one who belongs to me, you accept me. And anyone who accepts me also accepts the one who sent me. The one among you who is the most humble—this is the one who is great.”

### **Whoever Is Not Against You Is for You**

*(Mark 9:38-40)*

<sup>49</sup>John answered, “Master, we saw someone using your name to force demons out of people. We told him to stop because he does not belong to our group.”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Don’t stop him. Whoever is not against you is for you.”

### **A Samaritan Town**

<sup>51</sup>The time was coming near when Jesus would leave and go back to heaven. He decided to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>He sent some men ahead of him. They went into a town in Samaria to make everything ready for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people there would not welcome Jesus because he was going towards Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his followers James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy those people?”\*

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\*9:54 Some Greek copies add “as Elijah did?”

<sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and criticized them for saying this.<sup>†</sup> <sup>56</sup> Then he and his followers went to another town.

### Following Jesus

(*Matt. 8:19-22*)

<sup>57</sup> They were all travelling along the road. Someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you anywhere you go."

<sup>58</sup> He answered, "The foxes have holes to live in. The birds have nests. But the Son of Man has no place where he can rest his head."

<sup>59</sup> Jesus said to another man, "Follow me!"

But the man said, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first."

<sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Let the people who are dead bury their own dead. You must go and tell about God's kingdom."

<sup>61</sup> Another man said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say goodbye to my family."

<sup>62</sup> Jesus said, "Anyone who begins to plough a field but looks back is not prepared for God's kingdom."

### Jesus Sends Out 72 of His Followers

**10** After this, the Lord chose 72<sup>‡</sup> more followers. He sent them out in groups of two. He sent them ahead of him into every town and place where he planned to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "There is such a big harvest of people to bring in. But there are only a few workers to help bring them in. God owns the har-

vest. Ask him to send more workers to help bring in his harvest.

<sup>3</sup> "You can go now. But listen! I am sending you, and you will be like sheep among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Don't carry any money, a bag or sandals. Don't stop to talk with people on the road. <sup>5</sup> Before you go into a house, say, 'Peace be with this home.' <sup>6</sup> If the people living there love peace, your blessing of peace will stay with them. But if not, your blessing of peace will come back to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in that house. Eat and drink what the people there give you. A worker should be given his pay. Don't leave that house to stay in another house.

<sup>8</sup> "If you go into a town and the people welcome you, eat the food they give you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick people who live there, and tell them, 'God's kingdom is now very near you!'<sup>¶</sup>

<sup>10</sup> "But if you go into a town and the people don't welcome you, then go out into the streets of that town and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dirt from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. But remember this: God's kingdom has now come very near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, on the judgement day it will be worse for the people of that town than for the people of Sodom.

### Warning for Those Who Reject Jesus

(*Matt. 11:20-24*)

<sup>13</sup> "It will be bad for you, Chorazin! It will be bad for you, Bethsaida!<sup>§</sup> You people saw me do many miracles, but you refused to change. If those same mira-

<sup>†</sup>9:55 Some Greek copies add "And he said, 'You don't know what kind of spirit you belong to.' <sup>56</sup> The Son of Man did not come to destroy people's lives but to save them."

<sup>‡</sup>10:1 72 Some Greek copies have 70. Also in verse 17.

<sup>¶</sup>10:9 is now very near you Or "is coming to you soon" or "has come to you".

<sup>§</sup>10:13 *Chorazin, Bethsaida* Jewish towns by Lake Galilee where Jesus did many miracles to show his authority from God. In spite of this, the people refused to change their godless way of living.

cles had happened in Tyre and Sidon,\*\* even those people would have changed their hearts and lives long ago. They would have worn rags and sat in dirt to show that they were sorry for their sins. <sup>14</sup> But on judgement day it will be worse for you than for the people of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to the place of death!

<sup>16</sup> “When anyone listens to you my followers, they are really listening to me. But when anyone refuses to accept you, they are really refusing to accept me. And when anyone refuses to accept me, they are refusing to accept the one who sent me.”

### Satan Falls

<sup>17</sup> When the 72 followers came back from their trip, they were very happy. They said, “Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we used your name!”

<sup>18</sup> Jesus said to them, “I saw Satan falling like lightning from the sky. <sup>19</sup> He is the enemy, but know that I have given you more power than he has. I have given you power to crush his snakes and scorpions under your feet. Nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Yes, even the spirits obey you. And you can be happy, but not because you have this power. Be happy because your names are written in heaven.”

### Jesus Prays to the Father

(*Matt. 11:25-27; 13:16-17*)

<sup>21</sup> Then the Holy Spirit made Jesus feel very happy. Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. I am thankful that you have hidden these

things from those who are so wise and so smart. But you have shown them to people who are like little children. Yes, Father, you did this because it’s what you really wanted to do.

<sup>22</sup> “My Father has given me all things. No one knows who the Son is—only the Father knows. And only the Son knows who the Father is. The only people who will know about the Father are those the Son chooses to tell.”

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus turned to his followers. They were there alone with him. He said, “It is a great blessing for you to see what you now see! <sup>24</sup> I tell you, many prophets and kings wanted to see what you now see, but they could not. And they wanted to hear what you now hear, but they could not.”

### Story About the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> Then an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. He said, “Teacher, what do I have to do to get eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you understand from it?”

<sup>27</sup> The man answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind.’<sup>††</sup> Also, ‘Love your neighbour the same as you love yourself.’<sup>‡‡</sup>”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said, “Your answer is right. Do this and you will have eternal life.”

<sup>29</sup> But the man wanted to show that he was already doing all he needed to do. So he said to Jesus, “But not everyone is my neighbour, right?”

<sup>30</sup> To answer this question, Jesus said, “A man was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some robbers sur-

\*\*10:13 *Tyre and Sidon* Cities filled with idol worship that were well known for how evil they were.

††10:27 Quote from Deut. 6:5.

‡‡10:27 Quote from Lev. 19:18.

rounded him, tore off his clothes and beat him. Then they left him lying there on the ground almost dead.

<sup>31</sup> “It happened that a priest was going down that road. When he saw the man, he did not stop to help him. He walked away. <sup>32</sup> Next, a Levite came near. He saw the hurt man, but he went around him. He too did not stop to help him. He just walked away.

<sup>33</sup> “Now a Samaritan<sup>¶</sup> was travelling down that same road. When he saw the hurt man lying there, he felt very sorry for him. <sup>34</sup> He went over to help him. He poured olive oil and wine<sup>§§</sup> on his wounds and bandaged them. The Samaritan put the hurt man on his donkey and took him to an inn. There he cared for him. <sup>35</sup> The next day, the Samaritan took out two silver coins and gave them to the man who worked at the inn. He said, ‘Take care of this hurt man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.’”

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus said, “Which one of these three men do you think was really a neighbour to the man who was hurt by the robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The law expert answered, “The one who helped him.”

Jesus said, “Then you go and do the same.”

**Mary and Martha**

<sup>38</sup> While Jesus and his followers were travelling, he went into a town, and a woman named Martha let him stay at her house. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to him teach. <sup>40</sup> But her sister Martha was busy doing all the work that had to be done. Martha went in and said,

“Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

<sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about too many things. <sup>42</sup> Only one thing is important. Mary has made the right choice, and it will never be taken away from her.”

**Jesus Teaches About Prayer**

(Matt. 6:9-15)

**11** One day Jesus was out praying. When he finished, one of his followers said to him, “John taught his followers how to pray. Lord, teach us how to pray too.”

<sup>2</sup> Jesus said to the followers, “This is how you should pray:

‘Father, we pray that your name will always be kept holy.

We pray that your kingdom will come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us the food we need for each day.

<sup>4</sup> Forgive our sins,

just as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.

And don’t let us be tempted.’”

**Ask God for What You Need**

(Matt. 7:7-11)

<sup>5-6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you went to your friend’s house very late at night and said to him, ‘A friend of mine has come into town to visit me. But I have nothing for him to eat. Please give me three loaves of bread.’ <sup>7</sup> Your friend inside the house answers, ‘Go away! Don’t bother me! The door is already locked. My children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to give you anything now.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, maybe friendship is not enough to make him get up

<sup>¶</sup>10:33 *Samaritan* The Jews considered Samaritans as enemies. See Samaritan in the Word List.

<sup>§§</sup>10:34 *olive oil and wine* These were used like medicine to soften and clean wounds.

to give you anything. But he will surely get up to give you what you need if you continue to ask. <sup>9</sup> So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you. <sup>10</sup> Yes, whoever continues to ask will receive. Whoever continues to look will find. And whoever continues to knock will have the door opened for them. <sup>11</sup> Do any of you have a son? What would you do if your son asked you for a fish? Would any father give him a snake? <sup>12</sup> Or, if he asked for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? Of course not! <sup>13</sup> Even you who are bad know how to give good things to your children. So surely your heavenly Father knows how to give the Holy Spirit to the people who ask him.”

### **Jesus' Power Is From God**

*(Matt. 12:22-30; Mark 3:20-27)*

<sup>14</sup> Once Jesus was forcing a demon out of a man who could not talk. When the demon came out, the man was able to speak. The crowds were amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of the people said, “Satan,\* the ruler of demons, is the one giving him the power to force demons out of people.”

<sup>16</sup> Some others there wanted to test Jesus. They asked him to do a miracle as a sign from God. <sup>17</sup> But he knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, “Every kingdom that fights against itself will be destroyed. And a family that fights against itself will break apart. <sup>18</sup> You say that Satan is the one giving me the power to force out demons. If that is true, then Satan is fighting against himself, and his kingdom will not survive. <sup>19</sup> And if I use Satan’s power to force out

demons, then what power do your people use when they force out demons? So your own people will prove that you are wrong. <sup>20</sup> But I use the power of God to force out demons. This shows that God’s kingdom has now come to you.

<sup>21</sup> “When a strong man with many weapons guards his own house, the things in his house are safe. <sup>22</sup> But suppose a stronger man comes and defeats him. The stronger man will take away the weapons that the first man trusted to keep his house safe. Then the stronger man will do what he wants with the other man’s things.

<sup>23</sup> “Whoever is not with me is against me. And anyone who does not work with me is working against me.

### **The Danger of Emptiness**

*(Matt. 12:43-45)*

<sup>24</sup> “When an evil spirit comes out of a person, it travels through dry places, looking for a place to rest. But it finds no place to rest. So it says, ‘I will go back to the home I left.’ <sup>25</sup> When it comes back, it finds that home all neat and clean. <sup>26</sup> Then the evil spirit goes out and brings back seven other spirits more evil than itself. They all go and live there, and that person has even more trouble than before.”

### **The People God Blesses**

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus was saying these things, a woman with the people there called out to him, “Blessings from God belong to the woman who gave birth to you and fed you!”

<sup>28</sup> But Jesus said, “The people who hear the teaching of God and obey it—they are the ones who have God’s blessing.”

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\* **11:15 Satan** Literally, “Beelzebul” (the devil). Also in verses 18,19.

### Some People Doubt Jesus' Authority

(Matt. 12:38-42; Mark 8:12)

<sup>29</sup> More and more people crowded around Jesus, and he said, "You people who live today are evil. You ask for a miracle as a sign from God. But no miracle will be done to prove anything to you. The only sign I will give you is the one Jonah<sup>†</sup> gave. <sup>30</sup> Jonah was a sign for those who lived in Nineveh. It is the same with the Son of Man. He will be the same kind of sign for the people of this time.

<sup>31</sup> "On the judgement day, you people who live now will be compared with the queen of the South,<sup>‡</sup> and she will be a witness who shows how guilty you are. Why do I say this? Because she travelled from far, far away to listen to Solomon's wise teaching. And I tell you that someone<sup>¶</sup> greater than Solomon is right here, but you won't listen to me!

<sup>32</sup> "On the judgement day, you people who live now will also be compared with the people from Nineveh, and they will be witnesses who show how guilty you are. I say this because when Jonah preached to those people, they changed their hearts and lives. And you are listening to someone greater than Jonah, but you refuse to change!

### Be a Light for the World

(Matt. 5:15; 6:22-23)

<sup>33</sup> "No one takes a light and puts it under a bowl or hides it. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so that the people who come in can see. <sup>34</sup> The way you look at people shows who you really are. When you look at people in an unselfish way, you are full of light. But when you look at them in a greedy way, you are full of darkness.<sup>§</sup> <sup>35</sup> So be sure your light is not really darkness. <sup>36</sup> If you are full of light, and there is no part of you that is dark, you will shine brightly, as though you are reflecting the brightness of a lamp."

### Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders

(Matt. 23:1-36; Mark

12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47)

<sup>37</sup> After Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee asked Jesus to eat with him. So he went and took a place at the table. <sup>38</sup> But the Pharisee was surprised when he saw that Jesus did not wash<sup>\*\*</sup> before the meal. <sup>39</sup> The Lord said to him, "The washing you Pharisees do is like cleaning only the outside of a cup or a dish. But what is inside you? You want only to cheat and hurt people. <sup>40</sup> You are foolish! The same one who made what is outside also made what is inside. <sup>41</sup> So pay attention to what is inside. Give to the people who need help. Then you will be fully clean.

<sup>†</sup>11:29 **Jonah** A prophet in the Old Testament. After three days in a big fish, he came out alive. He then went to the evil city of Nineveh to give the people there a warning from God.

<sup>‡</sup>11:31 **queen of the South** Or "queen of Sheba". She travelled about 1600 kilometres to learn God's wisdom from Solomon. See 1 Kgs 10:1-13.

<sup>¶</sup>11:31 **someone** Literally, "something". Also in verse 32.

<sup>§</sup>11:34 Literally, "The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is sincere, your whole body is full of light. But if it is evil, your body is dark."

<sup>\*\*</sup>11:38 **wash** Washing the hands or even the whole body was a Jewish religious custom that the Pharisees thought was very important.

<sup>42</sup>“But it will be bad for you Pharisees! You give God a tenth of the food you get, even your mint, your rue and every other little plant in your garden.<sup>††</sup> But you forget to be fair to others and to love God. These are the things you should do. And you should continue to do those other things.

<sup>43</sup>“It will be bad for you Pharisees! You love to have the most important seats in the synagogues. And you love it when people show respect to you in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup>It will be bad for you, because you are like hidden graves that people walk on without realizing it.”

<sup>45</sup>One of the experts in the law said to Jesus, “Teacher, when you say these things about the Pharisees, you are criticizing our group too.”

<sup>46</sup>Jesus answered, “It will be bad for you, you experts in the law! You make strict rules that are very hard for people to obey.<sup>‡‡</sup> You try to force others to obey your rules. But you yourselves don’t even try to follow any of those rules. <sup>47</sup>It will be bad for you, because you build tombs for the prophets. But these are the same prophets your ancestors killed! <sup>48</sup>And now you show all people that you agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you celebrate their murder by building tombs for the prophets! <sup>49</sup>This is why God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them. But they will kill some of my prophets and apostles. They will mistreat others.’

<sup>50</sup>“So you people who live now will be punished for the deaths of all the prophets who have been killed since the beginning of the world. <sup>51</sup>You will be considered guilty for all those deaths, from the killing of Abel to the killing of Zechariah,<sup>¶¶</sup> who was killed between the altar and the Temple. Yes, I tell you that you people will be punished for them all.

<sup>52</sup>“It will be bad for you, you experts in the law! You have taken away the key to learning about God. You yourselves would not learn, and you stopped others from learning too.”

<sup>53</sup>When Jesus left, the teachers of the law and the Pharisees began to give him much trouble. They tried to make him answer questions about many things. <sup>54</sup>They were trying to find a way to catch Jesus saying something wrong.

### Don't Be Like the Pharisees

**12** Many thousands of people came together. There were so many people that they were stepping on each other. Before Jesus spoke to the people, he said to his followers, “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees. I mean that they are hypocrites. <sup>2</sup>Everything that is hidden will be shown, and everything that is secret will be made known. <sup>3</sup>Whatever you say privately will be made public. And whatever you whisper in a closed room will be announced openly where everyone can hear.”

<sup>††</sup>11:42 *You give ... garden* Literally, “You tithe mint, rue and every herb.” The Law of Moses required Israelites to share their food supply by dedicating a tenth of their field crops and livestock to God (see Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 26:12). This did not include such small garden plants as those mentioned here. So these Pharisees were giving more than required to be sure they were not breaking the Law.

<sup>‡‡</sup>11:46 *You make ... obey* Literally, “You put heavy burdens on people that are hard for them to carry.”

<sup>¶¶</sup>11:51 *Abel, Zechariah* In the Hebrew Old Testament, these are the first and last persons murdered. See Gen. 4:8-11 and 2 Chr. 24:20-25.

### Fear Only God

(Matt. 10:28-31)

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to the people, “I tell you, my friends, don’t be afraid of people. They can kill you, but after that they can do nothing more to hurt you. <sup>5</sup>I will show you the one to fear. You should fear God, who has the power to kill you and also to throw you into hell. Yes, he is the one you should fear.

<sup>6</sup>“When birds are sold, five small birds cost only two little copper coins. But God does not forget any of them. <sup>7</sup>Yes, God even knows how many hairs you have on your head. Don’t be afraid. You are worth much more than many birds.

### Don’t Be Ashamed of Your Faith

(Matt. 10:32-33; 12:32; 10:19-20)

<sup>8</sup>“I tell you, if you stand before others and are willing to say you believe in me, then I<sup>§§</sup> will say that you belong to me. I will say this in the presence of God’s angels. <sup>9</sup>But if you stand before others and say you do not believe in me, then I will say that you do not belong to me. I will say this in the presence of God’s angels.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever says something against the Son of Man can be forgiven. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

<sup>11</sup>“You will be brought to trial in the synagogues before the leaders and other important men. But when that happens, don’t worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say. <sup>12</sup>The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

### Jesus Warns Against Selfishness

<sup>13</sup>One of the men in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, our father just died and

left some things for us. Tell my brother to share them with me.”

<sup>14</sup>But Jesus said to him, “Who said I should be your judge or decide how to divide your father’s things between you and your brother?” <sup>15</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. People do not get life from the many things they own.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Jesus used this story: “There was a rich man who had some land. His land grew a very good crop of food. <sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.’

<sup>18</sup>“Then he said, ‘I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger barns! I will put all my wheat and good things together in my new barns. <sup>19</sup>Then I can say to myself, I have many good things stored. I have saved enough for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy life!’

<sup>20</sup>“But God said to that man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So what about the things you prepared for yourself? Who will get those things now?’

<sup>21</sup>“This is how it will be for anyone who saves things only for himself. To God that person is not rich.”

### Put God’s Kingdom First

(Matt. 6:25-34, 19-21)

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to his followers, “So I tell you, don’t worry about the things you need to live—what you will eat or what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>Life is more than what you eat, and you are more than what you wear. <sup>24</sup>Look at the crows. They don’t plant, harvest or save food in houses or barns, but God feeds them. And you are worth much more than birds. <sup>25</sup>None of you can add any time to your life by worrying about it. <sup>26</sup>And if you can’t do the

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§§12:8 I Literally, “the Son of Man” (Jesus).

little things, why worry about the big things?

<sup>27</sup>“Think about how the wild flowers grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. <sup>28</sup>If God makes what grows in the field so beautiful, what do you think he will do for you? That’s just grass—one day it’s alive, and the next day someone throws it into a fire. But God cares enough to make it beautiful. Surely he will do much more for you. Your faith is so small!

<sup>29</sup>“So don’t always think about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don’t worry about it. <sup>30</sup>That’s what all those people in the world who don’t know God are always thinking about. But your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup>What you should be thinking about is God’s kingdom. Then he will give you all these other things you need.

### **Don’t Trust in Money**

<sup>32</sup>“Don’t fear, little flock. Your Father wants to share his kingdom with you. <sup>33</sup>Sell the things you have and give that money to those who need it. This is the only way you can keep your riches from being lost. You will be storing treasure in heaven that lasts forever. Thieves can’t steal that treasure, and moths can’t destroy it. <sup>34</sup>Your heart will be where your treasure is.

### **Always Be Ready**

*(Matt. 24:42-44)*

<sup>35</sup>“Be ready! Be fully dressed and have your lights shining. <sup>36</sup>Be like servants who are waiting for their master to come home from a wedding party. When the master comes and knocks, the servants

immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup>When their master sees that they are ready and waiting for him, it will be a happy day for those servants. I can tell you without a doubt, the master will get himself ready to serve a meal and tell the servants to sit down. Then he will serve them. <sup>38</sup>Those servants might have to wait until midnight or later for their master. But they will be glad they did when he comes in and finds them still waiting.

<sup>39</sup>“What would a home owner do if he knew when a thief was coming? You know he would not let the thief break in. <sup>40</sup>So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at a time when you don’t expect him!”

### **Who Is the Trusted Servant?**

*(Matt. 24:45-51)*

<sup>41</sup>Peter said, “Lord, did you tell this story for us or for all people?”

<sup>42</sup>The Lord said, “Imagine a servant whose master puts him in charge of giving his other servants their food at the right time. Who is the servant that the master trusts to do that work? <sup>43</sup>When the master comes and finds him doing the work he gave him, that day will be a happy one for that servant! <sup>44</sup>I can tell you without a doubt, the master will choose that servant to take care of everything he owns.

<sup>45</sup>“But what will happen if that servant is a bad person and thinks his master will not come back soon? He will start beating the other servants, men and women. He will eat and drink until he has had too much. <sup>46</sup>Then the master will come at an unexpected time, when the servant is not ready. The master will punish that servant severely\* and send

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\*12:46 *punish ... severely* Literally, “cut him in half”.

him to join the other servants who don't obey.

<sup>47</sup>“That servant knew what his master wanted him to do. But he did not make himself ready or try to do what his master wanted. So that servant will be punished very much! <sup>48</sup>But what about the servant who does not know what his master wants? He also does things that deserve punishment. But he will get less punishment than the servant who knew what he should do. Whoever has been given much will be responsible for much. Much more will be expected from the one who has been given more.”

### Following Jesus Brings Trouble

(*Matt. 10:34-36*)

<sup>49</sup>Jesus continued speaking: “I came to bring fire to the world. I wish it were already burning! <sup>50</sup>There is a kind of baptism<sup>†</sup> that I must suffer through. And I feel very troubled until it is finished.

<sup>51</sup>Do you think I came to give peace to the world? No, I came to divide the world! <sup>52</sup>From now on, a family of five will be divided, three against two and two against three.

<sup>53</sup>Fathers will turn against their sons and sons against their fathers.  
Mothers will turn against their daughters  
and daughters against their mothers.  
Mothers-in-law will turn against their daughters-in-law  
and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law.”<sup>‡</sup>

### Understanding the Times

(*Matt. 16:2-3*)

<sup>54</sup>Then Jesus said to the people, “When you see clouds growing bigger

in the west, you say, ‘A storm is coming.’ And soon it begins to rain. <sup>55</sup>When you feel the wind begin to blow from the south, you say, ‘It will be a hot day.’ And you are right. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You can look at the earth and sky and know what the weather will be. Why can't you understand what is happening now?

### Settle Your Problems

(*Matt. 5:25-26*)

<sup>57</sup>“Why can't you decide for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup>Suppose someone is suing you, and you are both going to court. Try hard to settle it on the way. If you don't settle it, they may drag you before the judge. And the judge will hand you over to the officer, who will throw you into jail. <sup>59</sup>I tell you, you will not get out of there until you have paid every cent you owe.”

### Change Your Lives

**13** Some people there with Jesus at that time told him about what had happened to some worshippers from Galilee. Pilate had ordered them to be killed. Their blood was mixed with the blood of the animals they had brought for sacrificing. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you think this happened to those people because they were more sinful than all other people from Galilee? <sup>3</sup>No, they were not. But if you don't decide now to change your lives, you will all be destroyed like those people! <sup>4</sup>And what about those 18 people who died when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were more sinful than everyone else in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>They were not. But I tell you if you don't decide now

<sup>†</sup>**12:50 baptism** This word, which usually means to be immersed in water, has a special meaning here—being covered or “buried” in troubles.

<sup>‡</sup>**12:53** See Mic. 7:6.

to change your lives, you will all be destroyed too!”

### The Useless Tree

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told this story: “A man had a fig tree growing in his garden. He came looking for some fruit on it, but he found none. <sup>7</sup> He had a servant who took care of his garden. So he said to his servant, ‘I have been looking for fruit on this tree for three years, but I never find any. Cut it down! Why should it waste the ground?’ <sup>8</sup> But the servant answered, ‘Master, let the tree have one more year to produce fruit. Let me dig up the dirt around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> Maybe the tree will have fruit on it next year. If it still does not produce, then you can cut it down.’”

### Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath

<sup>10</sup> Jesus taught in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. <sup>11</sup> A woman was there who had an evil spirit inside her that had crippled her for 18 years. Her back was always bent, so she could not stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he told her to come closer and said to her, “You are now free<sup>f</sup> from your suffering!” <sup>13</sup> He laid his hands on her, and immediately she was able to stand up straight. She began praising God.

<sup>14</sup> The synagogue leader was angry because Jesus had healed someone on the Sabbath day. He said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come to be healed on one of those days. Don’t come for healing on the Sabbath day.”

<sup>15</sup> The Lord answered, “You people are hypocrites! All of you untie your work animals and lead them to drink water every day—even on the Sabbath day.

<sup>16</sup> This woman that I healed is a true descendant of Abraham.<sup>§</sup> But Satan has held her for 18 years. Surely it is not wrong for her to be made free from Satan’s grip on a Sabbath day!” <sup>17</sup> Jesus’ answer shamed all those who were criticizing him. And all the people were happy about the wonderful things he was doing.

### Another Kingdom Story

(*Matt. 13:31-33; Mark 4:30-32*)

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus said, “What is God’s kingdom like? What can I compare it to? <sup>19</sup> God’s kingdom is like the seed of the mustard plant that a man plants in his garden. The seed grows and becomes a tree big enough for birds to make nests in its branches.”

<sup>20</sup> Jesus said again, “What can I compare God’s kingdom with? <sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman uses to make bread. She mixes just a little yeast into a huge amount of flour, but the yeast makes all the dough rise.”

### The Narrow Door

(*Matt. 7:13-14,21-23*)

<sup>22</sup> Jesus was teaching in every town and village. He continued to travel towards Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> Someone said to him, “Lord, how many people will be saved? Only a few?”

Jesus said, <sup>24</sup> “The door to God’s kingdom is narrow. Try hard to enter it. Many people will want to enter there, but they will not be able to go in. <sup>25</sup> If a man locks the door of his house, you can stand outside and knock on the door, but he won’t open it. You can say, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you. Where did you come

<sup>f</sup>**13:12** *You are now free* Literally, “Woman, you are now free.” Unlike today, “Woman” was a polite way to address any woman.

<sup>§</sup>**13:16** *true descendant of Abraham* Literally, “daughter of Abraham”.

from?’<sup>26</sup> Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you. You taught in the streets of our town.’<sup>27</sup> Then he will say to you, ‘I don’t know you. Where did you come from? Get away from me! You are all people who do wrong!’

<sup>28</sup>“You will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in God’s kingdom. But you will be thrown outside. There you will cry and grind your teeth in pain.<sup>29</sup> People will come from the east, west, north and south. They will sit down at the table in God’s kingdom.<sup>30</sup> People who have the lowest place in life now will have the highest place in God’s kingdom. And people who have the highest place now will have the lowest place in God’s kingdom.”

### Jesus Will Die in Jerusalem

(Matt. 23:37-39)

<sup>31</sup> Just then some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Go away from here and hide. Herod wants to kill you!”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Go and tell that fox,<sup>\*\*</sup> ‘Today and tomorrow I am forcing demons out of people and finishing my work of healing. Then, the next day, the work will be finished.’<sup>33</sup> After that, I must go, because all prophets should die in Jerusalem.

<sup>34</sup> “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets. You stone to death the people God has sent to you. How many times I wanted to help your people. I wanted to gather them together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you did not let me.<sup>35</sup> Now your home will be left completely empty. I tell you, you will not see me again until that time when you will say, ‘Welcome! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”<sup>††</sup>

### Is It Right to Heal on the Sabbath Day?

**14** On a Sabbath day, Jesus went to the home of a leading Pharisee to eat with him. The people there were all watching him very closely.<sup>2</sup> A man with badly swollen arms and legs was there in front of him.<sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it right or wrong to heal on the Sabbath day?”<sup>4</sup> But they would not answer his question. So he took the man and healed him. Then he sent the man away.<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to the Pharisees and experts in the law, “If your son or work animal falls into a well on the Sabbath day, you know you would pull him out immediately.”<sup>6</sup> They could say nothing against what Jesus said.

### Don’t Make Yourself Important

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit. So he told this story:<sup>8</sup> “When someone invites you to a wedding, don’t sit in the most important seat. They may have invited someone more important than you.<sup>9</sup> And if you are sitting in the most important seat, they will come to you and say, ‘Give this man your seat!’ Then you will have to move down to the last place and be embarrassed.

<sup>10</sup> “So when someone invites you, go and sit in the seat that is not important. Then they will come to you and say, ‘Friend, move up here to this better place!’ What an honour this will be for you in front of all the other guests.<sup>11</sup> Everyone who makes themselves important will be made humble. But everyone who makes themselves humble will be made important.”

<sup>\*\*</sup>13:32 *fox* Jesus means that Herod is clever and sly like a fox.

<sup>††</sup>13:35 Quote from Ps. 118:26.

### You Will Be Rewarded

<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus said to the Pharisee who had invited him, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite only your friends, brothers, relatives and rich neighbours. At another time they will pay you back by inviting you to eat with them. <sup>13</sup>Instead, when you give a feast, invite the poor, the lame and the blind. <sup>14</sup>This will bring you great blessings, because these people have nothing and cannot pay you back. But God will reward you on the day when all who please him will rise from death.”

### A Story About a Big Feast

(*Matt. 22:1-10*)

<sup>15</sup>When one of the men at the table with Jesus heard this, he said, “It will be a blessing for anyone to eat a meal in God’s kingdom!”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to him, “There was a man who planned a big feast. He invited many people. <sup>17</sup>When it was time for the feast to begin, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Please come now. Everything is ready.’ <sup>18</sup>But all the guests said they could not come. Each one made an excuse. The first one said, ‘I just bought a field, so I have to go and look at it. Please excuse me.’ <sup>19</sup>Another man said, ‘I just bought five pairs of oxen and want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ <sup>20</sup>A third man said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

<sup>21</sup>“So the servant went back and told his master what had happened. The master was angry. He said, ‘Hurry! Go to every street and alley in town. Bring me the poor, the paralysed, the blind and the lame.’

<sup>22</sup>“Later, the servant said to him, ‘Master, I did what you told me to do, but we still have places for more people.’ <sup>23</sup>So the master said, ‘Go out to the country roads, along the fences, and tell the people there to come. I want my house to be full! <sup>24</sup>I tell you, not one of those people I invited first will eat any of this food I prepared.’”

### Decide If You Can Follow Me

(*Matt. 10:37-38*)

<sup>25</sup>Many people were travelling with Jesus. He said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If you come to me but do not put me first in your life, you cannot be my follower. You must love me more than<sup>‡‡</sup> your father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters—even more than your own life! <sup>27</sup>Whoever will not carry the cross<sup>¶¶</sup> that comes with following me cannot be my follower.

<sup>28</sup>“If you wanted to build a building, you would first sit down and decide how much it would cost. You must see if you have enough money to finish the job. <sup>29</sup>If you don’t do that, you might begin the work, but you would not be able to finish. And if you could not finish it, everyone would laugh at you. <sup>30</sup>They would say, ‘This man began to build, but he was not able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“If a king is going to fight against another king, first he will sit down and plan. If he has only 10,000 men, he will try to decide if he is able to defeat the other king who has 20,000 men. <sup>32</sup>If he thinks he cannot defeat the other king, he will send some men to ask for peace while that king’s army is still far away.

<sup>33</sup>“It is the same for each of you. You must leave everything you have to

<sup>‡‡</sup>14:26 *love me more than* Literally, “hate”. See Matt 10:37.

<sup>¶¶</sup>14:27 *carry the cross* A symbol meaning to accept a new life of shame, suffering and death. See cross in the Word List.

follow me. If not, you cannot be my follower.

### Don't Lose Your Influence

(Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:50)

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is a good thing. But if the salt loses its salty taste, you can't make it salty again. <sup>35</sup>It is worth nothing. You can't even use it for the soil or for the manure pile. People just throw it away.

“You people who hear me, listen!”

### Joy in Heaven

(Matt. 18:12-14)

**15** The tax collectors and sinners all kept coming to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup>So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain, “Look, this man<sup>§§</sup> welcomes sinners and even eats with them!”

<sup>3</sup>So Jesus told them this story: <sup>4</sup>“Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but one of them gets lost. What will you do? You will leave the other 99 sheep there in the field and go out and look for the lost sheep. You will continue to search for it until you find it. <sup>5</sup>And when you find it, you will be very happy. You will carry it <sup>6</sup>home, go to your friends and neighbours and say to them, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!’ <sup>7</sup>In the same way, I tell you, heaven is a happy place when one sinner decides to change. There is more joy for that one sinner than for 99 good people who don't need to change.

<sup>8</sup>“Suppose a woman has ten silver coins,\* but she loses one of them. She will take a light and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbours and say

to them, ‘Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!’ <sup>10</sup>In the same way, it's a happy time for the angels of God when one sinner decides to change.”

### Story About Two Sons

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me now the part of your property that I am supposed to receive some day.’ So the father divided his wealth between his two sons.

<sup>13</sup>“A few days later the younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He travelled far away to another country, and there he wasted his money living like a fool. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything he had, there was a terrible famine throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money. <sup>15</sup>So he went and got a job with one of the people who lived there. The man sent him into the fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When the son realized how foolish he had been, he thought, ‘All my father's hired workers have plenty of food. But here I am, almost dead because I have nothing to eat. <sup>18</sup>I will leave and go to my father. This is what I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But let me be like one of your hired workers.’ <sup>20</sup>So he left and went to his father.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and felt sorry for him. So he ran to him and hugged and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>The son said, ‘Father,

§§**15:2 this man** That is, Jesus. His enemies avoided saying his name.

\***15:8 silver coins** Each coin, a Greek *drachma*, was worth the average pay for one day's work.

I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring our best calf and kill it so that we can celebrate with plenty to eat. <sup>24</sup>My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!’ So they began to have a party.

<sup>25</sup>“The older son had been out in the field. When he came near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called to one of the servants and asked, ‘What does all this mean?’ <sup>27</sup>The servant said, ‘Your brother has come back, and your father killed the best calf to eat. He is happy because he has his son back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older son was angry and would not go in to the party. So his father went out and begged him to come in. <sup>29</sup>But he said to his father, ‘Look, for all these years I have worked like a slave for you. I have always done what you told me to do, and you never gave me even a young goat for a party with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But then this son of yours comes home after wasting your money on prostitutes, and you kill the best calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“His father said to him, ‘Oh, my son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But this was a day to be happy and celebrate. Your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.’”

### True Wealth

**16** Jesus said to his followers, “Once there was a rich man. He hired a manager to take care of his business. Later, he was told that his manager was wasting his money. <sup>2</sup>So he called the manager in and said to him, ‘I have heard bad things about you. Give me a report of what you have done with my money. You can’t be my manager any more.’

<sup>3</sup>“So, the manager thought to himself, ‘What will I do? My master is taking my job away from me. I am not strong enough to dig ditches. I am too proud to beg. <sup>4</sup>I know what I will do! I will do something to make friends so when I lose my job, they will welcome me into their homes.’

<sup>5</sup>“So the manager called in each person who owed the master some money. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘I owe him 100 large jars<sup>†</sup> of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Here is your bill. Hurry! Sit down and make the bill less. Write 50 jars.’

<sup>7</sup>“Then the manager asked another one, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘I owe him 100 measures<sup>‡</sup> of wheat.’ Then the manager said to him, ‘Here is your bill; you can change it to 80 measures.’

<sup>8</sup>“Later, the master told the dishonest manager that he had done a smart thing. Yes, worldly people are smarter in their business with each other than the people who belong to the light.<sup>¶</sup>

<sup>9</sup>“Here’s what I mean: use the things you have in this world to make ‘friends’

<sup>†</sup>16:6 *jars* Greek *batous*, from the Hebrew *bath*, a measure equalling about 22 litres.

<sup>‡</sup>16:7 *measures* Greek *korous*, from the Hebrew *cor*, a measure equalling about 220 litres.

<sup>¶</sup>16:8 *people ... light* Literally, “sons of light”. See John 16:35-36.

for later. If you make friends with God, when the things you have now are gone, you will be welcomed into a home that lasts forever. <sup>10</sup>Whoever can be trusted with small things can also be trusted with big things. Whoever is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in big things too. <sup>11</sup>If you cannot be trusted with worldly riches, you will not be trusted with the true riches. <sup>12</sup>And if you cannot be trusted with the things that belong to someone else, you will not be given anything of your own.

<sup>13</sup>“A slave cannot serve two masters at the same time, and neither can you. You will hate one master and love the other. Or you will be loyal to one and not care about the other. You cannot serve God and Money<sup>s</sup> too.”

### God’s Law Cannot Be Changed

(Matt. 11:12-13)

<sup>14</sup>When the Pharisees heard what Jesus said, they laughed at him because they all loved money. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to them, “You make yourselves look good in front of people. But God knows what is really in your hearts. The things people think are important are disgusting to God.

<sup>16</sup>“Before John the Baptizer came, people were taught the Law of Moses and the writings of the prophets. But since the time of John, the Good News about God’s kingdom is being told. And everyone is trying hard to get into it.”

<sup>17</sup>But not even the smallest part of a letter in the Law can be changed. It would be easier for heaven and earth to disappear. <sup>18</sup>So I say that any man who

divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of adultery. Also, the man who marries a divorced woman is guilty of adultery.”

### The Rich Man and Lazarus

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said, “There was a rich man who always dressed in the finest clothes. He was so rich that he was able to enjoy all the best things every day. <sup>20</sup>There was also a very poor man named Lazarus. Lazarus’ body was covered with sores. He was often put by the rich man’s gate. <sup>21</sup>Lazarus wanted only to eat the scraps of food left on the floor under the rich man’s table. And the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup>“Later, Lazarus died. The angels took him and put him in the place of honour beside Abraham.<sup>††</sup> The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>He was sent to the place of death<sup>‡‡</sup> and was in great pain. He saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to me so that he can dip his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am suffering in this fire!’

<sup>25</sup>“But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember when you lived? You had all the good things in life. But Lazarus had nothing but problems. Now he is comforted here, and you are suffering. <sup>26</sup>Besides that, there is a big pit between you and us. No one can cross over to help you, and no one can come here from there.’

<sup>27</sup>“The rich man said, ‘Then please, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father’s house on earth. <sup>28</sup>I have five brothers. He could warn my brothers so

§16:13 *Money* Or “*mamona*,” an Aramaic word meaning “wealth”.

\*\*16:16 *trying hard to get into it* Other possible translations of this difficult phrase: “fighting against it” or “urged to be a part of it”.

††16:22 *place ... Abraham* Literally, “by Abraham’s side”, which describes the place of honour at the banquet in the future kingdom of God described in Matt. 8:11.

‡‡16:23 *place of death* Literally, “Hades”.

that they will not come to this place of pain.’

<sup>29</sup>“But Abraham said, ‘They have the Law of Moses and the writings of the prophets to read; let them learn from that.’

<sup>30</sup>“The rich man said, ‘No, father Abraham! But if someone came to them from the dead, then they would decide to change their lives.’

<sup>31</sup>“But Abraham said to him, ‘If your brothers won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen to someone who comes back from the dead.’”

### Sin and Forgiveness

(*Matt. 18:6-7,21-22; Mark 9:42*)

**17** Jesus said to his followers, “Things will surely happen that will make people sin. But it will be very bad for anyone who makes this happen. <sup>2</sup>Some of these people here may seem unimportant. But it will be very bad for anyone who causes any of them to sin. It would be better for that person to have a millstone tied around the neck and be drowned in the sea. <sup>3</sup>So be careful!

“If your brother or sister in God’s family does something wrong, warn them. If they are sorry for what they did, forgive them. <sup>4</sup>Even if they do something wrong to you seven times in one day, but they say they are sorry each time, you should forgive them.”

### How Big Is Your Faith?

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, “Give us more faith!”

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said, “If your faith is as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Dig yourself up and plant

yourself in the ocean!’ And the tree will obey you.

### Be Good Servants

<sup>7</sup>“Suppose one of you has a servant who has been working in the field, ploughing or caring for the sheep. When he comes in from work, what would you say to him? ‘Come in, sit down and eat?’ <sup>8</sup>Of course not! You would say to your servant, ‘Prepare something for me to eat. Then get ready and serve me. When I finish eating and drinking, then you can eat.’ <sup>9</sup>The servant should not get any special thanks for doing his job. He is only doing what his master told him to do. <sup>10</sup>It is the same with you. When you finish doing all that you are told to do, you should say, ‘We are only servants, not worthy of any special thanks. We have done nothing more than the work we should do.’”

### Jesus Heals Some Jews and a Samaritan

<sup>11</sup>Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem. As he left Galilee, he went along the border of Samaria. <sup>12</sup>He came into a small town, and ten men met him there. They did not come close to him, because they all had a dreaded skin disease. <sup>13</sup>But the men shouted, “Jesus! Master! Please help us!”

<sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw the men, he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”<sup>¶¶</sup>

While the ten men were going to the priests, they were healed. <sup>15</sup>When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God loudly. <sup>16</sup>He fell to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (He was a Samaritan.) <sup>17</sup>Jesus said, “Ten men were healed;

<sup>¶¶</sup>17:14 *show yourselves to the priests* The Law of Moses said a priest must decide when a person with a skin disease was well.

where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup>This man is not even one of our people. Is he the only one who came back to give praise to God?" <sup>19</sup>Then Jesus said to the man, "Stand up! You can go. You were healed because you believed."

### The Coming of God's Kingdom

(Matt. 24:23-28,37-41)

<sup>20</sup>Some of the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will God's kingdom come?"

Jesus answered, "The coming of God's kingdom is not something you can see.

<sup>21</sup>People will not say, 'Look, God's kingdom is here!' or 'There it is!' No, God's kingdom is here with you.<sup>§§</sup>"

<sup>22</sup>Then Jesus said to his followers, "The time will come when you will want very much to see one of the days when the Son of Man will be present again, but you will not be able to. <sup>23</sup>People will say to you, 'Look, there he is!' or 'Look, here he is!' Stay where you are; don't go out looking for him. <sup>24</sup>Just be patient, because when the Son of Man comes again, you will know it. On that day he will shine like lightning flashes across the sky. <sup>25</sup>But first, the Son of Man must suffer many things. The people of today will refuse to accept him.

<sup>26</sup>"When the Son of Man comes again, it will be the same as it was when Noah lived. <sup>27</sup>People were eating, drinking and getting married even on the day when Noah entered the boat. Then the flood came and killed them all.

<sup>28</sup>"The same thing happened in the time of Lot, when God destroyed Sodom. The people there were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting and building houses for themselves. <sup>29</sup>But on the day

that Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from the sky and killed them all. <sup>30</sup>This is exactly how it will be when the Son of Man comes again.

<sup>31</sup>"On that day if a man is on his roof, he will not have time to go inside and get his things. If a man is in the field, he cannot go back home. <sup>32</sup>Remember what happened to Lot's wife!\*

<sup>33</sup>"Whoever tries to keep the life they have will lose it. But whoever gives up their life will save it. <sup>34</sup>That night there may be two people sleeping in one room. One will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup>Two women will be grinding grain together. One will be taken and the other will be left." <sup>36</sup>†

<sup>37</sup>The followers asked Jesus, "Where will this be, Lord?"

Jesus answered, "It's like looking for a dead body—you will find it where the vultures are gathering."

### God Will Answer His People

**18** Then Jesus taught the followers that they should always pray and never lose hope. He used this story to teach them: <sup>2</sup>"Once there was a judge in a town. He did not care about God. He also did not care what people thought about him. <sup>3</sup>In that same town there was a woman whose husband had died. She came many times to this judge and said, 'There is a man who is doing bad things to me. Give me my rights!' <sup>4</sup>At first the judge did not want to help the woman. But after some time, he thought to himself, 'I don't care about God. And I don't care about what people think. <sup>5</sup>But this woman is bothering me. I will give her what is right so that she will leave me

§§17:21 *here with you* Or "inside you".

\*17:32 *Lot's wife* The story about Lot's wife is found in Gen. 19:15-17,26.

†17:36 A few Greek copies add verse 36: "Two men will be in the same field. One man will be taken, but the other man will be left behind."

alone. If I don't help her, she may end up coming and attacking me."

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said, "Listen, there is meaning in what the bad judge said. <sup>7</sup>God's people shout to him night and day, and he will always give them what is right. He will not be slow to answer them. <sup>8</sup>I tell you, God will help his people quickly. But when the Son of Man comes again, will he find people on earth who still believe in him?"

### A Pharisee and a Tax Collector

<sup>9</sup>There were some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else. Jesus used this story to teach them: <sup>10</sup>"One day a Pharisee and a tax collector both went to the Temple to pray. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he said, 'God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men who steal, cheat or commit adultery. I thank you that I am better than this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>Yes, I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of all I get!'

<sup>13</sup>"The tax collector stood alone too. But when he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. He felt sorry and was pounding his chest, saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this tax collector, not the Pharisee, had God's approval when he went home. People who make themselves important will be made humble. But those who make themselves humble will be made important."

### Jesus Welcomes Children

*(Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16)*

<sup>15</sup>Some people brought even their babies to Jesus so that he could lay his hands on them to bless them. But when

the followers saw this, they told the people not to do this. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called the little children to him and said to his followers, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like children. <sup>17</sup>The truth is, you must accept God's kingdom like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it."

### A Rich Man Refuses to Follow Jesus

*(Matt. 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31)*

<sup>18</sup>A religious leader asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. <sup>20</sup>And you know his commands: 'You must not commit adultery, you must not murder anyone, you must not steal, you must not tell lies about others, you must respect your father and mother.'"<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>21</sup>But the leader said, "I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy."

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to the leader, "But there is still one thing you need to do. Sell everything you have and give the money to those who are poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me." <sup>23</sup>But when the man heard Jesus tell him to give away his money, he was sad. He didn't want to do this, because he was very rich.

<sup>24</sup>When Jesus saw that the man was sad, he said, "It will be very hard for rich people to enter God's kingdom. <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

<sup>26</sup>When the people heard this, they said, "Then who can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup>Jesus answered, "God can do things that are not possible for people to do."

<sup>‡</sup>18:20 Quote from Exod. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20.

<sup>28</sup> Peter said, “Look, we left everything we had and followed you.”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “I can promise that everyone who has left their home, wife, brothers, parents or children for God’s kingdom <sup>30</sup> will get much more than they left. They will get many times more in this life. And in the world that is coming they will get the reward of eternal life.”

### Jesus Talks Again About His Death

(*Matt. 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34*)

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus talked to the twelve apostles alone. He said to them, “Listen, we are going to Jerusalem. Everything that God told the prophets to write about the Son of Man will happen. <sup>32</sup> He will be handed over to the foreigners, who will laugh at him, insult him and spit on him. <sup>33</sup> They will beat him with whips and then kill him. But on the third day after his death, he will rise to life again.” <sup>34</sup> The apostles tried to understand this, but they could not; the meaning was hidden from them.

### Jesus Heals a Blind Man

(*Matt. 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52*)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus came near to the city of Jericho. There was a blind man sitting beside the road. He was begging people for money. <sup>36</sup> When he heard the people coming down the road, he asked, “What is happening?”

<sup>37</sup> They told him, “Jesus, the one from Nazareth, is coming here.”

<sup>38</sup> The blind man was excited and said, “Jesus, Son of David, please help me!”

<sup>39</sup> The people who were in front leading the group, criticized the blind man. They told him to be quiet. But he shouted even louder, “Son of David, please help me!”

<sup>40</sup> Jesus stopped there and said, “Bring that man to me!” When he came close, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, “You can see now. You are healed because you believed.”

<sup>43</sup> Then the man was able to see. He followed Jesus, thanking God. Everyone who saw this praised God for what happened.

### Zacchaeus

**19** Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. <sup>2</sup> In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was. There were many others who wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus was too short to see above the people. <sup>4</sup> So he ran to a place where he knew Jesus would pass. Then he climbed a sycamore tree so he could see him.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was, he looked up and saw him in the tree. Jesus said, “Zacchaeus, hurry! Come down! I must stay at your house today.”

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus hurried and came down. He was happy to have Jesus in his house.

<sup>7</sup> Everyone saw this. They began to complain, “Look at the kind of man Jesus is staying with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!”

<sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there facing the Lord and said, “Listen to me, Lord. I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times more.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said, “Today is the day for this family to be saved. Yes, even this tax collector is one of God’s chosen people.”<sup>†</sup>

<sup>10</sup> The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.”

<sup>†</sup>19:9 *one of God’s chosen people* Literally, “a son of Abraham”.

## A Story About Three Servants

(Matt. 25:14-30)

<sup>11</sup> As the crowd listened to what he was saying, Jesus went on to tell a story. He was now near Jerusalem and knew that the people thought it was almost time for God's kingdom to come. <sup>12</sup> So he said, "A very important man was preparing to go to a country far away to be made a king. Then he planned to return home and rule his people. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants together. He gave a bag of money<sup>§</sup> to each servant. He said, 'Do business with this money until I come back.' <sup>14</sup> But the people in the kingdom hated the man. They sent a group to follow him to the other country. There they said, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

<sup>15</sup> "But the man was made king. When he came home, he said, 'Call those servants who have my money. I want to know how much more money they earned with it.' <sup>16</sup> The first servant came and said, 'Sir, I earned ten bags of money with the one bag you gave me.' <sup>17</sup> The king said to him, 'That's great! You are a good servant. I see that I can trust you with small things. So now I will let you rule over ten of my cities.'

<sup>18</sup> "The second servant said, 'Sir, with your one bag of money I earned five bags.' <sup>19</sup> The king said to this servant, 'You can rule over five cities.'

<sup>20</sup> "Then another servant came in and said to the king, 'Sir, here is your bag of money. I wrapped it in a piece of cloth and hid it. <sup>21</sup> I was afraid of you because you are a hard man. You even take money that you didn't earn and gather food that you didn't grow.'

<sup>22</sup> "Then the king said to him, 'What a bad servant you are! I will use your own words to condemn you. You said that I am a hard man. You said that I even take money that I didn't earn and gather food that I didn't grow. <sup>23</sup> If that is true, you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came back, my money would have earned some interest.' <sup>24</sup> Then the king said to the men who were watching, 'Take the bag of money away from this servant and give it to the servant who earned ten bags of money.'

<sup>25</sup> "The men said to the king, 'But sir, that servant already has ten bags of money.'

<sup>26</sup> "The king said, 'Those who earned some profit will get more. But those who did not make a profit will have everything taken away from them. <sup>27</sup> Now where are my enemies? Where are the people who did not want me to be king? Bring my enemies here and kill them. I will watch them die.'"

## Jesus Enters Jerusalem Like a King

(Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19)

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus said these things, he continued travelling towards Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> He came near Bethphage and Bethany, towns near the hill called the Mount of Olives. He then sent out two of his followers. <sup>30</sup> He told them, "Go into the town you can see there. When you enter the town, you will find a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it, and bring it here to me. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkey, you should say, 'The Master needs it.'"

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§19:13 *bag of money* One bag of money was a Greek *mina*, enough to pay a person for working three months. Also in verses 16,18,20,24,25.

<sup>32</sup>The two followers went into town. They found the donkey exactly as Jesus had told them. <sup>33</sup>They untied it, but its owners came out. They said to the followers, “Why are you untying our donkey?”

<sup>34</sup>The followers answered, “The Master needs it.” <sup>35</sup>So the followers brought the donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on its back. Then they put Jesus on the donkey. <sup>36</sup>He rode along the road towards Jerusalem. The followers spread their coats on the road before him.

<sup>37</sup>Jesus was coming close to Jerusalem. As he started down the path from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of followers began to shout and sing praise to God. They were happy for all the powerful things they had seen.

<sup>38</sup>They said,  
“Welcome! God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord. <sup>\*\*</sup>  
Peace begins in heaven, and glory belongs to God!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell your followers not to say these things.”

<sup>40</sup>But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if my followers didn’t say them, these stones would shout them.”

### Jesus Cries for Jerusalem

<sup>41</sup>Jesus came near to Jerusalem. Looking at the city, he began to cry for it <sup>42</sup>and said, “I wish you knew today what would bring you peace. But it is hidden from you now. <sup>43</sup>A time is coming when your enemies will build a wall around you and hold you in on all sides. <sup>44</sup>They will destroy you and all your people. Not one stone of your buildings will stay on top of another. All this will happen be-

cause you did not recognize the time when God came to save you.”

### Jesus Goes to the Temple

(*Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; John 2:13-22*)

<sup>45</sup>Jesus went into the Temple area. He began chasing out the people who were selling things there. <sup>46</sup>He said, “The Scriptures say, ‘My Temple will be a house of prayer.’<sup>††</sup> But you have changed it into a ‘hiding place for thieves’.”<sup>‡‡</sup>

<sup>47</sup>Jesus taught the people in the Temple area every day. The leading priests, the teachers of the law and some of the leaders of the people wanted to kill him. <sup>48</sup>But they did not know how they could do it, because the people were always around him. Everyone was so interested in what Jesus was saying, they could not stop listening.

### Leaders Doubt Jesus’ Authority

(*Matt. 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33*)

**20** One day Jesus was in the Temple area teaching the people. He was telling them the Good News. The leading priests, teachers of the law and older leaders came to talk to Jesus. <sup>2</sup>They said, “Tell us what authority you have to do these things. Who gave you this authority?”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “I will ask you a question too. Tell me: <sup>4</sup>When John baptized people, did his authority come from God or was it only from other people?”

<sup>5</sup>The priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders all talked about this. They said to each other, “If we answer, ‘John’s baptism was from God,’ then he will say, ‘Then why did you not believe

<sup>\*\*</sup>19:38 Quote from Ps. 118:26.

<sup>††</sup>19:46 Quote from Isa. 56:7.

<sup>‡‡</sup>19:46 Quote from Jer. 7:11.

John?’<sup>6</sup> But if we say that John’s baptism was from someone else, the people will stone us to death. They all believe that John was a prophet.”<sup>7</sup> So they answered, “We don’t know the answer.”

<sup>8</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Then I will not tell you who gave me the authority to do these things.”

### Jesus Tells a Story About a Vineyard

*(Matt. 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12)*

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told the people this story: “A man decided to plant a vineyard for making wine. He made an agreement with some farmers to do the work for a share of the wine. Then he went away for a long time. <sup>10</sup> When the time came for making wine, he sent one of his servants to those farmers to get his share. But they beat the servant and sent him away with nothing. <sup>11</sup> So the man sent another servant. They beat this servant too, showing no respect for him. They sent the servant away with nothing. <sup>12</sup> So the man sent a third servant to the farmers. They hurt this servant badly and threw him out.

<sup>13</sup> “The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do now? I know! I will send the one I love most, my son. Maybe they will respect him.’ <sup>14</sup> But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the owner’s son. This vineyard will be his. If we kill him, it will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup> So the farmers threw the son out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What will the owner of the vineyard do? <sup>16</sup> He will come and kill those farmers and put others in charge of the vineyard.”

When the people heard this story, they said, “This should never happen!”<sup>17</sup> But

Jesus looked into their eyes and said, “Then what does this verse mean:

‘The stone that the builders refused to accept

became the cornerstone?’<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken. If that stone falls on you, it will crush you!”

<sup>19</sup> When the teachers of the law and the leading priests heard this story, they knew it was about them. So they wanted to arrest Jesus right then, but they were afraid of what the people would do.

### Jesus Replies to a Trick Question

*(Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17)*

<sup>20</sup> So the leaders looked for a way to trap Jesus. They sent some men to him, who pretended to be sincere. They wanted to catch him saying something they could use against him. If he said something wrong, they could hand him over to the governor, who had the authority to punish him. <sup>21</sup> So the men said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is true. It doesn’t matter who is listening—you teach the same to all people. You always teach the truth about God’s way. <sup>22</sup> Tell us, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus knew that these men were trying to trick him. He said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Show me a silver coin. Whose name and picture are on it?”

They said, “Caesar’s.”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “Then give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

<sup>26</sup> The men were amazed at his wise answer. They had nothing to say. They were not able to use against Jesus anything he said there in front of the people.

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<sup>18</sup>20:17 Quote from Ps. 118:22. Jesus, the “stone” in this psalm, identifies himself as the son in the story who is killed by the farmers. See Acts 4:11.

### Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus

(*Matt. 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27*)

<sup>27</sup> Some Sadducees came to Jesus. (Sadducees believe that people will not rise from death.) They asked him, <sup>28</sup> “Teacher, Moses wrote that if a married man dies and had no children, his brother must marry his widow. Then they will have children for the dead brother. <sup>§§</sup> <sup>29</sup> Once there were seven brothers. The first brother married a woman but died. He had no children. <sup>30</sup> Then the second brother married the woman, and he died. <sup>31</sup> And the third brother married the woman, and he died. The same thing happened with all the other brothers. They all died and had no children. <sup>32</sup> The woman was the last to die. <sup>33</sup> But all seven brothers married her. So when people rise from death, whose wife will this woman be?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to the Sadducees, “In this life, people marry each other. <sup>35</sup> Some people will be worthy to be raised from death and live again after this life. In that new life they will not marry. <sup>36</sup> In that life people are like angels and cannot die. They are children of God, because they have been raised from death. <sup>37</sup> Moses clearly showed that people are raised from death. When Moses wrote about the burning bush,<sup>\*</sup> he said that the Lord is ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’<sup>†</sup> <sup>38</sup> He is the God only of people who are living. So these men were not really dead. Yes, to God all people are still living.”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the teachers of the law said, “Teacher, your answer was very good.”

<sup>40</sup> No one was brave enough to ask him another question.

### Is the Messiah David’s Son or David’s Lord?

(*Matt. 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37*)

<sup>41</sup> Then Jesus said, “Why do people say that the Messiah is the son of David?

<sup>42</sup> In the book of Psalms, David himself says,

‘The Lord God said to my Lord:

Sit by me at my right side,

<sup>43</sup> and I will put your enemies under your control.’<sup>‡¶</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Here, David calls the Messiah ‘Lord’. So how can he be David’s son?”

### Warning Against the Teachers of the Law

(*Matt. 23:1-36; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 11:37-54*)

<sup>45</sup> While all the people were listening to Jesus, he said to his followers, <sup>46</sup> “Be careful of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around wearing clothes that look important. And they love it when people show respect to them in the marketplaces. They love to have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. <sup>47</sup> But they cheat widows and take their homes. Then they try to make themselves look good by saying long prayers. God will punish them severely.”

§§20:28 *if ... dead brother* See Deut. 25:5,6.

\*20:37 *burning bush* See Exod. 3:1-12.

†20:37 *the God of ... Jacob* Words taken from Exod. 3:6.

‡20:43 *and I ... control* Literally, “until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”.

¶20:43 Quote from Ps. 110:1.

## True Giving

(Mark 12:41-44)

**21** Jesus looked up and saw some rich people putting their gifts to God into the Temple collection box. <sup>2</sup>Then he saw a poor widow put two small copper coins into the box. <sup>3</sup>He said, “This poor widow gave only two small coins. But the truth is, she gave more than all those rich people. <sup>4</sup>They have plenty, and they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had to live on.”

## Jesus Warns About the Future

(Matt. 24:1-14; Mark 13:1-13)

<sup>5</sup>Some of the people there were talking about how beautiful the Temple buildings were. They were noticing how they were built with the finest stones and decorated with all the gifts that people had offered to God.

<sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, “The time will come when all that you see here will be destroyed. Every stone of these buildings will be thrown down to the ground. Not one stone will be left on another.”

<sup>7</sup>They asked Jesus, “Teacher, when will these things happen? What will show us that it is time for these things to happen?”

<sup>8</sup>Jesus said, “Be careful! Don’t be fooled. Many people will come and pretend to be me. They will say, ‘I am the Messiah’<sup>§</sup> and ‘The right time has come!’ But don’t follow them. <sup>9</sup>When you hear about wars and riots, don’t be afraid. These things must happen first. But the end will not come right away.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms.

<sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will suffer from starvation or widespread disease. Terrible things will happen, and amazing things will appear from heaven to warn people.

<sup>12</sup>“But before all these things happen, people will arrest you and do bad things to you. They will judge you in their synagogues and put you in jail. You will be forced to stand before kings and governors. They will do all these things to you because you are my followers. <sup>13</sup>But this will give you an opportunity to tell about me. <sup>14</sup>Decide now not to worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. <sup>15</sup>I will give you the wisdom to say things that none of your enemies can answer. <sup>16</sup>Even your parents, brothers, relatives and friends will turn against you. They will have some of you killed. <sup>17</sup>Everyone will hate you because you follow me. <sup>18</sup>But you will suffer no harm, not even the loss of a hair from your head. <sup>19</sup>You will save yourselves by continuing strong in your faith through all these things.

## The Destruction of Jerusalem

(Matt. 24:15-21; Mark 13:14-19)

<sup>20</sup>“When you see armies all around Jerusalem, you will know that the time for its destruction has come. <sup>21</sup>That’s when the people in Judea should run away to the mountains. Anyone still in Jerusalem should leave quickly. If you are near the city, don’t go in! <sup>22</sup>The prophets wrote many things about the time when God will punish his people. The time I am talking about is when all these things must happen. <sup>23</sup>During that time, it will be hard for women who are pregnant or have small babies, be-

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**§21:8 the Messiah** Literally “the one”, meaning the chosen king sent by God. See Luke 23:35, Matt. 24:5 and Messiah in the Word List.

cause very bad times will come to this land. God will be angry with these people. <sup>24</sup>Some of the people will be killed by soldiers. Others will be made prisoners and taken to all the different countries. The city of Jerusalem will be under the power of foreigners until their time is completed.

### Don't Fear

*(Matt. 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27)*

<sup>25</sup>“Amazing things will happen to the sun, moon and stars. And people all over the earth will be troubled and confused by the noise of the sea and its crashing waves. <sup>26</sup>They will faint from fear and dread of what they see happening to the world. And the powerful forces in the sky will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then people will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>When these things begin to happen, be filled with courage and hope. <sup>\*\*</sup> Know that it is almost time for God to free you!”

### My Words Will Live Forever

*(Matt. 24:32-35; Mark 13:28-31)*

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told this story: “Look at all the trees. The fig tree is a good example. <sup>30</sup>When it turns green, you know that summer is very near. <sup>31</sup>In the same way, when you see all these things happening, you will know that God’s kingdom is very near.

<sup>32</sup>“I assure you that all these things will happen while some of the people of this time are still living. <sup>33</sup>The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed, but my words will last forever.

### Be Ready All the Time

<sup>34</sup>“Be careful not to spend your time having parties and getting drunk or wor-

rying about this life. That will only dull your minds, and the end might come when you don’t expect it. <sup>35</sup>It will come as a surprise to everyone on earth. <sup>36</sup>So be ready all the time. Pray that you will be able to get through all these things that will happen and stand faithful before the Son of Man.”

<sup>37</sup>During the day Jesus taught the people in the Temple area. At night he went out of the city and stayed all night on the hill called Mount of Olives. <sup>38</sup>Every morning all the people got up early to go and listen to Jesus at the Temple.

### The Plan to Kill Jesus

*(Matt. 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; John 11:47-53)*

**22** It was almost time for the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called Passover. <sup>2</sup>The leading priests and teachers of the law wanted to kill Jesus. But they were trying to find a quiet way to do it, because they were afraid of what the people would do.

### Judas Agrees to Help Jesus’ Enemies

*(Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)*

<sup>3</sup>One of Jesus’ twelve apostles was named Judas Iscariot. Satan entered him, <sup>4</sup>and he went and talked with the leading priests and the captains of the Temple police. He talked to them about a way to hand Jesus over to them. <sup>5</sup>The priests were very happy about this. They promised to give Judas money for doing this. <sup>6</sup>He agreed. Then he waited for the best time to hand him over to them. He wanted to do it when no one was around to see it.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>**21:28** *be filled ... hope* Literally, “stand up and raise your heads”.

### The Passover Meal

(Matt. 26:17-25; Mark 14:12-21; John 13:21-30)

<sup>7</sup>The Day of Unleavened Bread<sup>††</sup> came. This was the day when the Jews always killed the lambs for the Passover.

<sup>8</sup>Jesus said to Peter and John, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us to eat.”

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare the meal?”

He said to them, <sup>10</sup>“When you go into the city, you will see a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him. He will go into a house. <sup>11</sup>Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks that you please show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover meal.’ <sup>12</sup>Then the owner will show you a large room upstairs that is ready for us. Prepare the meal there.”

<sup>13</sup>So Peter and John left. Everything happened the way Jesus had said. So they prepared the Passover meal.

### The Lord’s Supper

(Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

<sup>14</sup>When the time came for them to eat the Passover meal, Jesus and the apostles were together at the table. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to them, “I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. <sup>16</sup>I will never eat another Passover meal until it is given its full meaning in God’s kingdom.”

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He gave thanks to God for it and said, “Take this cup and give it to everyone here. <sup>18</sup>I will not drink wine again until God’s kingdom comes.”

<sup>19</sup>Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to the apostles and said, “This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Eat this to remember me.” <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine and said, “This wine represents the new agreement that God makes with his people. It will begin when my blood is poured out for you.”<sup>‡‡</sup>

### Who Will Turn Against Jesus?

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said, “But here on this table is the hand of the one who will hand me over to my enemies. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Man will die as God has planned. But it will be very bad for the one who hands over the Son of Man to be killed.”

<sup>23</sup>Then the apostles asked each other, “Which one of us would do that?”

### Be Like a Servant

<sup>24</sup>Later, the apostles began to argue about which one of them was the most important. <sup>25</sup>But Jesus said to them, “The kings of the world rule over their people, and those who have authority over others want to be called ‘the great providers for the people’. <sup>26</sup>But you must not be like that. The one with the most authority among you should act as if he is the least important. The one who leads should be like one who serves. <sup>27</sup>Who is more important: the one serving or the one sitting at the table being served? Everyone thinks it’s the one being served. But I have been with you as the one who serves.

<sup>28</sup>“You men have stayed with me through many struggles. <sup>29</sup>So I give you authority to rule with me in the kingdom the Father has given me. <sup>30</sup>You will

<sup>††</sup>22:7 *Day of Unleavened Bread* Same as Passover.

<sup>‡‡</sup>22:20 A few Greek copies do not have Jesus’ words in the last part of verse 19 and all of verse 20.

eat and drink at my table in that kingdom. You will sit on thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

### Peter Will Be Tested and Fail

(Matt. 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; John 13:36-38)

<sup>31</sup> “Simon! Simon,<sup>¶</sup> listen to me! Satan has asked to test each of you. He wants to do to you what a farmer does to his wheat to separate the good grain from the chaff. <sup>32</sup>I have prayed for you, Simon, that you will not lose your faith completely! And when you come back to me, help your brothers be stronger.”

<sup>33</sup> But Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, I am ready to go to jail with you. I will even die with you!”

<sup>34</sup> But Jesus said, “Peter, before the cockerel crows tomorrow morning, you will say you don’t know me. You will say this three times.”

### Be Ready for Trouble

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said to the apostles, “Remember when I sent you out without money, a bag or sandals? Did you need anything?”

The apostles said, “No.”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said to them, “But now if you have money or a bag, carry that with you. If you don’t have a sword, sell your coat and buy one. <sup>37</sup>The Scriptures say, ‘He was considered a criminal.’<sup>§§</sup> This Scripture must come true. It was written about me, and it is happening now.”

<sup>38</sup> The followers said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.”

Jesus said to them, “That’s enough.”\*

### Jesus Prays Alone

(Matt. 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42)

<sup>39-40</sup> Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives. His followers went with him. (He went there often.) He said to his followers, “Pray for strength against temptation.”

<sup>41</sup> Then Jesus went about 50 steps away from them. He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, please don’t make me drink from this cup.<sup>†</sup> But do what you want, not what I want.” <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven came to help him. <sup>44</sup>Jesus was struggling even harder in prayer. Sweat dripped from his face like drops of blood falling to the ground.<sup>‡</sup> <sup>45</sup>When he finished praying, he went to his followers. He found them asleep, worn out from their sorrow. <sup>46</sup>Jesus said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray for strength against temptation.”

### Jesus Is Arrested

(Matt. 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50; John 18:3-11)

<sup>47</sup> While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. It was led by Judas, one of Jesus’ twelve apostles. He came over to Jesus to kiss him.

<sup>48</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you using the kiss of friendship to hand over the Son of Man to his enemies?”

<sup>49</sup> The followers of Jesus were standing

<sup>¶</sup>22:31 *Simon* Simon’s other name was Peter.

<sup>§§</sup>22:37 Quote from Isa. 53:12.

\*22:38 *That’s enough* Or “Enough of that!” meaning “Don’t talk any more about such things.”

<sup>†</sup>22:42 *cup* A symbol of suffering. Jesus used the idea of drinking from a cup to mean accepting the suffering he would face in the terrible events that were soon to come.

<sup>‡</sup>22:44 Some Greek copies do not have verses 43 and 44.

there too. They saw what was happening and said to Jesus, “Lord, should we use our swords?”<sup>50</sup> And one of them did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest.

<sup>51</sup> Jesus said, “Stop!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Jesus spoke to the group that came to arrest him. They were the leading priests, the older leaders and the captains of the Temple police. He said to them, “Why did you come out here with swords and clubs? Do you think I am a criminal?<sup>53</sup> I was with you every day in the Temple area. Why didn’t you try to arrest me there? But this is your time—the time when darkness rules.”

### **Peter Says He Doesn’t Know Jesus**

*(Matt. 26:57-58,69-75; Mark 14:53-54,66-72; John 18:12-18,25-27)*

<sup>54</sup> They arrested Jesus and took him away to the house of the high priest. Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance.<sup>55</sup> Some people started a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together. Peter sat with them.<sup>56</sup> A servant girl saw him sitting there. She could see because of the light from the fire. She looked closely at Peter’s face. Then she said, “This one was also with that man.”

<sup>57</sup> But Peter said this was not true. He said, “Woman, I don’t know him.”<sup>58</sup> A short time later, someone else saw Peter and said, “You are also one of that group.”

But Peter said, “You’re wrong, man. I am not!”

<sup>59</sup> About an hour later, another man said, “It’s true. I’m sure this man was with him, because he is from Galilee.”

<sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, a cockerel crowed.<sup>61</sup> Then the Lord turned and looked into Peter’s eyes. And

Peter remembered what the Lord had said, “Before the cockerel crows in the morning, you will say three times that you don’t know me.”<sup>62</sup> Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

### **The Guards Mistreat Jesus**

*(Matt. 26:67-68; Mark 14:65)*

<sup>63</sup> The men guarding Jesus made fun of him and beat him.<sup>64</sup> They covered his eyes so that he could not see them. Then they hit him and said, “Be a prophet and tell us who hit you!”<sup>65</sup> And they shouted all kinds of insults at him.

### **Jesus Before the Religious Leaders**

*(Matt. 26:59-66; Mark 14:55-64; John 18:19-24)*

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak, the older leaders of the people, the leading priests and the teachers of the law came together. They led Jesus away to their high council.<sup>67</sup> They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”

Jesus said to them, “If I tell you who I am, you will not believe me.<sup>68</sup> And if I ask you, you will not answer.<sup>69</sup> But beginning now, the Son of Man will sit at the right side of God All-Powerful.”

<sup>70</sup> They all said, “Then are you the Son of God?” Jesus said to them, “You are right in saying that I am.”

<sup>71</sup> They said, “Why do we need witnesses now? We all heard what he said!”

### **Governor Pilate Questions Jesus**

*(Matt. 27:1-2,11-14; Mark 15:1-5; John 18:28-38)*

**23** Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus away to Pilate.<sup>2</sup> They began to accuse Jesus and said to Pilate, “We caught this man trying to change the thinking of our people. He says we should not pay taxes to Caesar. He calls himself the Messiah, a king.”

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “You could say that.”

<sup>4</sup> Pilate said to the leading priests and the people, “I find nothing wrong with this man.”

<sup>5</sup> But they kept on saying, “His teaching is causing trouble all over Judea. He began in Galilee, and now he is here!”

### Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

<sup>6</sup> Pilate heard this and asked if Jesus was from Galilee. <sup>7</sup> He learned that Jesus was under Herod’s authority. Herod was in Jerusalem at that time, so Pilate sent Jesus to him.

<sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very happy. He had heard all about him and had wanted to meet him for a long time. Herod wanted to see a miracle, so he was hoping that Jesus would do one. <sup>9</sup> He asked him many questions, but Jesus said nothing. <sup>10</sup> The leading priests and teachers of the law were standing there shouting things against Jesus. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers laughed at him. They made fun of him by dressing him in clothes like kings wear. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> In the past Pilate and Herod had always been enemies. But on that day they became friends.

### Pilate Tries to Free Jesus

*(Matt. 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; John 18:39 – 19:16)*

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called all the people together with the leading priests and the other leaders. <sup>14</sup> He said to them, “You brought this man to me. You said he was trying to change the people. But I judged him before you all and have not found him guilty of the things you say he has done. <sup>15</sup> Herod didn’t find him guilty either. He sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing bad enough for the death

penalty. <sup>16</sup> So, after I punish him a little, I will let him go free.” <sup>17</sup> ¶

<sup>18</sup> But they all shouted, “Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!” <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas was a man who was in jail for starting a riot in the city and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So again Pilate told them that he would let him go. <sup>21</sup> But they shouted again, “Kill him! Kill him on a cross!”

<sup>22</sup> A third time Pilate said to the people, “Why? What wrong has he done? He is not guilty. I can find no reason to kill him. So I will let him go free after I punish him a little.”

<sup>23</sup> But the people continued to shout. They demanded that Jesus be killed on a cross. Their shouting got so loud that <sup>24</sup> Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. <sup>25</sup> They wanted Barabbas to go free—the one who was in jail for starting a riot and for murder. Pilate let Barabbas go free. And he handed Jesus over to be killed. This is what the people wanted.

### Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

*(Matt. 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; John 19:17-27)*

<sup>26</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away. At that same time there was a man from Cyrene named Simon coming into the city from the fields. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross and walk behind him.

<sup>27</sup> A large crowd followed Jesus. Some of the women were sad and crying. They felt sorry for him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned and said to them, “Women of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children too. <sup>29</sup> The time is coming when people will say, ‘The women who cannot have babies are the ones God has blessed. It’s really a blessing that they have no children to care for.’

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<sup>23:17</sup> A few Greek copies add verse 17: “Every year during the Passover festival, Pilate had to release one prisoner to the people.”

<sup>30</sup> Then the people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ They will say to the hills, ‘Cover us!’<sup>§</sup> <sup>31</sup> If this can happen to someone who is good, what will happen to those who are guilty?”\*\*

<sup>32</sup> There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be killed. <sup>33</sup> They were led to a place called “The Skull”. There the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. They also nailed the criminals to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left.

<sup>34</sup> And Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive these people, because they do not know what they are doing.”††

The soldiers threw dice to divide Jesus’ clothes between them. <sup>35</sup> The people stood there watching everything. The leaders laughed at Jesus. They said, “If he really is the Messiah, God’s Chosen One, then let him save himself. He saved others, didn’t he?”

<sup>36</sup> Even the soldiers laughed at Jesus and made fun of him. They came and offered him some sour wine. <sup>37</sup> They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> (At the top of the cross these words were written: this is the king of the jews.)

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging there began to shout insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Then save yourself, and save us too!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal stopped him. He said, “You should fear God. All of us will die soon. <sup>41</sup> You and I are guilty. We deserve to die because we did wrong. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you begin ruling as king!”

<sup>43</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “I tell you for sure, today you will be with me in paradise.”

### Jesus Dies

(*Matt. 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; John 19:28-30*)

<sup>44</sup> It was about noon, but it turned dark throughout the land until three o’clock in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> because the sun stopped shining. The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. <sup>46</sup> Jesus shouted, “Father, I put my life in your hands!”‡‡ After Jesus said this, he died.

<sup>47</sup> When the army officer there saw what had happened, he praised God, saying, “I know this man was a good man!”

<sup>48</sup> Many people had come out of the city to see all this. When they saw it, they felt very sorry and left. <sup>49</sup> The people who were close friends of Jesus were there. Also, there were some women who had followed Jesus from Galilee. They all stood far away from the cross and watched these things.

### Jesus Is Buried

(*Matt. 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; John 19:38-42*)

<sup>50-51</sup> A man named Joseph was there from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a good man, who lived the way God wanted. He was waiting for God’s kingdom to come. Joseph was a member of the Jewish council. But he did not agree when the other Jewish leaders decided to kill Jesus. <sup>52</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> He

§23:30 Quote from Hos. 10:8.

\*\*23:31 *If this can happen ... guilty* Literally, “If they do these things in the green tree, what will happen in the dry?”

††23:34 *And Jesus ... they are doing* Some early copies of Luke do not have these words.

‡‡23:46 Quote from Ps. 31:5.

took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in cloth. Then he put it in a tomb that had been dug out of a wall of rock. This tomb had never been used before.<sup>54</sup> It was late on Preparation Day. When the sun went down, the Sabbath day would begin.

<sup>55</sup>The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus followed Joseph. They saw the tomb. Inside they saw where he put Jesus' body.<sup>56</sup> Then they left to prepare some sweet-smelling spices to put on the body.

On the Sabbath day they rested, as commanded in the Law of Moses.

### Jesus Has Risen From Death

(*Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-10*)

**24** Very early Sunday morning, the women came to the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid. They brought the sweet-smelling spices they had prepared.<sup>2</sup> They saw that the heavy stone that covered the entrance had been rolled away.<sup>3</sup> They went in, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.<sup>4</sup> They did not understand this. While they were wondering about it, two men in shining clothes stood beside them.<sup>5</sup> The women were very afraid. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them, "Why are you looking for a living person here? This is a place for dead people."<sup>6</sup> Jesus is not here. He has risen from death. Do you remember what he said in Galilee?<sup>7</sup> He said that the Son of Man must be handed over to the control of sinful men,

be killed on a cross and rise from death on the third day."<sup>8</sup> Then the women remembered what Jesus had said.

<sup>9</sup>The women left the tomb and went to find the eleven apostles and the other followers. They told them everything that happened at the tomb.<sup>10</sup> These women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and some others. They told the apostles everything that had happened.<sup>11</sup> But the apostles did not believe what they said. It sounded like nonsense.<sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb to see. He looked in, but he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. It was just lying there. Peter went away to be alone, wondering what had happened.<sup>¶</sup>

### On The Road to Emmaus

(*Mark 16:12-13*)

<sup>13</sup>That same day two of Jesus' followers<sup>§§</sup> were going to a town named Emmaus. It is about 11 kilometres\* from Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> They were talking about everything that had happened.<sup>15</sup> While they were talking, discussing these things, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.<sup>16</sup> But they were not allowed to recognize Jesus.<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What's this I hear you discussing with each other as you walk?"

They both stopped, their faces looking very sad.<sup>18</sup> And then one of them, named Cleopas, said, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has just happened there."

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said, "What are you talking about?"

<sup>¶</sup>24:12 A few Greek copies do not have this verse.

<sup>§§</sup>24:13 *two ... followers* Literally, "two of them". It is clear from the story that they are both followers of Jesus, but only one of them is named (verse 18). He may be the same as the man named Clopas, described in John 19:25 as the husband of one of the women there named Mary. If so, the other follower in this story may be that Mary.

\*24:13 *11 kilometres* Literally, "60 stadios".

They said, “It’s about Jesus, the one from Nazareth. To God and to all the people he was a great prophet. He said and did many powerful things.<sup>20</sup> But our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be judged and killed. They nailed him to a cross.<sup>21</sup> We were hoping that he would be the one to free Israel. But then all this happened.

“And now something else: It has been three days since he was killed,<sup>22</sup> but today some of our women told us an amazing thing. Early this morning they went to the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid.<sup>23</sup> But they did not find his body there. They came and told us they had seen some angels in a vision. The angels told them Jesus was alive!<sup>24</sup> So some of our group went to the tomb too. It was just as the women said. They saw the tomb, but they did not see Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Why is it so hard for you to understand and accept all that the prophets wrote?<sup>26</sup> They said that the Messiah must suffer these things before his time of glory.”<sup>27</sup> Then he began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. He started with the books of Moses and then talked about what all the prophets had said about him.

<sup>28</sup> They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he did not plan to stop there.<sup>29</sup> But they wanted him to stay. They begged him, “Stay with us. It’s almost night. There’s hardly any daylight left.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus joined them for the evening meal. He took some bread and gave thanks. Then he broke some off and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> That’s when both of them were allowed to recognize him. But then he disappeared.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “When he talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. How

exciting it was when he explained to us the true meaning of the Scriptures!”

<sup>33</sup> So right then they got up and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles meeting together with the other followers of Jesus.<sup>34</sup> The group told them, “The Lord really has risen from death! He appeared to Simon.”

<sup>35</sup> Then the two followers told them what had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognized Jesus when he shared the bread with them.

### Jesus Appears to His Followers

*(Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:6-8)*

<sup>36</sup> While the two followers were telling these things to the others, Jesus himself came and stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>37</sup> This surprised the followers. They were afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.<sup>38</sup> But Jesus said, “Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see?<sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me. Touch me. You can see that I am not a ghost. Ghosts don’t have flesh and bones, as you can see I have.”

<sup>40</sup> As soon as Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> The followers were amazed and very, very happy to see that Jesus was alive. They still could not believe what they saw. He said to them, “Do you have any food here?”<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of cooked fish.<sup>43</sup> While the followers watched, he took the fish and ate it.

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to them, “Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen—everything written in the Law of Moses, the books of the prophets and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup> Then Jesus explained the Scriptures to them so that they could understand their true meaning. <sup>46</sup> Jesus said to them, “It is written that the Messiah would be killed and rise from death on the third day. <sup>47–48</sup> You saw these things happen—you are witnesses. And it is written that the people of all nations must be told to change and turn to God, which will bring them his forgiveness. You must start from Jerusalem and tell this message in my name. <sup>49</sup> Remember that I will send you the one my Father promised. Stay in the city until you are given that power from heaven.”

### **Jesus Goes Back to Heaven**

*(Mark 16:19-20; Acts 1:9-11)*

<sup>50</sup> Jesus led his followers out of Jerusalem almost to Bethany. He raised his hands and blessed his followers. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he was separated from them and carried into heaven. <sup>52</sup> They worshipped him and went back to Jerusalem very happy. <sup>53</sup> They stayed at the Temple all the time, praising God.