

Easy-to-Read Version

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Matthew

Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. The first four books are called Gospels. Gospel means “good news”. In the Gospels, this Good News is usually about the coming of God’s kingdom or his king, Jesus the Christ. Throughout the New Testament, the Good News includes the invitation to be part of God’s kingdom. It is the announcement that God has made a way for Jesus to free people from the power of sin and to enjoy his blessings forever.

The book of Matthew begins with these words: “This is the family history of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.” These words connect Jesus to the two most important people in the history of Israel. This means that Matthew’s Gospel continues the story of the world told in the Old Testament. God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 12:3). So as a “son” or descendant of Abraham, Jesus is qualified to complete God’s promise. God also promised King David that one of his descendants would be king of an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16). This gives authority to Matthew’s claim that Jesus is God’s Chosen King, which is the meaning of the Hebrew title, “Messiah”, or its Greek translation, “Christ”.

Jesus’ kingdom is different from the kingdoms of this world. Jesus, as its king, has chosen to be a servant. He puts others above himself and serves them. And he teaches them to serve others. Matthew records Jesus’ most famous teachings about

this upside-down kingdom in chapters 5 – 7. Here, Jesus teaches that God’s kingdom belongs to people who know they are in need. His blessings are for those who are not important in the eyes of the world.

The meaning of “kingdom of God” (or “kingdom of heaven”) is “God’s rule as king”. Jesus told his followers to pray to God “that your kingdom will come”. The next line explains the meaning: “that what you want will be done here on earth, the same as in heaven” (6:10).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus faces doubt and criticism from the Jewish religious leaders. And among the rest of the people, many are confused about who Jesus is. This causes Jesus to ask his close followers, “Who do you say I am?” The apostle Peter answers, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” This leads to Jesus’ statement that he will “build” his “church” (16:16-19). The word “church” here refers to the community of believers that Jesus’ followers would later bring together. They did this by announcing the Good News to the world and inviting people to become part of God’s kingdom. In doing this, they were acting on the orders of Jesus himself. These orders are the last words in the book of Matthew (28:19-20).

In the book of Matthew, Jesus...

Is God’s plan from the very beginning (1:1-17)

Is born to be a king, who is seen as a threat to those in power (1:18 – 2:23)

Is baptized and goes to the desert to fulfil God’s plan (3:1 – 4:16)

Announces God’s kingdom in Galilee and is rejected by Israel’s leaders (4:17 – 16:20)

Travels to Jerusalem and teaches in the Temple (16:21 – 25:46)

Prepares to die and is killed on a cross (26:1 – 27:66)

Is raised to life and gives final orders to his followers (28:1-20)

The Family History of Jesus the Messiah

(Luke 3:23-38)

1 This is the family history of Jesus the Messiah.* He came from the family of King David, who was from the family of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. (Their mother was Tamar.)

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz. (His mother was Rahab.)

Boaz was the father of Obed. (His mother was Ruth.)

Obed was the father of Jesse.

⁶ Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon. (His mother had been Uriah's wife.)

⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asaph.

⁸ Asaph was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah.

¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin[†]

and his brothers, who lived during the time that the people were taken away to Babylon.

¹² After they were taken to Babylon:

Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel[‡] was the father of Zerubbabel.

¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Achim.

Achim was the father of Eliud.

¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph.

Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David. There were also fourteen generations from David until the people were taken away to Babylon. And there were fourteen more from the time the people were taken to Babylon until the Messiah was born.

* **1:1 Messiah** Literally, "Christ", a Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah", a royal title meaning "Anointed". It comes from the Old Testament ceremony for dedicating a new king chosen by God. See Christ and Messiah in the Word List. Also in verses 16-17 and throughout this book.

[†] **1:11 father of Jehoiachin** Jehoiachin (also called Jechoniah) was actually the grandson of Josiah. See 1 Chr. 3:15-16.

[‡] **1:12 Shealtiel** Here, Matthew follows the ancient Greek version of 1 Chr. 3:19. See also Ezra 3:2 and Hag. 1:1.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

(Luke 2:1-7)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, he learned that she was expecting a baby. (She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.)

¹⁹Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

²⁰But after Joseph had thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus.[†] Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet:

²³"The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son.

They will name him Immanuel."[§]
(Immanuel means "God with us".)

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. He married Mary. ²⁵But Joseph did not have sex with her until her son was born. And he named him Jesus.

Wise Men Come to See Jesus

2 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. ²They asked people, "Where is the child who has been born to be the

king of the Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born. We saw it when it came up, and we have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard about this, it upset him as well as everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴Herod called a meeting of all the leading Jewish priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah would be born. ⁵They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea, just as the prophet wrote:
⁶'Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah.

Yes, a ruler will come from you, and that ruler will lead Israel, my people.'"^{**}

⁷So Herod had a private meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go and worship him too."

⁹After the wise men heard the king, they left. They saw the same star they had seen when it first came up, and they followed it. The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were so thrilled, they shouted for joy.

¹¹The wise men came to the house where the child was with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened the boxes of gifts they had brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to

[†]1:21 *Jesus* The name Jesus means "the Lord saves".

[§]1:23 Quote from Isa. 7:14.

^{**}2:6 Quote from Mic. 5:2.

Herod. So they went home to their own country a different way.

Jesus' Parents Take Him to Egypt

¹³ After the wise men left, an angel from the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child with his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod wants to kill the child and will soon start looking for him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to come back."

¹⁴ So Joseph got up and left for Egypt with the child and the mother. They left during the night. ¹⁵ They stayed in Egypt until Herod died. This gave full meaning to what the Lord said through the prophet: "I called my son to come out of Egypt."^{††}

Herod Kills the Baby Boys in Bethlehem

¹⁶ When Herod saw that the wise men had fooled him, he was very angry. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in or near Bethlehem who were two years old and younger. Herod had learned from the wise men that they had first seen the star about two years earlier. ¹⁷ This gave full meaning to what God said through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A sound was heard in Ramah— bitter crying and great sadness. It was Rachel crying for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because her children are gone."^{‡‡}

Joseph's Family Returns From Egypt

¹⁹ While Joseph and his family were in Egypt, Herod died. An angel from the

Lord came to Joseph in a dream ²⁰ and said, "Get up! Take the child with his mother and go back to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are now dead."

²¹ So Joseph took the child and his mother and went to Israel. ²² But he heard that Archelaus was now king in Judea. Archelaus became king when his father Herod died. So Joseph was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he went away to the area of Galilee. ²³ He went to a town called Nazareth and lived there. This gave full meaning to what God said through the prophets: He will be called a Nazarene.^{¶¶}

John Prepares the Way for Jesus

(Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-9,15-17; John 1:19-28)

3 Not too many years later, John the Baptizer began telling people a message from God. This was out in the desert area of Judea. ² John said, "Change your hearts and lives, because God's kingdom is now very near.^{§§}" ³ John is the one Isaiah the prophet was talking about when he said:

"There is someone shouting in the desert:

'Prepare the way for the Lord! Make the road straight for him.'^{*†}

⁴ John's clothes were made from camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. For food, he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People came out to John from Jerusalem and the rest of Judea and from all the areas along the Jordan River. ⁶ They confessed the bad

^{††}2:15 Quote from Hos. 11:1.

^{‡‡}2:18 Quote from Jer. 31:15.

^{¶¶}2:23 *Nazarene* A person from the town of Nazareth. This name sounds like the Hebrew word for "branch". So it may refer to the promise of a "branch" of David's family. See Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12.

^{§§}3:2 *is now very near* Or "is coming soon" or "has come". Also in 4:17; 10:7.

^{*}3:3 Quote from Isa. 40:3.

things they had done, and John baptized them in the Jordan.

⁷ Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. When he saw them, he said, “You are all snakes! Who warned you to run from God’s judgement that is coming? ⁸ Change your hearts! And show by the way you live that you have changed. ⁹ I know what you are thinking. You want to say, ‘But Abraham is our father!’ That means nothing. I tell you, God could make children for Abraham from these rocks. ¹⁰ The axe is now ready to cut down the trees[†] at the roots. Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water to show that you have changed your hearts and lives. But there is someone coming later who is able to do more than I can. I am not good enough even to be the slave who takes off his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² He is ready to separate the good part of his harvest from what is useless.[‡] He will put his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the useless part in a fire that cannot be put out.”

Jesus Is Baptized by John

(Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John, wanting John to baptize him. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him. John said, “Why do you come

to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!”

¹⁵ Jesus answered, “This is what we should do for now. It’s only right that we do all that God wants.” Then John agreed.

¹⁶ So Jesus was baptized. As soon as he came up out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw God’s Spirit coming down on him like a dove. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”

The Temptation of Jesus

(Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

4 Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ² Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After this he was very hungry. ³ The devil[¶] came to tempt him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “The Scriptures say, ‘Bread is not enough. People need more than food to live. Their lives depend on whatever the Lord says.’[§]”

⁵ Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area.

⁶ He said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! The Scriptures say, ‘God will command his angels to help

you,
and their hands will catch you,
so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.’”^{**}

[†]3:10 *trees* The people who don’t obey God. They are like “trees” that will be cut down.

[‡]3:12 *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.

[¶]4:3 *The devil* Literally, “The tempter”.

[§]4:4 Quote from Deut. 8:3.

^{**}4:6 Quote from Ps. 91:11-12.

⁷ Jesus answered, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”^{††}

⁸ Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. ⁹ The devil said, “If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Get away from me, Satan! The Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!’”^{‡‡}

¹¹ So the devil left him, and some angels came and took care of him.

Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee

(Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15)

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went back to Galilee. ¹³ But he did not stay in Nazareth. He went to live in Capernaum, a town near Lake Galilee in the area near Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ He did this to give full meaning to what the prophet Isaiah said:

¹⁵ “Listen, land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
lands by the road that goes to the sea,
the area past the Jordan River—
Galilee, where those from other nations
live.

¹⁶ The people who live in spiritual darkness
have seen a great light.
Salvation has come like the dawn^{¶¶}
for those who live in a land as dark as
death.”^{§§}

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to tell people his message: “Change your hearts and lives, because God’s kingdom is now very near.”

Jesus Chooses Some Followers

(Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon’s brother Andrew. These brothers were fishermen, and they were throwing a net* into the lake to catch fish. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish.” ²⁰ Right then they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. They were preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told the brothers to come with him. ²² So they immediately left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus Teaches and Heals the People

(Luke 6:17-19)

²³ Jesus went everywhere in the region of Galilee. He taught in the synagogues and told the Good News about God’s kingdom. And he healed all the people’s diseases and sicknesses. ²⁴ The news about Jesus spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all those who were sick. They were suffering from different kinds of diseases and pain. Some had demons inside them, some suffered

^{††}4:7 Quote from Deut. 6:16.

^{‡‡}4:10 Quote from Deut. 6:13.

^{¶¶}4:16 *Salvation ... dawn* Literally, “Light has shined.”

^{§§}4:16 Quote from Isa. 9:1-2.

*4:18 *net* A small, round net with weights around the edge for throwing over fish to trap them.

from seizures and some were paralysed. Jesus healed them all. ²⁵Large crowds followed him—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, Judea and the area across the Jordan River.

Jesus Teaches the People

(Luke 6:20-23)

5 When Jesus saw the crowds of people, he went up on a hill and sat down. His followers came to him, ² and Jesus began teaching them:

³“Great blessings belong to those who know they are spiritually in need.[†] God’s kingdom belongs to them.

⁴Great blessings belong to those who are sad now. God will comfort them.

⁵Great blessings belong to those who are humble.

The whole earth will be theirs.

⁶Great blessings belong to those who long for God’s justice.[‡] God will fully satisfy them.

⁷Great blessings belong to those who show mercy to others. Mercy will be given to them.

⁸Great blessings belong to those whose thoughts are pure. They will see God.

⁹Great blessings belong to those who work to bring peace. God will call them his sons and daughters.

¹⁰Great blessings belong to those who suffer persecution for doing what is right. God’s kingdom belongs to them.

¹¹“People will insult you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because you follow me. But when they do that, know that great blessings belong to you. ¹²Be

happy about it. Be very glad because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. Be glad that you are like the prophets who lived long ago. People did these same bad things to them.

You Are Like Salt and Light

(Mark 9:50; 4:21; Luke 14:34-35; 8:16)

¹³“You are the salt that the people on earth need. But if the salt loses its taste, it cannot be made salty again. And then it is good for nothing except to be thrown out for people to walk on.

¹⁴“You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵People don’t light a lamp and then hide it under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus and the Old Testament Writings

¹⁷“Don’t think that I have come to destroy the Law of Moses or the teaching of the prophets. I have come not to destroy their teachings but to give full meaning to them. ¹⁸I assure you that as long as heaven and earth last, nothing will disappear from the law. The law will not lose a single letter or the smallest part of a letter until everything God planned has been completed.

¹⁹“A person should obey every command in the law, even one that does not seem important. Whoever refuses to obey any command and teaches others not to obey it will be the least important in God’s kingdom. But whoever obeys the law and teaches others to obey it will be great in God’s kingdom. ²⁰I am

[†]5:3 *those ... in need* Literally, “the poor in spirit”.

[‡]5:6 *long for God’s justice* Literally, “hunger and thirst for justice”.

telling you that you must obey the law in a more meaningful way than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. If you are not more pleasing to God than they are, you will never enter God's kingdom.

Jesus Explains How to Obey the Law

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, 'You must not murder anyone.'[†] Any person who commits murder will be judged.'²² But I tell you, don't be angry with anyone. If you are angry with others, you will be judged. And if you insult someone, you will be judged by the high court. And if you call someone a fool, you will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ "So, what if you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that someone has something against you?²⁴ Leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person. Then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ "If anyone wants to take you to court, make friends with them quickly. Try to do that before you get to the court. If you don't, they might hand you over to the judge. And the judge will hand you over to a guard, who will throw you into jail.²⁶ I assure you that you will not leave there until you have paid everything you owe.

Jesus Teaches About Sexual Sin

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You must not commit adultery.'[§]²⁸ But I tell you that if a man looks at a woman and wants to sin sexually with her, he has already committed that sin with her in his mind.²⁹ If your right eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away.

It is better to lose one part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell.³⁰ If your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

(*Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18*)

³¹ "It was also said, 'Any man who divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce.'^{**}³² But I tell you that a man must not divorce his wife, unless she has committed sexual sin. If he divorces her when she is not guilty of sin, he is making her a victim of adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman is guilty of adultery.

Jesus Teaches About Making Promises

³³ "You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, 'When you make a vow, you must not break your promise. Keep the vows that you make to the Lord.'^{††}³⁴ But I tell you, when you make a promise, don't try to make it stronger with a vow. Don't make a vow using the name of heaven, because heaven is God's throne.³⁵ Don't make a vow using the name of the earth, because the earth is his footstool. Don't make a vow using the name of Jerusalem, because it also belongs to him, the great King.³⁶ And don't even say that your own head is proof that you will keep your promise. You cannot make one hair on your head white or black.³⁷ Say only 'yes' if you mean 'yes', and say only 'no' if you mean 'no'. Saying more than that is from the Evil One.

[†]5:21 Quote from Exod. 20:13; Deut. 5:17.

[§]5:27 Quote from Exod. 20:14; Deut. 5:18.

^{**}5:31 Quote from Deut. 24:1.

^{††}5:33 See Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21.

Jesus Teaches About Fighting Back

(Luke 6:29-30)

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’^{‡‡} ³⁹But I tell you, don’t fight back against someone who wants to harm to you. If they hit you on the right cheek, let them hit the other cheek too. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you in court and take your shirt, let them have your coat too. ⁴¹If a soldier forces you to walk with him one kilometre,[¶] go with him two. ⁴²Give to anyone who asks you for something. Don’t refuse to give to anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Love Your Enemies

(Luke 6:27-28,32-36)

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour^{§§} and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who mistreat you. ⁴⁵If you do this, you will be children who are truly like your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on all people, whether they are good or bad. He sends rain for those who do right and for those who do wrong. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, why should you get a reward for that? Even the tax collectors do that. ⁴⁷And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than anyone else. Even the people who don’t know God do that. ⁴⁸What I am saying is that you must be perfect,^{*} just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Jesus Teaches About Giving

6 “Be careful! When you do something good, don’t do it in front of others so that they will see you. If you do that, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“When you give to those who are poor, don’t announce that you are giving. Don’t be like the hypocrites. When they are in the synagogues and on the streets, they blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They want everyone to praise them. The truth is, that’s all the reward they will get. ³So when you give to the poor, don’t let anyone know what you are doing.[†] ⁴Your giving should be done in private. Your Father can see what is done in private, and he will reward you.

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

(Luke 11:2-4)

⁵“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites. They love to pray where everyone can see them, standing in the synagogues and on the street corners. The truth is, that’s all the reward they will get. ⁶But when you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father. He is there in that private place. He can see what is done in private, and he will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, don’t be like the people who don’t know God. They say the same things again and again. They think that if they say it enough, their god will hear them. ⁸Don’t be like them. Your Father knows what you need

^{‡‡}5:38 Quote from Exod. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21.

[¶]5:41 *one kilometre* Literally, “one *milion*”.

^{§§}5:43 Quote from Lev. 19:18.

^{*}5:48 *perfect* The word “perfect” here means “fully developed”, and it describes the kind of love the Father’s children are to learn from him.

[†]6:3 *don’t ... doing* Literally, “don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”.

before you ask him. ⁹ So this is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,

we pray that your name will always be kept holy.

¹⁰ We pray that your kingdom will come—

that what you want will be done here on earth,

the same as in heaven.

¹¹ Give us the food we need for today.

¹² Forgive our sins,

just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.

¹³ Don’t let us be tempted,

but save us from the evil one.^{‡¶}

¹⁴ Yes, if you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive your wrongs.

¹⁵ But if you don’t forgive others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrongs you do.

Jesus Teaches About Fasting

¹⁶ “When you fast, don’t make yourselves look sad like the hypocrites. They put a look of suffering on their faces so that people will see they are fasting. The truth is, that’s all the reward they will get. ¹⁷ So when you fast, wash your face and make yourself look nice. ¹⁸ Then no one will know you are fasting, except your Father, who is with you even in private. He can see what is done in private, and he will reward you.

You Cannot Serve Two Masters

(Luke 12:33-34; 11:34-36; 16:13)

¹⁹ “Don’t save treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust[§] will destroy them. And thieves can break into your house and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, save your treasures in heaven, where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. ²¹ Your heart will be where your treasure is.

²² “The way you look at people shows who you really are. If you look at people in an unselfish way, you will be full of light. ²³ But if you look at them in a greedy way, you will be full of darkness. And if all that is seen in you is darkness, you have the worst kind of darkness.^{**}

²⁴ “You cannot serve two masters at the same time. You will hate one and love the other, or you will be loyal to one and not care about the other. You cannot serve God and Money^{††} at the same time.

Put God’s Kingdom First

(Luke 12:22-34)

²⁵ “So I tell you, don’t worry about the things you need to live—what you will eat, drink or wear. Life is more than what you eat, and you are more than what you wear. ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant, harvest or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Don’t you know you are worth much more than they are? ²⁷ You can-

[‡]6:13 *the evil one* Literally, “the evil”. This could mean “the Evil One (Satan)”, or it could mean “the evil eye”, which was a way of referring to jealousy or greed, as it does in verse 23.

[¶]6:13 Some Greek copies add: “For the kingdom and the power and the glory belong to you forever. Amen.”

[§]6:19 *rust* Or “worms”. Also in verse 20.

^{**}6:23 Literally, “²² The lamp of the body is the eye. So, if your eye is generous, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. So, if the light in you is darkness, how much is the darkness.”

^{††}6:24 *Money* Or “*mamona*”, an Aramaic word meaning “wealth”.

not add any time to your life by worrying about it.

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the wild flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. ³⁰If God makes what grows in the field so beautiful, what do you think he will do for you? It’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!

³¹“Don’t worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²That’s what those people who don’t know God are always thinking about. Don’t worry, because your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. ³³Your first concern should always be God’s kingdom and whatever he considers good and right. Then he will give you all these other things you need. ³⁴So don’t worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Be Careful About Criticizing Others

(Luke 6:37-38,41-42)

7 “Don’t judge others, and God will not judge you. ²If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge them. God will deal with you the same way you deal with others.

³“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? ⁴Why do you say to your friend, ‘Let me get that piece of dust out of your eye?’ Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your

own eye. ⁵You 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.

⁶“Don’t give something that is holy to dogs. They will only turn and hurt you. And don’t throw your pearls to pigs. They will only step on them.

Ask God for What You Need

(Luke 11:9-13)

⁷“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. ⁸Yes, whoever continues to ask will receive. Whoever continues to look will find. And whoever continues to knock will have the door opened for them.

⁹“Do any of you have a son? If he asked for bread, would you give him a rock? ¹⁰Or if he asked for a fish, would you give him a snake? Of course not! ¹¹You people are so bad, but you still know how to give good things to your children. So surely your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him.

A Very Important Rule

¹²“Do for others what you would want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets.

Only a Few Find the Way to Life

(Luke 13:24)

¹³“You can enter true life only through the narrow gate. The gate to ruin is very wide, and there is plenty of room on the road that leads there. Many people go that way. ¹⁴But the gate that opens the way to true life is narrow. And the road that leads there is hard to follow. Only a few people find it.

What People Do Shows What They Are

(Luke 6:43-44; 13:25-27)

¹⁵“Be careful of false prophets. They come to you looking gentle like sheep. But they are really dangerous like wolves. ¹⁶You will know these people because of what they do. Good things don’t come from people who are bad, just as grapes don’t come from thorn bushes, and figs don’t come from thorny weeds. ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, and bad trees produce bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰You will know these false people by what they do.‡

²¹“Not everyone who calls me Lord will enter God’s kingdom. The only people who will enter are those who do what my Father in heaven wants. ²²On that last Day many will call me Lord. They will say, ‘Lord, by the power of your name we spoke God’s message. And by your name we forced out demons and did many miracles.’ ²³Then I will tell those people clearly, ‘Get away from me, you people who do wrong. I never knew you.’

Two Kinds of People

(Luke 6:47-49)

²⁴“Whoever hears these teachings of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵It rained hard, the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall because it was built on rock.

²⁶“Whoever hears these teachings of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house. And it fell, completely destroyed.”

²⁸When Jesus finished speaking, the people were amazed at his teaching ²⁹because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like someone with authority.

Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)

8 When Jesus came down from the hill, a large crowd followed him. ²Then a man with a dreaded skin disease came to him. The man bowed down before Jesus and said, “Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want.”

³Jesus reached out and touched the man. He said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” Immediately the man was healed from his disease. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “Don’t tell anyone about what happened. But go and let the priest look at you.”¶ And offer the gift that Moses commanded for people who are made well. This will show everyone that you have been healed.”

Jesus Heals an Officer’s Servant

(Luke 7:1-10; John 4:43-54)

⁵When Jesus went to the town of Capernaum, an army officer came to him and begged for help. ⁶The officer said, “Lord, my servant is very sick at home in bed. He can’t move his body and has much pain.”

⁷Jesus said to the officer, “I will go and heal him.”

‡7:20 by *what they do* Literally, “by their fruits”.

¶8:4 *let the priest look at you* The Law of Moses said a priest must decide when a person with a skin disease was well.

⁸The officer answered, “Lord, I am not good enough for you to come into my house. You need only to give the order, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I know this, because I understand authority. There are people who have authority over me, and I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes. I tell another soldier, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and my servant obeys me.”

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those who were with him, “The truth is, this man has more faith than anyone I have found, even in Israel. ¹¹Many people will come from the east and from the west. These people will sit and eat with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in God’s kingdom. ¹²And those who should have the kingdom will be thrown out. They will be thrown outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth in pain.”

¹³Then Jesus said to the officer, “Go home. Your servant will be healed as you believed he would.” Right then his servant was healed.

Jesus Heals Many People

(Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)

¹⁴Jesus went to Peter’s house. He saw that Peter’s mother-in-law was in bed with a high fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she stood up and began to serve him.

¹⁶That evening people brought to Jesus many people who had demons inside them. He spoke and the demons left the people. He healed all those who were sick. ¹⁷So Jesus made clear the full meaning of what Isaiah the prophet said: “He took away our diseases

and carried away our sicknesses.”^{§§}

Following Jesus

(Luke 9:57-62)

¹⁸When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he told his followers to go to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you anywhere you go.”

²⁰Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes to live in. The birds have nests. But the Son of Man has no place to rest.”

²¹Another of Jesus’ followers said to him, “Lord, I will follow you too, but first let me go and bury my father.”

²²But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let those who are dead bury their own dead.”

Jesus Stops a Storm

(Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)

²³Jesus got into a boat, and his followers went with him. ²⁴After the boat left the shore, a very bad storm began on the lake. The waves covered the boat, but Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The followers went to him and woke him. They said, “Lord, save us! We will drown!”

²⁶Jesus answered, “Why are you afraid? You don’t have enough faith.” Then he stood up and gave a command to the wind and the water. The wind stopped, and the lake became very calm.

²⁷The men were amazed. They said, “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the water obey him!”

Jesus Sends Demons Out of Two Men

(Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)

²⁸Jesus arrived at the other side of the lake in the area where the Gadarene

§§8:17 Quote from Isa. 53:4.

people* lived. There, two men who had demons inside them came to him. They lived in the burial caves and were so dangerous that no one could use the road by those caves. ²⁹They came to Jesus and shouted, “What do you want with us, Son of God? Did you come here to punish us before the right time?”

³⁰In the distance, there was a large herd of pigs feeding. ³¹The demons begged Jesus, “If you make us leave these men, please send us into that herd of pigs.”

³²Jesus said to them, “Go!” So the demons left the men and went into the pigs. Then the whole herd of pigs ran down the hill into the lake, and all were drowned. ³³The men who had the work of caring for the pigs ran away. They went into town and told the people everything that had happened, especially about the men with the demons. ³⁴Then the whole town went out to see Jesus. When the people saw him, they begged him to leave their area.

Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

(Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)

9 Jesus got into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ²Some people brought to him a man who was paralysed and was lying on a mat. When Jesus saw how much faith these people had, he said to the paralysed man, “Young man, you will be glad to hear that your sins are forgiven.”

³Some of the teachers of the law heard what Jesus said. They said to themselves, “It is an insult to God for this man to say that!”

⁴Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said, “Why do you have such evil

thoughts? ⁵Maybe 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’? ⁶Then, if it happens, you will know that I, as the Son of Man, have power on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus said to the paralysed man, “Stand up! Take your mat and go home!”

⁷The man stood up and went home. ⁸When the people saw this, they were amazed. They praised God for letting someone have such power.

Matthew Follows Jesus

(Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

⁹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” So he got up and went with Jesus.

¹⁰Later, Jesus was having a meal at Matthew’s house. Many tax collectors and others with bad reputations came and ate with him and his close followers. ¹¹The Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with these people. They asked his followers, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and other sinners?”

¹²Jesus heard them say this. So he said to them, “Sick people are the ones who need a doctor, not those who are healthy. ¹³You need to go and learn what this Scripture means: ‘I don’t want animal sacrifices; I want you to show kindness to people.’† I came to ask sinners to join me, not those who do everything right.”

*8:28 *Gadarene people* Some Greek copies have “Gerasenes” and others have “Gergesenes”.

†9:13 Quote from Hos. 6:6.

A Question About Fasting

(Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39)

¹⁴ Then the followers of John came to Jesus and said, “We and the Pharisees fast often. Why don’t your followers fast the way we do?”

¹⁵ Jesus answered, “At a wedding the friends of the bridegroom are not sad while he is with them. That’s not the time to fast. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them. Then they will be sad and fast.

¹⁶ “When someone patches old clothes, they never use a piece of cloth that is not yet shrunk. If they do, the patch will shrink and pull away from the old cloth and make a bigger hole. ¹⁷ Also, people never pour new wine[‡] into old wineskins. They would burst, the wine would spill out and the wineskins would be ruined. People always put new wine into new wineskins, which won’t break, and the wine stays good.”

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

(Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56)

¹⁸ While Jesus was still talking, a leader of the synagogue came to him. The leader bowed to the ground before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But if you will come and touch her with your hand, she will live again.”

¹⁹ So Jesus and his followers went with the man.

²⁰ On the way, there was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. She came close behind Jesus and touched the bottom of his coat. ²¹ She was thinking, “If I can touch his coat, I will be healed.”

²² Jesus turned and saw the woman. He said, “Be happy, dear woman. You are made well because you believed.” Then the woman was healed.

²³ Jesus continued going with the Jewish leader and went into the leader’s house. He saw people there who make music for funerals. And he saw a crowd of people crying loudly. ²⁴ Jesus said, “Go away. The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping.” But the people laughed at him. ²⁵ After the people had been sent out of the house, Jesus went into the girl’s room. He took hold of her hand, and she stood up. ²⁶ The news about this spread all around the area.

Jesus Heals Three Men

²⁷ As Jesus was going away from there, two blind men followed him. They said loudly, “Show kindness to us, Son of David.”

²⁸ Jesus went inside, and the blind men went with him. He asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to make you see?” They answered, “Yes, Lord, we believe.”

²⁹ Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, “You believe that I can make you see, so it will happen.” ³⁰ Then the men were able to see. Jesus gave them a strong warning. He said, “Don’t tell anyone how this happened.” ³¹ But they left and spread the news about Jesus all around that area.

³² As these two men were leaving, some people brought another man to Jesus. This man could not talk because he had a demon inside him. ³³ Jesus forced the demon out, and the man was able to talk. The people were amazed and said, “No one has ever seen anything like this in Israel.”

[‡]9:17 **new wine** Grape juice that is just beginning to ferment, which creates pressure inside a sealed container.

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “The ruler of demons is the one giving him the power to force demons out.”

Jesus Feels Sorry for the People

³⁵ Jesus travelled through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues and told people the Good News about God’s kingdom. He healed all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. ³⁶ When Jesus saw the crowds of people, he felt sorry for them because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd to lead them. ³⁷ Jesus said to his followers, “There is such a big harvest of people to bring in. But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. ³⁸ God owns the harvest. Ask him to send more workers to help gather his harvest.”

Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission

(*Mark 3:13-19; 6:7-13;*
Luke 6:12-16; 9:1-6)

10 Jesus called his twelve followers together. He gave them power over evil spirits. With this power they could free people from those spirits and heal every kind of disease and sickness. ² Here are the names of these men, the twelve apostles:

Simon, who was also called Peter,
Andrew, the brother of Peter,
James, the son of Zebedee,
John, the brother of James,
³ Philip,
Bartholomew,
Thomas,
Matthew, the tax collector,
James, the son of Alphaeus,
Thaddaeus,
⁴ Simon, the Zealot,

Judas Iscariot, the one who later turned against Jesus.

⁵ Jesus sent all twelve of them out with these instructions: “Don’t go to the non-Jewish people. And don’t go into any town where the Samaritans live. ⁶ But go to the people of Israel. They are like sheep that are lost. ⁷ When you go, tell them this: ‘God’s kingdom is now very near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick. Bring the dead back to life. Heal the people who are suffering from dreaded skin diseases. And force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help others freely. ⁹ Don’t carry any money with you—gold or silver or copper. ¹⁰ Don’t carry a bag or extra clothes or sandals or a walking stick. A worker deserves to be fed.

¹¹ “When you enter a city or town, find some worthy person there and stay in his home until you leave. ¹² When you enter that home, say, ‘Peace be with you.’ ¹³ If the people in that home welcome you, they are worthy of your peace. May they have the peace you wished for them. But if they don’t welcome you, they are not worthy of your peace. Take back the peace you wished for them. ¹⁴ And if the people in a home or a town refuse to welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet.”¹

¹⁵ I can assure you that on judgement day it will be worse for that town than for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.⁸

Jesus Warns About Troubles

(*Mark 13:9-13; Luke 21:12-17*)

¹⁶ “Listen carefully! I am sending you out, and you will be in danger, like sheep among wolves. So you must be as smart as snakes. But also be like doves

¹**10:14** *shake the dust off your feet* A warning. It would show that they were finished talking to these people.

⁸**10:15** *Sodom and Gomorrah* Cities that God destroyed because the people living there were so evil. See Gen. 19.

that don't hurt anyone. ¹⁷ Be prepared for trouble, because there are people who will arrest you and take you to be judged. They will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ Because you follow me, they will make you defend yourselves before governors and kings. But this will happen so that you can tell about me to those kings and governors and to the non-Jewish people. ¹⁹ When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say or how you should say it. At that time you will be given the words to say. ²⁰ It will not really be you speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹ "Brothers will turn against their own brothers and hand them over to be killed. Fathers will hand over their own children to be killed. Children will turn against their own parents and will have them killed. ²² Everyone will hate you because you follow me. But those who remain faithful to the end will be saved. ²³ When people mistreat you in one town, go to another town. I promise you that you will not finish going to all the towns of Israel before I come to rule as the Son of Man.

²⁴ "Students are not treated better than their teacher. Slaves are not treated better than their master. ²⁵ Students should be happy to be treated the same as their teacher. And slaves should be happy to be treated the same as their master. Those people call me 'the ruler of demons', and I am the head of the family.** So it is even more certain that they will insult you, the members of the family!

Fear God, Not People

(Luke 12:2-7)

²⁶ "So don't be afraid of those people. Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be made known. ²⁷ I tell you all this privately, but I want you to tell it publicly. I whisper secrets in your ear, but I want you to announce them openly where everyone can hear.

²⁸ "Don't be afraid of people. They can kill the body, but they cannot kill the soul. The only one you should fear is God, the one who can send the body and the soul to be destroyed in hell. ²⁹ When birds are sold, two small birds cost only a penny. But not even one of those little birds can die without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ God even knows how many hairs are on your head. ³¹ So don't be afraid. You are worth more than a whole flock of birds.

Don't Be Ashamed of Your Faith

(Luke 12:8-9)

³² "If you stand before others and are willing to say you believe in me, then I will tell my Father in heaven that you belong to me. ³³ But if you stand before others and say you do not believe in me, then I will tell my Father in heaven that you do not belong to me.

Following Jesus Brings Trouble

(Luke 12:51-53; 14:26-27)

³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace. I came to bring trouble.††
³⁵ I have come to make this happen:
 'A son will turn against his father,
 a daughter against her mother,

**10:25 *call me ... family* Literally, "call the head of the household Beelzebul". See verse 9:34.

††10:34 *trouble* Literally, "a sword".

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶ Even members of your own family will be your enemies. ^{‡‡}

³⁷ “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of me. Or if you love your son or daughter more than you love me, you are not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever will not carry the cross^{¶¶} that comes with following me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ If you try to keep the life you have, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.

God Will Bless Those Who Welcome You

(Mark 9:41)

⁴⁰ “Whoever accepts you also accepts me. And whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever accepts a prophet because he is a prophet will get the same reward a prophet gets. And whoever accepts a godly person just because that person is godly will get the same reward a godly person gets. ⁴² Whoever helps any of these little ones because they are my followers will definitely get a reward, even if they only give them a cup of cold water.”

John Sends Men to Ask Jesus a Question

(Luke 7:18-35)

11 When Jesus finished these instructions for his twelve followers, he left there. He went to the towns in Galilee to teach the people and tell them God’s message.

² When John was in prison, he heard about the things that were happening—things the Messiah would do. So he sent some of his followers to Jesus. ³ They asked him, “Are you the one we have been expecting, or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴ Jesus answered, “Go and tell John what you have heard and seen: ⁵ the blind can see, the lame can walk, and 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. ⁶ Great blessings belong to those who don’t have a problem accepting me.”

⁷ When John’s followers left, Jesus began talking to the people about John. He said, “What did you people go out to the desert to see? Someone who is weak, like a stem of grass^{§§} blowing in the wind? ⁸ Really, what did you expect to see? Someone dressed in fine clothes? Of course not. People who wear fine clothes are all in kings’ palaces. ⁹ So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, John is a prophet. But I tell you, he is more than that. ¹⁰ This Scripture was written about him:

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

He will prepare the way for you.’^{*}

¹¹ “The truth is that no one ever born is greater than John the Baptizer. But even the least important person in God’s kingdom is greater than John. ¹² Since the time John the Baptizer came until now, God’s kingdom has faced attack.[†] And people have been trying to take con-

^{‡‡}10:36 Quote from Mic. 7:6.

^{¶¶}10:38 *carry the cross* A symbol meaning to accept a new life of shame, suffering and death. See cross in the Word List.

^{§§}11:7 *stem of grass* Literally, “reed”.

^{*}11:10 Quote from Mal. 3:1.

[†]11:12 *has faced attack* Or “has been going forward strongly”.

trol of it by force. ¹³ Before John came, the Law of Moses and all the prophets told about the things that would happen. ¹⁴ And if you believe what they said, you know that John is Elijah.[‡] He is the one they said would come. ¹⁵ You people who hear me, listen!

¹⁶ “What can I say to describe the people who live today? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and whining at their friends,

¹⁷ ‘We played flute music for you, but you would not dance; we sang a funeral song, but you would not cry.’

¹⁸ Why do I say people are like that? Because John came and did not eat the usual food or drink wine, and people say, ‘He has a demon inside him.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and people say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine. He’s a friend of tax collectors and other sinners.’ But wisdom is shown to be right by what it does.”

Warning for Those Who Reject Jesus

(*Luke 10:13-15*)

²⁰ Then Jesus criticized the cities where he did most of his miracles. He criticized these cities because the people there did not change their lives and stop sinning. ²¹ Jesus said, “It will be bad for you Chorazin! It will be bad for you Bethsaida![¶] I did many miracles in you. If these same miracles had happened in Tyre and Sidon,[§] the people there would

have changed their lives a long time ago. They would have worn rags and put dirt on themselves to show that they were sorry for their sins. ²² I tell you, on the day of judgement it will be worse for you than for the people of Tyre and Sidon.

²³ “And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No! You will be thrown down to the place of death. I did many miracles in you. If these same miracles had happened in Sodom,^{**} the people there would have stopped sinning, and it would still be a city today. ²⁴ But I tell you, it will be worse for you on the day of judgement than for Sodom.”

Jesus Offers Rest to His People

(*Luke 10:21-22*)

²⁵ Then 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. ²⁶ Yes, Father, you did this because it’s what you really wanted to do.

²⁷ “My Father has given me everything. No one knows the Son—only the Father knows the Son. And no one knows the Father—only the Son knows the Father. And the only people who will know about the Father are those the Son chooses to tell.

²⁸ “Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry. I will give you rest. ²⁹ Ac-

[‡]11:14 *Elijah* See Mal. 4:5-6.

[¶]11:21 *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.

[§]11:21 *Tyre and Sidon* Cities filled with idol worship that were well known for how evil they were.

^{**}11:23 *Sodom* A city that God destroyed, together with the city of Gomorrah, because the people living there were so evil. See Gen. 19.

cept my teaching.^{††} Learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will be able to get some rest.³⁰ Yes, the teaching that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is light.”

Jesus Is Lord Over the Sabbath Day

(Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5)

12 About that same time, Jesus was walking through some fields of grain on a Sabbath day. His followers were hungry, so they began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.² When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Jesus, “Look at your followers! They are doing work that our Law does not allow on the Sabbath day!”

³ Jesus answered them, “You have read what David did when he and those with him were hungry.⁴ David went into God’s house and ate the bread that was offered to God. It was against the Law for David or those with him to eat that bread, which only the priests are allowed to eat.⁵ And you have read in the Law of Moses that on every Sabbath day the priests at the Temple break the Law about working on the Sabbath day. But they are not wrong for doing that.⁶ I tell you that there is something here that is greater than the Temple.⁷ The Scriptures say, ‘I don’t want animal sacrifices; I want you to show kindness to people.’^{‡‡} You don’t really know what that means. If you understood it, you would not judge those who have done nothing wrong.

⁸ “The Son of Man is Lord over the Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)

⁹ Jesus went from there to their synagogue,¹⁰ where he saw a man with a paralysed hand. Some people there were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus of doing wrong. So they asked him, “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath day?”^{¶¶}

¹¹ Jesus answered, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a ditch on the Sabbath day, what will you do? You will grab it and pull it out, right?¹² Surely a man is more important than a sheep! So then, the Law allows us to do good on the Sabbath.”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the man with the paralysed hand, “Hold out your hand.” The man held out his hand, and it was healed. It was as good as his other hand.¹⁴ But the Pharisees left and began planning a way to kill Jesus.

Jesus Is God’s Chosen Servant

¹⁵ Jesus knew what the Pharisees were planning. So he left that place, and many people followed him. He healed all who were sick,¹⁶ but he warned them not to tell anyone who he was.¹⁷ This was to give full meaning to what Isaiah the prophet said when he spoke God’s message:

¹⁸ “Here is my servant,
the one I have chosen.
He is the one I love,
and I am very pleased with him.
I will fill him with my Spirit,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
¹⁹ He will not argue or shout;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

^{††}11:29 *Accept my teaching* Literally, “Take my yoke upon you.” A yoke was put on the neck of a work animal for pulling a load. It was a Jewish symbol for the law. See Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1. It was also a symbol for being ruled by a cruel, foreign power, such as the Roman empire.

^{‡‡}12:7 Quote from Hos. 6:6.

^{¶¶}12:10 *Is it right ... day* It was against Jewish law to work on the Sabbath day.

²⁰ He will not break off even a bent stem of grass;^{§§} he will not put out even the weakest flame.

He will not give up until he has made justice victorious.

²¹ All people will hope in him.”*

Jesus' Power Is From God

(Mark 3:20-30; Luke 11:14-23; 12:10)

²² Then some people brought a man to Jesus. This man was blind and could not talk, because he had a demon inside him. Jesus healed the man, and he could talk and see. ²³ All the people were amazed at what Jesus did. They said, “Maybe he is the promised Son of David!”

²⁴ When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “Satan,[†] the ruler of demons, is the one giving this man the power to force demons out of people.”

²⁵ Jesus knew what the Pharisees were thinking. So he said to them, “Every kingdom that fights against itself will be destroyed. And every city or family that is divided against itself will not survive. ²⁶ So if Satan forces out his own demons,[‡] then he is fighting against himself, and his kingdom will not survive.

²⁷ You say that I use the power of Satan to force out demons. If that is true, then what power do your people use when they force out demons? So your own people will prove that you are wrong.

²⁸ But I use the power of God's Spirit to force out demons, and this shows that God's kingdom has already come to you.

²⁹ Only someone who is stronger than the strong man can enter his house and steal his things. You have to be able to tie him up before you can rob his house.

³⁰ “Whoever is not with me is against me. And anyone who does not work with me is working against me.

³¹ “So I tell you, people can be forgiven for every sinful thing they do and for every bad thing they say against God. But anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² You can even speak against the Son of Man and be forgiven. But anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven—not now or in the future.

What You Do Shows What You Are

(Luke 6:43-45)

³³ “If you want good fruit, you must make the tree good. If your tree is not good, it will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces.

³⁴ You snakes! You are so evil. How can you say anything good? What people say with their mouths comes from what fills their hearts. ³⁵ Those who are good 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. ³⁶ I tell you that everyone will have to answer for all the careless things they have said. This will happen on the day of judgement. ³⁷ Your words will be used to judge you. What you have said will show whether you are right or whether you are guilty.”

Some People Doubt Jesus' Authority

(Mark 8:11-12; Luke 11:29-32)

³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law answered Jesus. They said, “Teacher, we want to see you do a miracle as a sign from God.”

§§12:20 *stem of grass* Literally, “reed”.

*12:21 Quote from Isa. 42:1-4.

†12:24 *Satan* Literally, “Beelzebul” (the devil). Also in verse 27.

‡12:26 *if Satan ... demons* Literally, “if Satan forces out Satan”.

³⁹ Jesus answered, “You people who live today are evil and unfaithful to God! That’s why you have to see a miracle before you will believe. But no miracle will be done to prove anything to you. The only sign you will get will be what happened to the prophet Jonah.”⁴¹ Jonah was in the stomach of the big fish for three days and nights. In the same way, the Son of Man will be in the grave three days and nights. ⁴¹ On judgement day, you people who live now will be compared with the people of Nineveh, and they will be witnesses who show how guilty you are. Why do I say this? Because when Jonah preached to those people, they changed their lives. And you are listening to someone greater than Jonah, but you refuse to change!

⁴² “On the judgement day, you people who live now will also be compared with the queen of the South,[§] and she will be a witness who shows how guilty you are. I say this because she travelled from far, far away to listen to Solomon’s wise teaching. And I tell you that someone greater than Solomon is right here, but you won’t listen to me!

The Danger of Emptiness

(Luke 11:24-26)

⁴³ “When an evil spirit comes out of a person, it travels through dry places looking for a place to rest, but it finds none. ⁴⁴ So it says, ‘I will go back to the home I left.’ When it comes back, it finds that home still empty. It is all neat and clean. ⁴⁵ Then the evil spirit goes out and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself. They all go and live there, and that

person has even more trouble than before. It is the same way with the evil people who live today.”

Jesus’ Followers Are His True Family

(Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)

⁴⁶ While Jesus was talking to the people, his mother and brothers stood outside. They wanted to talk to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside. They want to talk to you.”

⁴⁸ Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ Then he pointed to his followers and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ Yes, my true brother and sister and mother are those who do what my Father in heaven wants.”

A Story About a Farmer Sowing Seed

(Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)

13 Later that day, Jesus went outside. He was sitting by the lake, ² and a large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat and sat down. All the people stayed on the shore. ³ Then Jesus used stories to teach them many things. He told them this story:

“A farmer went out to sow seed. ⁴ While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell on the path. The birds came and ate all that seed. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough soil. It grew very fast there, because the soil was not deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. ⁷ Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew up and

^{12:39} **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. In a similar way, Jesus would come out from the tomb on the third day, a sign to prove the truth of his message from God.

^{12:42} **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.

slowed the growth of the good plants.
⁸But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain, some 60 times more and some 30 times more. ⁹You people who hear me, listen!”

Why Jesus Used Stories to Teach

(Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10)

¹⁰The followers came to Jesus and asked, “Why do you use these stories to teach the people?”

¹¹Jesus answered, “God has allowed you to know the secret truths about God’s kingdom. Those other people cannot know these secret truths. ¹²The people who have some understanding will be given more. And they will have even more than they need. But those who do not have much understanding will lose even the little understanding that they have. ¹³This is why I use these stories to teach the people:

They see, but they don’t really see.
 They hear, but they don’t really hear or understand.

¹⁴So they give full meaning to what God told Isaiah to say to his people:
 ‘You people will listen and listen,
 but you will not understand.
 You will look and look,
 but you will not really see.

¹⁵These people are not able to understand.

Their ears are stopped up,
 and their eyes are closed.
 So they cannot see with their eyes,
 or hear with their ears
 or understand with their minds.
 If they understood, they might turn to me,
 and I would heal them!”**

¹⁶But God has blessed you. You understand what you see with your eyes. And you understand what you hear with your ears. ¹⁷I can assure you, many prophets and godly people wanted to see what you now see. But they did not see it. And many prophets and godly people wanted to hear what you now hear. But they did not hear it.

Jesus Explains the Story About Seed

(Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15)

¹⁸“So listen to the meaning of that story about the farmer:

¹⁹“What about the seed that fell on the path? That is like the people who hear the teaching about God’s kingdom but do not understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away what was planted in their hearts.

²⁰“And what about the seed that fell on rocky ground? That is like the people who are happy to hear the teaching and accept it at once. ²¹But they do not let the teaching go deep into their lives. They keep it only a short time. As soon as trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching they accepted, they give up.

²²“And what about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear the teaching but let worries of this life and love for money slow its growth. So it does not produce good results in their lives.††

²³“But what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and understand it. They grow and produce a good crop, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more and sometimes 30 times more.”

** 13:15 Quote from Isa. 6:9-10.

†† 13:22 *does not produce ... lives* Literally, “becomes unfruitful”, meaning that these people do not do the good things God wants his people to do.

A Story About Wheat and Weeds

²⁴Then Jesus used another story to teach them. Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like a man who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵That night, while everyone was asleep, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and then left. ²⁶Later, the wheat grew, and heads of grain grew on the plants. But at the same time the weeds also grew. ²⁷Then the owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘You planted good seed in your field. Where did the weeds come from?’

²⁸“The owner answered, ‘An enemy planted weeds.’

“The servants asked, ‘Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?’

²⁹“He answered, ‘No, because when you pull up the weeds, you might also pull up the wheat. ³⁰Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest time. At that time I will tell the workers, “Gather the weeds and tie them together to be burned. Then gather the wheat and bring it to my barn.”’”

Another Kingdom Story

(Mark 4:30-34; Luke 13:18-21)

³¹Then Jesus told the people another story: “God’s kingdom is like a mustard seed that someone planted in a field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds. But it grows bigger than all the other garden plants. It becomes a tree big enough for birds to come and make nests in its branches.”

³³Jesus also told them another story: “God’s kingdom 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.”

³⁴Jesus used stories to tell all these things to the people. He always used

stories to teach them. ³⁵This was to make clear the full meaning of what the prophet said:

“I will speak using stories;
I will tell things that have been secrets
since the world was made.”[‡]

Jesus Explains a Hard Story

³⁶Then Jesus left the people and went into the house. His followers came to him and said, “Explain to us the meaning of the story about the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The man who planted the good seed in the field is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world. The good seed are the people in God’s kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the Evil One. ³⁹And the enemy who planted the bad seed is the devil. The harvest is the end of time. And the workers who gather are God’s angels.

⁴⁰“The weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire. It will be the same at the end of time. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will find the people who cause sin and all those who do evil. The angels will take those people out of his kingdom. ⁴²They will throw them into the place of fire. There the people will be crying and grinding their teeth in pain. ⁴³Then the godly people will shine like the sun. They will be in the kingdom of their Father. You people who hear me, listen!

Stories About a Treasure and a Pearl

⁴⁴“God’s kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field. One day a man found the treasure. He hid it again and was so happy that he went and sold everything he owned and bought the field.

[‡]13:35 Quote from Ps. 78:2.

⁴⁵“Also, God’s kingdom is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶One day he found a very fine pearl. He went and sold everything he had to buy it.

A Story About a Fishing Net

⁴⁷“Also, God’s kingdom is like a net that was put into the lake. The net caught many different kinds of fish. ⁴⁸It was full, so the fishermen pulled it to the shore. They sat down and put all the good fish in baskets. Then they threw away the bad fish. ⁴⁹It will be the same at the end of time. The angels will come and separate the evil people from the godly people. ⁵⁰They will throw the evil people into the place of fire. There the people will cry and grind their teeth in pain.”

⁵¹Then Jesus asked his followers, “Do you understand all these things?”

They said, “Yes, we understand.”

⁵²Then Jesus said to the followers, “So every teacher of the law who has learned about God’s kingdom has some new things to teach. He is like the owner of a house. He has new things and old things saved in that house. And he brings out the new with the old.”

Jesus Goes to His Home Town

(Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30)

⁵³When Jesus finished teaching with these stories, he left there. ⁵⁴He went to the town where he grew up. He taught the people in the synagogue, and they were amazed. They said, “Where did this man get such wisdom and the power to do miracles? ⁵⁵Isn’t this the son of the carpenter we know? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And don’t all his sisters still live here in town? How is he able to do all these things?” ⁵⁷So they had a problem accepting him.

But Jesus said to them, “The only place people don’t honour a prophet is in his home town, with his own family.” ⁵⁸Jesus did not do many miracles there, because the people did not believe in him.

Herod Thinks Jesus Is John the Baptizer

(Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9)

14 About that time, Herod, the ruler of Galilee, heard what the people were saying about Jesus. ²So he said to his servants, “I think this man is really John the Baptizer. He must have risen from death, and that is why he can do these miracles.”

How John the Baptizer Was Killed

³Before this time, Herod had arrested John. He had him chained and put in prison. He arrested John because of Herodias, the wife of Philip, Herod’s brother. ⁴John had told him, “It is not right for you to be married to Herodias.” ⁵Herod wanted to kill him, but he was afraid of the people. They believed that John was a prophet.

⁶On Herod’s birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for him and his group. Herod was very pleased with her. ⁷So he promised that he would give her anything she wanted. ⁸Herodias told her daughter what to ask for. So she said to Herod, “Give me the head of John the Baptizer here on a plate.”

⁹King Herod was very sad. But he had promised to give the daughter anything she wanted. And the people eating with Herod had heard his promise. So he ordered it to be done. ¹⁰He sent men to the prison, where they cut off John’s head. ¹¹They brought his head on a plate and gave it to the girl. And she took it to her mother. ¹²John’s followers came and got

his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.

Jesus Feeds More Than 5000

(Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)

¹³When Jesus heard what had happened to John, he left in a boat. He went alone to a place where no one lived. But the people heard that Jesus had left. So they left their towns and followed him. They went by land to the same place. ¹⁴When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd of people. He felt sorry for them, and he healed the ones who were sick.

¹⁵Late that afternoon, the followers came to Jesus and said, "No one lives in this place. And it is already late. Send the people away so they can go to the towns and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶Jesus said, "The people don't need to go away. You give them some food to eat."

¹⁷The followers answered, "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish."

¹⁸Jesus said, "Bring the bread and the fish to me." ¹⁹Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked into the sky and thanked God for the food. Then he broke the bread into pieces, which he gave to the followers, and they gave the food to the people. ²⁰Everyone ate until they were full. Then the followers filled twelve baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. ²¹There were about 5000 men there who ate. There were also women and children who ate.

Jesus Walks on Water

(Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21)

²²Then Jesus made the followers get into the boat. He told them to go to the

other side of the lake. He said he would come later. He stayed there to tell everyone they could go home. ²³After Jesus said goodbye to the people, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. It was late, and he was there alone. ²⁴By this time the boat was already a long way from shore. Since the wind was blowing against it, the boat was having trouble because of the waves.

²⁵Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus' followers were still in the boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. ²⁶When they saw him walking on the water, it scared them. "It's a ghost!" they said, screaming in fear.

²⁷But Jesus quickly spoke to them. He said, "Don't worry! It's me! Don't be afraid."

²⁸Peter said, "Lord, if that is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹Jesus said, "Come, Peter."

Then Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. ³⁰But while Peter was walking on the water, he saw the wind and the waves. He was afraid and began sinking into the water. He shouted, "Lord, save me!"

³¹Then Jesus caught Peter with his hand. He said, "Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?"

³²When Peter and Jesus got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Then the followers in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals Many Sick People

(Mark 6:53-56)

³⁴They crossed the lake and came to shore at Gennesaret. ³⁵Some men there saw Jesus and knew who he was. So they sent word to the other people throughout that area that Jesus had come. The people brought all their sick people to

him. ³⁶They begged Jesus to let them touch at least the edge of his clothing. And all those who touched it were healed.

God's Law and Human Traditions

(Mark 7:1-23)

15 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus. They came from Jerusalem and asked him, ²“Why do your followers not obey the traditions we have from our great leaders who lived long ago? Your followers don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

³Jesus answered, “And why do you refuse to obey God’s command so that you can follow your own traditions?”

⁴God said, ‘You must respect your father and mother.’^{¶¶} And God also said, ‘Whoever says anything bad to their father or mother must be killed.’^{§§} ⁵But you teach that a person can say to their father or mother, ‘I have something I could use to help you. But I will not use it for you. I will give it to God.’ ⁶You are teaching them not to respect their parents. So you are teaching that it is not important to do what God said. You think it is more important to follow your own traditions. ⁷You are hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he spoke God’s message about you:

⁸“These people honour me with their words,
but I am not really important to them.
⁹Their worship of me is useless

because the things they teach are only human rules.”^{***}

¹⁰Jesus called the people to him. He said, “Listen and understand what I am saying. ¹¹What you put into your mouth is not what causes God to reject you.[†] Rather, the evil words that come from your mouth are what make you displeasing to him.[‡]”

¹²Then the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees are upset about what you said?”

¹³Jesus answered, “Every plant that my Father in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴Stay away from the Pharisees. They are leaders of the people, but they are like blind men leading others who are blind. And if a blind man leads another who is blind, they will both fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵Peter said, “Explain to us what you said earlier to the people.”

¹⁶Jesus said, “Do you still have trouble understanding? ¹⁷Surely you know that all the food that enters the mouth goes into the stomach. From there it goes out of the body. ¹⁸But the bad things you say with your mouth come from the way you think. And that’s what can make you displeasing to God. ¹⁹All these bad things begin in the mind: evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual sins, stealing, lying and insulting people. ²⁰These are the things that make you displeasing to God. Eating without washing your hands will never cause God to reject you.”

^{¶¶}15:4 Quote from Exod. 20:12; Deut. 5:16.

^{§§}15:4 Quote from Exod. 21:17.

^{*}15:9 Quote from Isa. 29:13.

[†]15:11 *causes God to reject you* Literally, “makes you unclean”, meaning to make you impure or unsuitable for worship to God. See unclean in the Word List. Also in verse 20.

[‡]15:11 *what make you displeasing to him* Literally, “what makes you unclean”. Also in verses 18,20.

Jesus Helps a Non-Jewish Woman

(Mark 7:24-30)

²¹ Jesus went from there to the area of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that area came out and began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, please help me! My daughter has a demon inside her, and she is suffering very much.”

²³ But Jesus did not answer her. So the followers came to him and said, “Tell her to go away. She keeps crying out and will not leave us alone.”

²⁴ Jesus answered, “God sent me only to his lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

²⁵ Then the woman came over to Jesus and bowed down before him. She said, “Lord, help me!”

²⁶ He answered her with the saying, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and give it to the dogs.”

²⁷ The woman said, “Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the pieces of food that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Woman, your faith is amazing! You will get what you asked for.” And right then the woman’s daughter was healed.

Jesus Heals Many People

²⁹ Then Jesus went from there to the shore of Lake Galilee. He went up into the hills and sat down.

³⁰ A large crowd of people came to him. They brought many other sick people and put them before him. There were people who could not walk, people who were blind, paralysed or deaf and many others. Jesus healed them all. ³¹ The people were amazed when they saw that those who could not speak were now able to speak. Paralysed people were made strong. Those who could not walk were now able to walk. The blind were able to see. Everyone thanked the God of Israel for this.

Jesus Feeds More Than 4000

(Mark 8:1-10)

³² Jesus called his followers to him and said, “I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days, and now they have nothing to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry. They might faint on the way home.”

³³ The followers asked Jesus, “Where can we get enough bread to feed all these people? We are a long way from any town.”

³⁴ Jesus asked, “How many loaves of bread do you have?”

They answered, “We have seven loaves of bread and a few small fish.”

³⁵ Jesus told the people to sit on the ground. ³⁶ He took the seven loaves of bread and the fish. Then he gave thanks to God for the food. He broke the bread into pieces, which he gave to the followers, and they gave the food to the people. ³⁷ All the people ate until they were full. After this, the followers filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. ³⁸ There were about 4000 men there who ate. There were also some women and children. ³⁹ After they had all eaten, Jesus told the people they could go home. He got into the boat and went to the area of Magadan.

Some People Doubt Jesus’ Authority

(Mark 8:11-13; Luke 12:54-56)

16 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus. They wanted to test him. So they asked him to show them a miracle as a sign from God.

² Jesus answered, “When you people see the sunset, you know what the weather will be. If the sky is red, you say we will have good weather. ³ And in the morning, if the sky is dark and red, you say that it will be a rainy day. These are signs of the weather. You see these signs

in the sky and know what they mean. In the same way, you see the things that are happening now. These are also signs, but you don't understand their meaning. ⁴You people who live today are evil and unfaithful to God. That's why you have to see a miracle before you will believe. But no miracle will be done to prove anything to you. The only sign you will get will be what happened to Jonah."^f Then Jesus went away from there.

Jesus' Followers Misunderstand Him

(Mark 8:14-21)

⁵Jesus and his followers went across the lake. But the followers forgot to bring bread. ⁶Jesus said to them, "Be careful! Guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

⁷The followers discussed the meaning of this. They said, "Did he say this because we forgot to bring bread?"

⁸Jesus knew that they were talking about this. So he asked them, "Why are you talking about not having bread? Your faith is small. ⁹Do you still not understand? Remember the five loaves of bread that fed the 5000 people and the many baskets you filled with the bread that was left? ¹⁰And remember the seven loaves of bread that fed the 4000 people and the many baskets you filled that time? ¹¹So how could you think that I am concerned about bread?

I am telling you to be careful and guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

¹²Then the followers understood what Jesus meant. He was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread. He was telling them to guard against the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Peter Knows Who Jesus Is

(Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21)

¹³When Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his followers, "Who do people say I am^g?"

¹⁴They answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Others say you are Elijah. And some say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵Then Jesus said to his followers, "And who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,^{**} the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus answered, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah. No one taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you who I am. ¹⁸So I tell you, you are Peter. And I will build my church on this rock.^{††} The power of death^{‡‡} will not be able to defeat my church. ¹⁹I will give you the keys to God's kingdom. When you speak judgement here on earth, that judgement will be God's judgement. When you promise forgive-

^f**16:4 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. In a similar way, Jesus would come out from the tomb on the third day, a sign to prove the truth of his message from God.

^g**16:13 I am** Literally, "the Son of Man is".

^{**}**16:16 the Messiah** Literally, "the Christ". See Christ and Messiah in the Word List.

^{††}**16:18 Peter ... rock** "Peter", the Greek form of the Aramaic name "Cephas", means "rock". In the Scriptures (Isa. 51:1,2), as well as in Jewish tradition, Abraham was compared to a rock that God could use to "build" his people. So Jesus may imply that Peter is like Abraham. God gave new names to Abraham and Sarah and honoured them as examples of faith for their descendants. In a similar way, Jesus renamed Peter (see Mark 3:16) and honours him here for his bold expression of faith.

^{‡‡}**16:18 power of death** Literally, "gates of Hades".

ness here on earth, that forgiveness will be God's forgiveness."[¶]

²⁰ Then Jesus warned his followers not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Says He Must Die

(Mark 8:31 – 9:1; Luke 9:22-27)

²¹ From that time, Jesus began telling his followers that he must go to Jerusalem. He explained that the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests and the teachers of the law would make him suffer many things. And he told his followers that he must be killed. Then, on the third day, he would be raised from death.

²² Peter took Jesus away from the other followers to talk to him alone. He began to criticize him. He said, "God save you from those sufferings, Lord! That will never happen to you!"

²³ Then Jesus said to Peter, "Get away from me, Satan!^{§§} You are not helping me! You don't care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his followers, "If you want to be my follower, you must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must carry the cross* that comes with following me. ²⁵ If you try to save the life you have, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. ²⁶ It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world if you yourself are lost. You could never pay enough to buy back your life. ²⁷ I, the

Son of Man, will come again with my Father's glory and with his angels. And I will reward everyone for what they have done. ²⁸ Believe me when I say that there are some people standing here who will live to see me coming as the Son of Man to rule as king."

Jesus Is Seen With Moses and Elijah

(Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36)

17 Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John the brother of James and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. ² While these followers watched him, Jesus was changed. His face became bright like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ Then two men were there, talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you want, I will make three shelters[†] here—one to honour you, one to honour Moses and one to honour Elijah."

⁵ While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came over them. A voice came from the cloud and said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Do what he says!"

⁶ When his followers heard the voice, they were so afraid they fell to the ground. ⁷ But Jesus came to them and touched them. He said, "Stand up. Don't be afraid." ⁸ When the followers looked up, they saw Jesus was now alone.

⁹ As Jesus and the followers were coming down the mountain, he gave them

[¶]**16:19** *When you speak ... forgiveness* Literally, "Whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven."

^{§§}**16:23** *Satan* Name for the devil meaning "the enemy". Jesus means that Peter was talking like Satan.

***16:24** *carry the cross* A symbol meaning to accept a new life of shame, suffering and death. See cross in the Word List.

[†]**17:4** *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.

this command: “Don’t tell anyone about what you saw on the mountain. Wait until the Son of Man has been raised from death. Then you can tell people about what you saw.”

¹⁰ The followers asked Jesus, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come[‡] before the Messiah comes?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “They are right to say Elijah is coming. And it is true that Elijah will make all things the way they should be. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come. People did not know who he was, and they mistreated him. They did to him whatever they wanted to do. It is the same with the Son of Man. Those same people will make the Son of Man suffer.” ¹³ Then the followers understood that when Jesus said Elijah, he was really talking about John the Baptizer.

Jesus Frees a Boy From an Evil Spirit

(Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43a)

¹⁴ When Jesus and his followers went back to the people, a man came to Jesus and knelt down before him. ¹⁵ The man said, “Lord, be kind to my son. He suffers so much from the seizures he has. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your followers, but they could not heal him.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered, “You people today have no faith. Your lives are so wrong! How long must I stay with you? How long must I continue to be patient with you? Bring the boy here.” ¹⁸ Jesus gave a strong command to the demon inside the boy. The demon came out, and the boy was healed.

¹⁹ Then the followers came to Jesus alone. They said, “We tried to force the demon out of the boy, but we could not.

Why were we not able to make the demon go out?”

²⁰ Jesus answered, “You were not able to make the demon go out, because your faith is too small. Believe me when I tell you, if your faith is only as big as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. You will be able to do anything.” ²¹ ¶

Jesus Talks About His Death

(Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43b-45)

²² Later, the followers met together in Galilee. Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man will be handed over to the control of other men, ²³ who will kill him. But on the third day he will be raised from death.” The followers were very sad to hear that Jesus would be killed.

Jesus Teaches About Paying Taxes

²⁴ When Jesus and his followers came to Capernaum, the men who collect the two-drachma Temple tax came to Peter. They asked, “Does your teacher pay the Temple tax?”

²⁵ Peter answered, “Yes, he does.”

Peter went into the house where Jesus was. Before Peter could speak, Jesus said to him, “The kings on the earth get different kinds of taxes from people. But who are those who pay the taxes? Are they the king’s own family? Or do other people pay the taxes? What do you think?”

²⁶ Peter answered, “Other people pay the taxes.”

Jesus said, “Then the king’s family don’t have to pay taxes. ²⁷ But we don’t want to upset these tax collectors. So do this: Go to the lake and fish. When

[‡]17:10 *Elijah must come* See Mal. 4:5-6.

[¶]17:21 Some Greek copies add verse 21: “*But this kind comes out only with prayer and fasting.*”

you catch the first fish, open its mouth. Inside its mouth you will find a four-drachma coin. Take that coin and give it to the tax collectors. That will pay the tax for you and me.”

Who Is the Greatest?

(Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48)

18 About that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in God’s kingdom?”

² Jesus called a little child to come to him. He stood the child in front of the followers. ³ Then he said, “The truth is, you must change your thinking and become like little children. If you don’t do this, you will never enter God’s kingdom. ⁴ The greatest person in God’s kingdom is the one who makes himself humble like this child.

⁵ “When you accept a little child like this as one who belongs to me, you accept me.

Jesus Warns About Causes of Sin

(Mark 9:42-48; Luke 17:1-2)

⁶ “If one of these little children believes in me, and someone causes that child to sin, it will be very bad for that person. It would be better for them to have a millstone tied around their neck and be drowned in the deep sea. ⁷ I feel sorry for the people in the world because of the things that make people sin. These things must happen, but it will be very bad for anyone who causes them to happen.

⁸ “If your hand or your foot makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose part of your body and have eternal life than to have two hands

and two feet and be thrown into the fire that burns forever. ⁹ If your eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better for you to have only one eye and have eternal life than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Jesus Uses a Story About a Lost Sheep

(Luke 15:3-7)

¹⁰ “Be careful. Don’t think these little children are not important. I tell you that these children have angels in heaven. And those angels are always with my Father in heaven. ¹¹ §

¹² “If a man has 100 sheep, but one of the sheep is lost, what will he do? He will leave the other 99 sheep on the hill and go to look for the lost sheep. ¹³ And if he finds the lost sheep, he is happier about that one sheep than about the 99 sheep that were never lost. I can assure you, ¹⁴ in the same way, your Father in heaven does not want any of these little children to be lost.

Correct Anyone Who Does Wrong

(Luke 17:3)

¹⁵ “If one of your brothers or sisters in God’s family does wrong to you,** go and tell them what they did wrong. Do this when the two of you are alone. If that person listens to you, then you have helped them to be a true brother or sister again. ¹⁶ But if that person refuses to listen, go to them again and take one or two other believers with you. Then there will be two or three witnesses to prove the truth of everything you say.†† ¹⁷ If the person who sinned refuses to listen to them, then tell the church. And if they refuse to listen to the church, treat them

§18:11 Some Greek copies add verse 11: “*The Son of Man came to save lost people.*” See Luke 19:10.

**18:15 *to you* The best ancient Greek copies do not have these words.

††18:16 *Then ... say* See Deut. 19:15.

as you would treat an unbeliever or a tax collector.

¹⁸“I can assure you that when you speak judgement here on earth, it will be God’s judgement. And when you promise forgiveness here on earth, it will be God’s forgiveness.”[‡] ¹⁹To say it another way, if two of you on earth agree on anything you pray for, my Father in heaven will do what you ask. ²⁰Yes, if two or three people are together believing in me, I am there with them.”

A Story About Forgiveness

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, when someone[¶] won’t stop doing wrong to me, how many times must I forgive them? Seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, you must forgive them more than seven times. You must continue to forgive them even if they do wrong to you seventy-seven times.”^{§§}

²³“I say this because God’s kingdom is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. ²⁴The king began to collect his money. One servant owed him more than 300 tonnes^{*} of silver. ²⁵He did not have enough money to pay this debt. So the king ordered that servant and everything he owned to be sold, even his wife and children.

²⁶“But the servant fell on his knees and begged, ‘Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.’ ²⁷The king felt sorry for him. So he let the servant go free and told him he did not have to pay.

²⁸“Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him around the neck and said, ‘Pay me the money you owe me!’

²⁹“The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.’

³⁰“But the first servant refused to be patient. He told the judge that the other servant owed him money, and that servant was put in jail until he could pay everything he owed. ³¹When the other servants saw what happened, they felt sorry for the man in jail. So they went and told the king everything that had happened.

³²“Then the king called the first servant in and said, ‘You evil servant. You begged me to forgive your debt, and I let you go without paying anything! ³³So you should have given that other man who serves with you the same mercy I gave you.’ ³⁴The king was very angry. So he put that servant in jail to be punished until he could pay everything he owed.

³⁵“This king did the same as my heavenly Father will do to you. You must forgive your brother or sister with all your heart, or my heavenly Father will not forgive you.”

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

(Mark 10:1-12)

19 After Jesus said all these things, he left Galilee. He went into the area of Judea on the other side of the

[‡]**18:18 when you speak ... God’s forgiveness** Literally, “whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven”.

[¶]**18:21 someone** Literally, “my brother”.

^{§§}**18:22 seventy-seven times** Or “seventy times seven”, a very large number, meaning there should be no limit to forgiveness.

^{*}**18:24 300 tonnes** Literally, “10,000 *talanta*” or “*talents*”. A *talent* was about 27 to 36 kilograms of gold, silver or copper coins.

Jordan River. ² Many people followed him. Jesus healed the sick people there.

³ Some Pharisees came to Jesus. They tried to make him say something wrong. They asked him, “Is it right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason he chooses?”

⁴ Jesus answered, “Surely you have read this in the Scriptures: when God made the world, ‘he made people male and female.’[†] ⁵ And God said, ‘That is why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two people will become one.’[‡] ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. God has joined them together, so no one should separate them.”

⁷ The Pharisees asked, “Then why did Moses give a command allowing a man to divorce his wife by writing a certificate of divorce?”[¶]

⁸ Jesus answered, “Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because you refused to accept God’s teaching. But divorce was not allowed in the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for the problem of sexual sin, and marries another woman is guilty of adultery.”

¹⁰ The followers said to Jesus, “If that is the only reason a man can divorce his wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ He answered, “This statement is true for some, but not for everyone—only for those who have been given this gift. ¹² There are different reasons why some men don’t marry.[§] Some were born

without the ability to produce children. Others were made that way later in life. And others have given up marriage because of God’s kingdom. This is for anyone who is able to accept it.”

Jesus Welcomes Children

(Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

¹³ Then the people brought their little children to Jesus so that he could lay his hands on them to bless them and pray for them. When the followers saw this, they told the people to stop bringing their children to him. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people who are like children.” ¹⁵ After Jesus blessed the children, he left there.

A Rich Man Refuses to Follow Jesus

(Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)

¹⁶ A man came to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to have eternal life?”

¹⁷ Jesus answered, “Why do you ask me about what is good? Only God is good. But if you want to have eternal life, obey the Law’s commands.”

¹⁸ The man asked, “Which ones?”

Jesus answered, “You must not murder anyone, you must not commit adultery, you must not steal, you must not tell lies about others, ¹⁹ you must respect your father and mother,^{**} and ‘love your neighbour’^{††} the same as you love yourself.”^{‡‡}

[†]19:4 Quote from Gen. 1:27; 5:2.

[‡]19:5 Quote from Gen. 2:24.

[¶]19:7 *a command ... certificate of divorce* See Deut. 24:1.

[§]19:12 *some men don’t marry* Literally, “there are eunuchs”. See eunuch in the Word List.

^{**}19:19 Quote from Exod. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20.

^{††}19:19 *your neighbour* Or “others”. Jesus’ teaching in Luke 10:25-37 makes clear that this includes anyone in need.

^{‡‡}19:19 Quote from Lev. 19:18.

²⁰The young man said, “I have obeyed all these commands. What else do I need?”

²¹Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, then go and sell all that you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me!”

²²But when the young 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. So he left.

²³Then Jesus said to his followers, “The truth is, it will be very hard for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.

²⁴Yes, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

²⁵When the followers heard this, they were amazed. They asked, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, “For people it is impossible, but God can do anything.”

²⁷Peter said to him, “We left everything we had and followed you. So what will we have?”

²⁸Jesus said to them, “When the time of the new world comes, the Son of Man will sit on his great and glorious throne. And I can promise that you who followed me will sit on twelve thrones, and you will judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

²⁹Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or farms to follow me will get much more than they left. And they will have eternal life. ³⁰Many people who are first now will be last in the future. And many who are last now will be first in the future.

Jesus Uses a Story About Farm Workers

20 “God’s kingdom is like a man who owned some land. One morning, the man went out very early

to hire some people to work in his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay the workers one silver coin for working that day. Then he sent them into the vineyard to work.

³“About nine o’clock the man went to the marketplace and saw some other people standing there. They were doing nothing. ⁴So he said to them, ‘If you go and work in my field, I will pay you what your work is worth.’ ⁵So they went to work in the vineyard.

“The man went out again about twelve o’clock and again at three o’clock. Both times he hired some others to work in his vineyard. ⁶About five o’clock the man went to the marketplace again. He saw some other people standing there. He asked them, ‘Why did you stand here all day doing nothing?’

⁷“They said, ‘No one gave us a job.’

“The man said to them, ‘Then you can go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸“At the end of the day, the owner of the field said to the man in charge of the workers, ‘Call the workers and pay them all. Start by paying the last people I hired. Then pay all of them, ending with the ones I hired first.’

⁹“When the workers who were hired at five o’clock came to get their pay, each got one silver coin. ¹⁰Then the workers who were hired first came to get their pay. They thought they would be paid more than the others. But each one of them also received one silver coin. ¹¹When they got their silver coin, they complained to the man who owned the land. ¹²They said, ‘Those people were hired last and worked only one hour. But you paid them the same as us. And we worked hard all day in the hot sun.’

¹³“But the man who owned the field said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am being fair with you. You agreed to work for one silver coin. Right? ¹⁴So take your pay and go. I want to give the man

who was hired last the same pay I gave you. ¹⁵I can do what I want with my own money. Why should you be jealous and wish harm on others^f because I am generous?

¹⁶“So those who are last now will be first in the future. And those who are first now will be last in the future.”

Jesus Talks Again About His Death

(Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34)

¹⁷Jesus was going to Jerusalem. His twelve followers were with him. While they were walking, he gathered the followers together and spoke to them privately. He said to them, ¹⁸“We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the leading priests and the teachers of the law, and they will say he must die. ¹⁹They will hand him over to the foreigners, who will laugh at him and beat him with whips, and then they will kill him on a cross. But on the third day after his death, he will be raised to life again.”

A Mother Asks a Special Favour

(Mark 10:35-45)

²⁰Then Zebedee’s wife came to Jesus and brought her sons. She bowed before Jesus and asked him to do something for her.

²¹Jesus said, “What do you want?”

She said, “Promise that one of my sons will sit at your right side in your kingdom and the other at your left.”

²²So Jesus said to the sons, “You don’t understand what you are asking. Can you drink from the cup^{§§} that I must drink from?”

The sons answered, “Yes, we can!”

²³Jesus said to them, “It is true that you will drink from the cup that I drink from. But it is not for me to say who will sit at my right or my left. My Father has decided who will do that. He has prepared those places for them.”

²⁴When the other ten followers heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵So Jesus called the followers together. He said, “You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority over the people. ²⁶But it should not be that way with you. Whoever wants to be your leader must be your servant. ²⁷Whoever wants to be first must serve the rest of you like a slave. ²⁸Be like the Son of Man, who did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life to save many people.”

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

(Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43)

²⁹When Jesus and his followers were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰There were two blind men sitting by the road. They heard that Jesus was coming by. So they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, please help us!”

³¹The people there criticized the blind men and told them to be quiet. But they shouted more and more, “Lord, Son of David, please help us!”

³²Jesus stopped and said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”

³³They answered, “Lord, we want to be able to see.”

³⁴Jesus felt sorry for the blind men. He touched their eyes, and immediately

^f**20:15** *be jealous ... others* Literally, “have an evil eye”. Looking at someone with an “evil eye” was thought to bring harm to that person.

^{§§}**20:22** *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. Also in verse 23.

they were able to see. Then they became followers of Jesus.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem Like a King

(Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:12-19)

21 Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus sent two of his followers into town. ²He said to them, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey with her colt. Untie them both, and bring them to me. ³If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell them, “The Lord needs them. He will send them back soon.”

⁴This showed the full meaning of what the prophet said:

⁵“Tell the people of Zion,*
‘Now your king is coming to you.
He is humble and riding on a donkey
and on the young colt of a donkey.’”[†]

⁶The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷They brought the mother donkey and the young donkey to him. They covered the donkeys with their coats, and Jesus sat on them.

⁸On the way to Jerusalem, many people spread their coats on the road for Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. They all shouted,

“Praise[‡] to the Son of David!

‘Welcome! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’[¶]
Praise to God in heaven!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar. They asked, “Who is this man?”

¹¹The crowds following Jesus answered, “This is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee.”

Jesus Clears Out the Temple Area

(Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22)

¹²Jesus went into the Temple area. He chased out all those who were selling and buying things there. He turned over the tables that belonged to those who were exchanging different kinds of money. And he turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. ¹³Jesus said to them, “The Scriptures say, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer.’[§] But you are changing it into a ‘hiding place for thieves.’”^{**}

¹⁴Some blind and lame people came to Jesus in the Temple area. Jesus healed them. ¹⁵The leading priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he was doing. And they saw the children praising him in the Temple area. The children were shouting, “Praise to the Son of David.” All this made the priests and the teachers of the law angry.

¹⁶They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

He answered, “Yes. The Scriptures say,

***21:5** *people of Zion* Literally, “Daughter Zion”, meaning the city of Jerusalem. See Zion in the Word List.

†**21:5** Quote from Zech. 9:9.

‡**21:9** *Praise* Literally, “Hosanna”, a Hebrew word used in praying to God for help. Here, it was probably a shout of celebration used in praising God or his Messiah. Also in the last line of this verse and in verse 15.

¶**21:9** Quote from Ps. 118:25-26.

§**21:13** Quote from Isa. 56:7.

****21:13** Quote from Jer. 7:11.

‘You have taught children and babies to give praise.’^{††}

Have you not read that Scripture?”

¹⁷ Then Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Jesus Puts a Curse on a Fig Tree

(Mark 11:12-14,20-24)

¹⁸ Early the next morning, Jesus was going back to the city. He was very hungry. ¹⁹ He saw a fig tree beside the road and went to get a fig from it. But there were no figs on the tree. There were only leaves. So Jesus said to the tree, “You will never again produce fruit!” The tree immediately dried up and died.

²⁰ When the followers saw this, they were very surprised. They asked, “How did the fig tree dry up and die so quickly?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “The truth is, if you have faith and no doubts, you will be able to do the same as I did to this tree. And you will be able to do more. You will be able to say to this mountain, ‘Get up and throw yourself into the sea.’ And if you have faith, it will happen. ²² If you believe, you will get anything you ask for in prayer.”

Leaders Doubt Jesus’ Authority

(Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8)

²³ Jesus went into the Temple area. While Jesus was teaching there, the leading priests and the older leaders of the people came to him. They said, “Tell us! What authority do you have to do these things you are doing? Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus answered, “I will ask you a question too. If you answer me, then I will tell you what authority I have to do these things. ²⁵ Tell me: When John

baptized people, did his authority come from God, or was it only from other people?”

The priests and the leaders talked about Jesus’ question. They said to each other, “If we answer, ‘John’s baptism was from God,’ then he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe John?’ ²⁶ But we can’t say John’s baptism was from anyone except God. We are afraid of the people, because they all believe John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they told Jesus, “We don’t know the answer.”

Jesus said, “Then I will not tell you who gave me the authority to do these things.

Jesus Uses a Story About Two Sons

²⁸ “Tell me what you think about this: There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first son and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “The son answered, ‘I don’t want to.’ But later he changed his mind and decided to go.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ He answered, ‘Yes, sir, I will go and work.’ But he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two sons obeyed his father?”

The priests and leaders answered, “The first son.”

Jesus said to them, “The truth is, you are worse than the tax collectors and the prostitutes. In fact, they will enter God’s kingdom before you enter. ³² John came showing you the right way to live, and you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and prostitutes believed John. You saw that happening, but you would not change. You still refused to believe him.

^{††}21:16 Quote from Ps. 8:2 (Greek version).

Jesus Tells a Story About a Vineyard

(Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19)

³³“Listen to this story: a landowner decided to plant a vineyard. He prepared an area for pressing the grapes and storing the wine. He put a wall around the vineyard and built a tower to protect it. He made an agreement with some farmers to do the work for a share of the wine. Then he went away. ³⁴When the time came for making wine, he sent his servants to the farmers to get his share.

³⁵“But the farmers grabbed the servants and beat one of them. They killed another one and then stoned to death a third servant. ³⁶So the man sent some other servants to the farmers. He sent more servants than he sent the first time. But the farmers did the same thing to them that they did the first time. ³⁷So the man decided to send his son to the farmers. He thought, ‘The farmers will respect my son.’

³⁸“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.’ ³⁹So the farmers took the son, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰“So what will the owner of the vineyard do to these farmers when he comes?”

⁴¹The priests and leaders said, “He will surely kill those evil men. Then he will lease the land to other farmers, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Surely you have read this in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders refused to accept

became the cornerstone.

The Lord did this,
and it is wonderful to us.’^{‡‡}

⁴³“So I tell you that God’s kingdom will be taken away from you. It will be given to people who do what God wants in his kingdom. ⁴⁴Whoever falls on this stone will be broken. And it will crush anyone it falls on.”[¶]

⁴⁵When the leading priests and the Pharisees heard these stories, they knew that Jesus was talking about them.

⁴⁶They wanted to find a way to arrest Jesus. But they were afraid to do anything, because the people believed that Jesus was a prophet.

A Story About People Invited to a Feast

(Luke 14:15-24)

22 Jesus continued to answer them with stories. He said, ²“God’s kingdom is like what happened when a king planned a wedding feast for his son. ³He invited some people to the feast. And when it was ready, he sent his servants to tell the guests to come. But they refused to come.

⁴“Then the king called some other servants and told them what to say to the people he had invited: ‘Come now! The feast is ready. My best bulls and calves have all been prepared, and everything is ready to eat. Come to the wedding feast.’

⁵“But the people paid no attention to the servants. Some of them went away to do other things. One went to work in his field, and another went to his business.

⁶The others grabbed the servants, beat them and killed them. ⁷The king was so angry that he sent his army to kill those who had murdered his servants. And the army burned down their city.

^{‡‡}21:42 Quote from Ps. 118:22-23.

[¶]21:44 Some Greek copies do not have verse 44.

⁸“The king then said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready. I invited those people, but they were not worthy.’⁹ So go to the street corners and invite everyone you see. Tell them to come to my feast.’¹⁰ So the servants went into the streets. They gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and brought them to where the wedding feast was ready. And the place was filled with guests.

¹¹“When the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in the right clothes for a wedding.¹² The king said, ‘Friend, how were you allowed to come in here? You’re not dressed for a wedding!’ But the man had nothing to say.¹³ So the king told some of those serving the meal, ‘Tie this man’s hands and feet. Throw him out into the darkness, where people are crying and grinding their teeth in pain.’

¹⁴“Yes, many people are invited, but only a few are chosen.”

Jesus Replies to a Trick Question

(Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26)

¹⁵Then the Pharisees left the place where Jesus was teaching. They made plans to catch him saying something they could use against him.¹⁶ They sent to Jesus some of their own followers and some from the group called Herodians. They said, “Teacher, we know you are an honest man. We know you always teach the truth about God’s way. It doesn’t matter to you who is listening. You don’t worry about what others might say.¹⁷ So tell us what you think. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus knew that these men were trying to trick him. So he said, “You hypocrites! Why are you trying to catch me saying something wrong?¹⁹ Show me

a coin used for paying the tax.” They showed Jesus a silver coin.²⁰ Then he asked, “Whose picture is on the coin? And whose name is written on the coin?”

²¹They answered, “It is Caesar’s picture and Caesar’s name.”

Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

²²When they heard what Jesus said, they were amazed. They left him and went away.

Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus

(Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40)

²³That same day some Sadducees came to Jesus. (Sadducees believe that no one will rise from death.) The Sadducees asked Jesus a question.²⁴ They said, “Teacher, Moses told us that if a married man dies and had no children, his brother must marry the woman. Then they will have children for the dead brother.^{§§}²⁵ There were seven brothers among us. The first brother married but died. He had no children. So his brother married the woman.²⁶ Then the second brother also died. The same thing happened to the third brother and all the other brothers.²⁷ The woman was the last to die.²⁸ But all seven men had married her. So when people rise from death, whose wife will she be?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “You are so wrong! You don’t know what the Scriptures say. And you don’t know anything about God’s power.³⁰ At the time when people rise from death, there will be no marriage. People will not be married to each other. Everyone will be like the angels in heaven.³¹ Surely you have read what God said to you about people rising from death.³² God said, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Ja-

§§22:24 if ... *dead brother* See Deut. 25:5,6.

cob.* He is the God only of people who are living. So these men were not really dead.”

³³ When the people heard this, they were amazed at Jesus’ teaching.

Which Command Is the Most Important?

(Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28)

³⁴ The Pharisees learned that Jesus had made the Sadducees look so foolish that they stopped trying to argue with him. So the Pharisees had a meeting. ³⁵ Then one of them, an expert in the Law of Moses, came and asked Jesus a question to test him. ³⁶ He said, “Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?”

³⁷ Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.”[†] ³⁸ This is the first and most important command. ³⁹ And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbour[‡] the same as you love yourself.’[¶] ⁴⁰ All of the law and the writings of the prophets take their meaning from these two commands.”

Is the Messiah David’s Son?

(Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44)

⁴¹ So while the Pharisees were together, Jesus asked them a question. ⁴² He said, “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

The Pharisees answered, “He is the son of David.”

⁴³ Jesus said to them, “Then why did David call him ‘Lord’? David was speaking by the power of the Spirit. He said, ⁴⁴ ‘The Lord God said to my Lord: Sit by me at my right side, and I will put your enemies under your control.’^{§**}

⁴⁵ Here, David himself calls the Messiah ‘Lord’. So how can he be David’s son?”

⁴⁶ None of the Pharisees could answer Jesus’ question. And after that day, no one was brave enough to ask him any more questions.

Jesus Criticizes the Leaders

(Mark 12:38-40; Luke 11:37-52; 20:45-47)

23 Then Jesus spoke to the people and to his followers. He said, ² “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees have the authority to tell you what the Law of Moses says. ³ So you should obey them. Do everything they tell you. But their lives are not good examples for you to follow. They don’t do what they teach. ⁴ They make long lists of difficult rules and try to force people to follow them all. But these rules are like heavy loads that are hard for people to carry, and these leaders will not do anything to make it easier for the people.

⁵ “Any good things they do are only for other people to see. They make the

*22:32 Quote from Exod. 3:6.

†22:37 Quote from Deut. 6:5.

‡22:39 *your neighbour* Or “others”. Jesus’ teaching in Luke 10:25-37 makes clear that this includes anyone in need.

¶22:39 Quote from Lev. 19:18.

§22:44 *control* Literally, “feet”.

**22:44 Quote from Ps. 110:1.

little Scripture boxes^{††} they wear bigger and bigger. And they make the tassels^{‡‡} on their robes long enough for people to notice them. ⁶These men love to have the places of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues. ⁷They love it when people show respect to them in the marketplaces and call them ‘Teacher’.

⁸“But you must not be called ‘Teacher’. You are all equal as brothers and sisters. You have only one Teacher. ⁹And don’t call anyone on earth ‘Father’. You have one Father. He is in heaven. ¹⁰And you should not be called ‘Teacher’. You have only one Teacher, the Messiah. ¹¹Whoever serves you like a servant is the greatest among you. ¹²People who think they are better than others will be made humble. But people who humble themselves will be made great.

¹³“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You close the way for people to enter God’s kingdom. You yourselves don’t enter, and you stop those who are trying to enter. ¹⁴¶

¹⁵“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites. You travel across the seas and across different countries to find one person who will follow your ways. When you find that person, you make him

worse than you are. And you are so bad that you belong in hell!

¹⁶“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! How can you guide the people? You are blind! You say, ‘If someone swears by the Temple that they will keep their promise, they don’t really have to keep it. But if someone swears by the gold in the Temple, they must keep their promise.’ ¹⁷You are blind fools! Can’t you see that the Temple is greater than the gold in it? It’s the Temple that makes the gold holy!

¹⁸“And you say, ‘If someone swears by the altar that they will keep their promise, they don’t really have to keep it. But if someone swears by the gift on the altar, they must keep their promise.’

¹⁹You are blind! Can’t you see that the altar is greater than any gift on it? It’s the altar that makes the gift holy!

²⁰Whoever swears by the altar to keep a promise is really swearing by the altar and everything on the altar. ²¹And anyone who swears by the Temple to keep a promise is really swearing by the Temple and God, who lives in it. ²²Whoever swears by heaven to keep a promise is swearing by God’s throne and the one who is seated on it.

²³“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You give God a tenth of the food you get, even your mint, dill and

^{††}23:5 *Scripture boxes* Small leather boxes containing four important Scriptures. Some Jews tied these to the forehead and left arm to show their devotion to God and his word. Many Pharisees made these bigger to show that they were more religious than others.

^{‡‡}23:5 *tassels* Decorations made from wool threads that hung down from the four corners of the robes worn by Jewish religious leaders. They were supposed to be reminders of God’s commands (see Num. 15:38-41).

¶23:14 Some Greek copies add verse 14: “It will be bad for you, teachers of the law and you Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You cheat widows and take their homes. Then you make long prayers so that people can see you. So you will have a worse punishment.” See Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47.

cumin.^{§§} But you don't obey the really important teachings of the law—being fair, showing mercy and being faithful. These are the things you should do. And you should also continue to do those other things. ²⁴You guide the people, but you are blind! Think about a man picking a little fly out of his drink and then swallowing a camel! You are like that.*

²⁵“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You wash clean the outside of your cups and dishes. But inside they are full of what you got by cheating others and pleasing yourselves. ²⁶Pharisees, you are blind! First make the inside of the cup clean. Then the outside of the cup will also be clean.

²⁷“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You are like tombs that are painted white. Outside they look fine, but inside they are full of dead people's bones and all kinds of filth. ²⁸It is the same with you. People look at you and think you are godly. But on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and evil.

²⁹“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and you Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets. Yes, you show honour to the graves of the godly people who were killed. ³⁰And you say, ‘If we had lived during the time of our ancestors, we would not have helped them kill these prophets.’ ³¹So you give proof that you

are descendants of those who killed the prophets. ³²And you will finish the sin that your ancestors started!

³³“You snakes! You are from a family of poisonous snakes! You will not escape punishment. You will all be judged guilty and go to hell! ³⁴So I tell you this: I send to you prophets and teachers who are wise and know the Scriptures. You will kill some of them. You will hang some of them on crosses. You will beat some of them in your synagogues. You will chase them from town to town.

³⁵“So you will be guilty for the death of all the good people who have been killed on earth. You will be guilty for the killing of that godly man Abel. And you will be guilty for the killing of Zechariah[†] son of Berachiah. He was killed between the Temple and the altar. You will be guilty for the killing of all the good people who lived between the time of Abel and the time of Zechariah. ³⁶Believe me when I say that all these things will happen to you people who are living now.

Jesus Warns the People of Jerusalem

(*Luke 13:34-35*)

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets. You stone to death those that God has sent to you. Many, 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. ³⁸Now your Temple will be abandoned! ³⁹I tell you, you

§§**23:23** *You give ... cumin* Literally, “You tithe mint, dill and cumin.” 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.

***23:24** *You are like that* Meaning “You worry about the smallest mistakes but commit the biggest sin.”

†**23:35** *Abel, Zechariah* In the Hebrew Old Testament, these are the first and last persons murdered.

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.’”[‡]

Jesus Warns About the Future

(Mark 13:1-31; Luke 21:5-33)

24 Jesus left the Temple area and was walking away. But his followers came to him, wanting him to notice the Temple buildings. ²He asked them, “Do you see all these buildings? The fact is, they will be destroyed. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground. Not one stone will be left on another.”

³Later, Jesus was sitting at a place on the Mount of Olives. The followers came to be alone with him. They said, “Tell us when these things will happen. And what will happen to prepare us for your coming and the end of time?”

⁴Jesus answered, “Be careful! Don’t let anyone fool you. ⁵Many people will come and pretend to be me. They will say, ‘I am the Messiah.’ And they will fool many people. ⁶You will hear about wars that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other wars beginning. But don’t be afraid. These things must happen, but the end will not come until later. ⁷Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times of famine and earthquakes in different places. ⁸These things are only the beginning of troubles, like the first pains of a woman giving birth.

⁹“Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and killed. People all over the world will hate you because you believe in me. ¹⁰During that time many will give up being my

followers. They will turn against each other and hate each other. ¹¹Many false prophets will come and cause many people to believe things that are wrong. ¹²There will be so much more evil in the world that the love of most believers will grow cold. ¹³But the one who remains faithful to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And the Good News I have shared about God’s kingdom will be told throughout the world. It will be spread to every nation. Then the end will come.

¹⁵“Daniel the prophet spoke about ‘the terrible thing that causes destruction’.[†] You will see this terrible thing standing in the holy place.” (You who read this should understand what it means.) ¹⁶“The people in Judea at that time should run away to the mountains. ¹⁷They should run away without wasting time to stop for anything. If they are on the roof of their house, they must not go down to get anything out of the house. ¹⁸If they are in the field, they must not go back to get a coat.

¹⁹“During that time it will be hard for women who are pregnant or have small babies! ²⁰Pray that it will not be winter or a Sabbath day when these things happen and you have to run away, ²¹because it will be a time of great trouble. There will be more trouble than has ever happened since the beginning of the world. And nothing as bad will ever happen again.

²²“But God has decided to make that terrible time short. If it were not made short, no one would continue living. But God will make that time short to help the people he has chosen.

²³“At that time someone might say to you, ‘Look, there is the Messiah!’ Or someone else might say, ‘There he is!’

[‡]23:39 Quote from Ps. 118:26.

[†]24:15 *the terrible thing ... destruction* See Dan. 9:27; 12:11 (also Dan. 11:31).

But don't believe them. ²⁴False messiahs and false prophets will come and do great miracles and wonders,[§] trying to fool the people God has chosen, if that is possible. ²⁵Now I have warned you about this before it happens.

When Jesus Comes Again

(Mark 13:24-31; Luke 17:23-24,37; 21:25-32)

²⁶“Someone might tell you, ‘Look! The one God sent is out there in the desert!’ But don't go into the desert to look for him. Someone else might say, ‘There he is, in that room!’ But don't believe it. ²⁷When the Son of Man comes, everyone will see him. It will be like lightning flashing in the sky that can be seen everywhere. ²⁸It's like looking for a dead body: you will find it where the vultures are gathering.

²⁹“Right after the trouble of those days, ‘The sun will become dark, and the moon will not give light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the powerful forces in the sky will be shaken.’**

³⁰“Then there will be something in the sky that shows the Son of Man is coming. All the people of the world will cry. Everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds in the sky. He will come with power and great glory. ³¹He will use a loud trumpet to send his angels all around the earth. They will gather his chosen people from every part of the earth.

³²“The fig tree teaches us a lesson: when its branches become green and soft and new leaves begin to grow, you know

that summer is very near. ³³In the same way, when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time^{††} is very near, already present. ³⁴I assure you that all these things will happen while some of the people of this time are still living. ³⁵The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed, but my words will last forever.

Only God Knows When the Lord Will Come

(Mark 13:32,35; Luke 17:26-30,34-36)

³⁶“No one knows when that day or time will be. The angels in heaven don't know, and not even the Son knows when it will be. Only the Father knows.

³⁷“When the Son of Man comes, it will be the same as what happened during Noah's time. ³⁸In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving their children to be married right up to the day Noah entered the boat. ³⁹They knew nothing about what was happening until the flood came and destroyed them all.

“It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. ⁴⁰Two men will be working together in the field. One will be taken and the other will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding grain together. One will be taken and the other will be left.

⁴²“So always be ready. You don't know the day your Lord will come. ⁴³What would a homeowner do if he knew when a thief was coming? You know he would be ready and not let the thief break in. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready. The Son of Man will come at a time when you don't expect him.

§24:24 *miracles and wonders* Here, amazing acts done by Satan's power.

**24:29 See Isa. 13:10; 34:4.

††24:33 *time* The time Jesus has been talking about when something important will happen. See Luke 21:31, where Jesus says that this is the time for God's kingdom to come.

Good and Bad Servants

(Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:41-48)

⁴⁵“Imagine a servant whose master puts him in charge of giving his other servants their food at the right time. How will that servant show how careful and dependable he is? ⁴⁶When the master comes and finds him doing the work he gave him, that day will be a happy one for that servant. ⁴⁷I can tell you without a doubt, the master will choose that servant to take care of everything he owns.

⁴⁸“But what will happen if that servant is evil and thinks his master will not come back soon? ⁴⁹He will begin to beat the other servants. He will eat and drink with others who are drunk. ⁵⁰Then the master will come when the servant is not ready, at a time when the servant is not expecting him. ⁵¹The master will punish that servant severely^{‡‡} and send him to join the other servants who only pretend to be good. There they will cry and grind their teeth in pain.

A Story About Ten Girls

25 “At that time God’s kingdom will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. ²Five of the girls were foolish, and five were wise. ³The foolish girls took their lamps with them, but they did not take extra oil for the lamps. ⁴The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵When the bridegroom was very late, the girls could not keep their eyes open, and they all fell asleep. ⁶“At midnight someone announced, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’

⁷“Then all the girls woke up. They made their lamps ready. ⁸But the foolish girls said to the wise girls, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are almost empty.’

⁹“The wise girls answered, ‘No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. But go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰“So the foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.

¹¹“Later, the other girls came. They said, ‘Sir, sir! Open the door to let us in.’

¹²“But the bridegroom answered, ‘Certainly not! I don’t even know you.’

¹³“So always be ready. You don’t know the day or the time when the Son of Man will come.

A Story About Three Servants

(Luke 19:11-27)

¹⁴“God’s kingdom will also be like a man leaving home on a long journey. He called his servants together and put them in charge of all he owned. ¹⁵He decided how much each servant would be able to care for. He gave one servant five bags of money.[¶] He gave another servant two bags. And he gave a third servant one bag. Then he left. ¹⁶The servant who was given five bags went quickly to invest the money. Those five bags of money earned five more. ¹⁷It was the same with the servant who had two bags. That servant invested the money and earned two more. ¹⁸But the servant who was given one bag of money went away

^{‡‡}24:51 *punish ... severely* Literally, “cut him in half”.

[¶]25:15 *bags of money* Literally, “*talanta*” or “*talents*”. A *talent* was about 27 to 36 kilogrammes of gold, silver or copper coins. Also in verses 20,22,24,28.

and dug a hole in the ground. Then he hid his master's money in the hole.

¹⁹“After a long time the master came home. He asked the servants what they had done with his money. ²⁰The servant who was given five bags brought that amount and five more bags of money to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, you trusted me to care for five bags of money. So I used them to earn five more.’

²¹“The master answered, ‘You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with that small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and celebrate with me.’

²²“Then the servant who was given two bags of money came to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of money to care for. So I used your two bags to earn two more.’

²³“The master answered, ‘You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with a small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and celebrate with me.’

²⁴“Then the servant who was given one bag of money came to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, I knew you were a very hard man. You harvest what you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not put any seed. ²⁵So I was afraid. I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the one bag of money you gave me.’

²⁶“The master answered, ‘You are a bad and lazy servant! You say you knew that I harvest what I did not plant and that I gather crops where I did not put any seed. ²⁷So you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came home, I would get my money back. And I would also get the interest that my money had earned.’

²⁸“So the master told his other servants, ‘Take the one bag of money from that servant and give it to the servant who has ten bags. ²⁹Everyone who has made a profit will get more. They will have much more than they need. But those who do not use what they have will have everything taken away from them.’ ³⁰Then the master said, ‘Throw that useless servant outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth in pain.’

Jesus, the Son of Man, Will Judge All People

³¹“The Son of Man will come again in his glory, together with all the angels. He will sit as king on his royal throne. ³²All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate everyone into two groups. It will be like a shepherd separating his sheep from his goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴“Then the king will say to the godly people on his right, ‘Come, my Father has great blessings for you. The kingdom he promised is now yours. It has been prepared for you since the world was made. ³⁵It is yours because when I was hungry, you gave me food to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no place to stay, you welcomed me into your home. ³⁶When I was without clothes, you gave me something to wear. When I was sick, you cared for me. When I was in prison, you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the godly people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you with no place to stay and welcome you into our home? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to

wear? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’

⁴⁰“Then the king will answer, ‘The truth is, anything you did for any of my people here, even the ones who seemed unimportant,^{§§} you also did for me.’

⁴¹“Then the king will say to the people on his left, ‘Get away from me. God has already decided that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever—the fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²You must go away because when I was hungry, you gave me nothing to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me nothing to drink.

⁴³When I had no place to stay, you did not welcome me into your home. When I was without clothes, you gave me nothing to wear. When I was sick and in prison, you did not care for me.’

⁴⁴“Then those people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you without a place to stay? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see any of this and not help you?’

⁴⁵“The king will answer, ‘The truth is, anything you refused to do for any of my people here, even the ones who seemed unimportant, you refused to do for me.’

⁴⁶“Then these evil people will go away to be punished forever. But the godly people will go and enjoy eternal life.”

The Plan to Kill Jesus

(Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-53)

26 After Jesus finished saying all these things, he said to his followers, ²“You know that the day after

tomorrow is Passover. On that day the Son of Man will be handed over to his enemies to be killed on a cross.”

³Then the leading priests and the older leaders had a meeting at the palace where the high priest lived. The high priest’s name was Caiaphas. ⁴In the meeting they tried to find a way to arrest and kill Jesus without anyone knowing what they were doing. ⁵They said, “We cannot arrest Jesus during Passover. We don’t want the people to become angry and cause a riot.”

A Woman Honours Jesus

(Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8)

⁶Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a dreaded skin disease. ⁷While he was there, a woman came to him. She had an alabaster bottle filled with expensive perfume. She poured the perfume on Jesus’ head while he was eating.

⁸The followers saw the woman do this and were upset at her. They said, “Why waste that perfume? ⁹It could be sold for a lot of money, and the money could be given to those who are poor.”

¹⁰But Jesus knew what had happened. He said, “Why are you bothering this woman? She did a very good thing for me. ¹¹If you want to help the poor, they are always nearby.* But you will not always have me. ¹²This woman poured perfume on my body. She did this to prepare me for burial after I die. ¹³The Good News will be told to people all over the world. And I can assure you that everywhere the Good News is told, the story of what this woman did will also be told, and people will remember her.”

^{§§}25:40 *any ... unimportant* Literally, “one of the least of these brothers of mine”. Also in verse 45.

*26:11 *If you want ... nearby* See Deut. 15:11.

Judas Agrees to Help Jesus' Enemies

(Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6)

¹⁴Then one of Jesus' twelve followers went to talk to the leading priests. He was the one named Judas Iscariot. ¹⁵He said, "I will betray Jesus to you. What will you pay me for doing this?" The priests gave him 30 silver coins. ¹⁶From that day on, Judas waited for the best time to betray Jesus.

The Passover Meal

(Mark 14:12-21; Luke 22:7-14,21-23; John 13:21-30)

¹⁷On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the followers came to Jesus. They said, "We will prepare everything for you to eat the Passover meal. Where do you want us to have the meal?"

¹⁸Jesus answered, "Go into the city. Go to a man I know. Tell him that the Teacher says, 'The time God has chosen for me is now very near. I will have the Passover meal with my followers at your house.'" ¹⁹They obeyed and did what Jesus told them to do. They prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰In the evening Jesus was at the table with his twelve followers. ²¹They were all eating. Then Jesus said, "Believe me when I say that one of you will turn against me."

²²The followers were very sad to hear this. Each one said, "Lord, surely I am not the one!"

²³Jesus answered, "One who has dipped his bread in the same bowl with me will be the one to betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man will leave this world, just as the Scriptures say. But it will be very bad for the one who hands over the Son of

Man to be killed. It would be better for him if he had never been born."

²⁵Then Judas, the very one who would hand him over, said to Jesus, "Teacher, surely I am not the one you are talking about, am I?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

The Lord's Supper

(Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to his followers and said, "Take this bread and eat it. It is my body."

²⁷Then he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it, and gave it to them. He said, "Each one of you drink some of it. ²⁸This wine is my blood, which will be poured out to forgive the sins of many and begin the new agreement that God makes with his people. ²⁹I want you to know, this is the last wine I will drink until that day when we are together in my Father's kingdom and the wine is new. Then I will drink it again with you."

³⁰They all sang a song and then went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Says His Followers Will Leave Him

(Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)

³¹Jesus told the followers, "Tonight you will all lose your faith in me. The Scriptures say,

'I will kill the shepherd, and the sheep will run away.'[†]

³²But after I am killed, I will rise from death. Then I will go into Galilee. I will be there before you come."

[†]26:31 Quote from Zech. 13:7.

³³ Peter answered, “All the other followers may lose their faith in you. But my faith will never be shaken.”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “The truth is, tonight you will say you don’t know me. You will deny me three times before the cockerel crows.”

³⁵ But Peter answered, “I will never say I don’t know you! I will even die with you!” And all the other followers said the same thing.

Jesus Prays Alone

(Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his followers to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “Sit here while I go there and pray.” ³⁷ He told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee to come with him. Then he began to be very sad and troubled. ³⁸ Jesus said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, “My heart is so heavy with sorrow, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with me.”

³⁹ Then Jesus went on a little farther away from them. He fell to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, don’t make me drink from this cup.[‡] But do what you want, not what I want.”

⁴⁰ Then he went back to his followers and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Could you men not stay awake with me for one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right, but your body is weak.”

⁴² Then Jesus went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if I must do this[¶] and it is not possible for me to escape it, I pray that what you want will be done.”

⁴³ Then he went back to the followers. Again he found them sleeping. They could not stay awake. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away one more time and prayed. This third time he prayed, he said the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then Jesus went back to the followers and said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the control of sinful men. ⁴⁶ Stand up! We must go. Here comes the one who will hand me over.”

Jesus Is Arrested

(Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:3-12)

⁴⁷ While Jesus was still speaking, one of his twelve followers, Judas, came there. He had a big crowd of people with him, all carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent from the leading priests and the older leaders of the people. ⁴⁸ This follower who betrayed Jesus planned to do something to show them which one was Jesus. He said, “The man I greet with a kiss is the one to arrest.” ⁴⁹ So he went to Jesus and said, “Hello, Teacher!” Then Judas kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “My friend, do what you came to do.”

Then the men came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ When that happened, one of the followers with Jesus grabbed his sword and pulled it out. He swung it at the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

⁵² Jesus told him, “Put your sword away. People who use swords will be killed with swords. ⁵³ Surely you know I could ask my Father, and he would

[‡]**26:39 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.

[¶]**26:42 do this** Literally, “drink this”, referring to the “cup”, the symbol of suffering in verse 39.

give me more than twelve armies of angels.⁵⁴ But that would not agree with the Scriptures, which say this is the way it must happen.”

⁵⁵ Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Why do you come to get me with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? I sat in the Temple area teaching every day. Why didn’t you arrest me there?”⁵⁶ But all these things have happened to show the full meaning of what the prophets wrote.” Then all of Jesus’ followers left him and ran away.

Jesus Before the Religious Leaders

(Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54-55,63-71; John 18:13-14,19-24)

⁵⁷ The men who arrested Jesus led him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. The teachers of the law and the older leaders were gathered there.⁵⁸ Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance. He followed him to the courtyard of the high priest’s house. Peter went into the courtyard and sat with the guards. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.

⁵⁹ The leading priests and the high council tried to find something against Jesus so that they could kill him. They tried to find people to lie and say that Jesus had done wrong.⁶⁰ Many people came and told lies about him. But the council could find no real reason to kill him. Then two people came⁶¹ and said, “This man[§] said, ‘I can destroy the Temple of God and build it again in three days.’”

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Don’t you have anything to say about these charges against you? Are they telling the truth?”⁶³ But Jesus said nothing.

Again the high priest said to Jesus, “You are now under oath. I command you by the power of the living God to tell us the truth. Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”

⁶⁴ Jesus answered, “You could say that. But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God, the Powerful One. And you will see him coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes in anger. He said, “This man has said things that insult God! We don’t need any more witnesses. You all heard his insulting words.⁶⁶ What do you think?”

The leaders answered, “He is guilty, and he must die.”

⁶⁷ Then some there spat in Jesus’ face, and they hit him with their fists. Others slapped him.⁶⁸ They said, “Show us that you are a prophet, Messiah! Tell us who hit you!”

Peter Says He Doesn’t Know Jesus

(Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:56-62; John 18:15-18,25-27)

⁶⁹ While Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him. She said, “You were with Jesus, that man from Galilee.”

⁷⁰ But Peter told everyone there that this was not true. “I don’t know what you are talking about,” he said.

⁷¹ Then he left the courtyard. At the gate another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷² Again, Peter said he was never with Jesus. He said, “I swear to God I don’t know the man!”

⁷³ A short time later those standing there went to Peter and said, “We know

[§]26:61 **This man** That is, Jesus. His enemies avoided saying his name.

you are one of them. It's clear from the way you talk."

⁷⁴Then Peter began shouting, "I swear, I don't know the man! May God strike me down if I am lying!" As soon as he said this, a cockerel crowed. ⁷⁵Then he remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the cockerel crows, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

Jesus Is Taken to Governor Pilate

(Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1-2; John 18:28-32)

27 Early the next morning, all the leading priests and older leaders of the people met and decided to kill Jesus. ²They tied him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Judas Kills Himself

(Acts 1:18-19)

³Judas saw that they had decided to kill Jesus. He was the one who had handed him over. When he saw what happened, he was very sorry for what he had done. So he took the 30 silver coins back to the leading priests and the older leaders. ⁴Judas said, "I sinned. I handed over to you an innocent man to be killed."

They answered, "We don't care! That's a problem for you, not us."

⁵So Judas threw the money into the Temple. Then he went out from there and hanged himself.

⁶The leading priests picked up the silver coins in the Temple. They said, "Our law does not allow us to keep this money with the Temple money, because this money has paid for a man's death." ⁷So they decided to use the money to buy a field called Potter's Field. This field

would be a place to bury people who died while visiting in Jerusalem. ⁸That is why that field is still called the Field of Blood. ⁹This showed the full meaning of what Jeremiah the prophet said:

"They took 30 silver coins. That was how much the people of Israel decided to pay for his life. ¹⁰They used those 30 silver coins to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."***

Governor Pilate Questions Jesus

(Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:3-5; John 18:33-38)

¹¹Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor, who asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, that's right."

¹²But when the leading priests and the older leaders accused Jesus, he said nothing.

¹³So Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear all these charges they are making against you? Why don't you answer?"

¹⁴But Jesus did not say anything, and this really surprised the governor.

Pilate Tries to Free Jesus

(Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39 - 19:16)

¹⁵Every year during the Passover festival, the governor always freed one prisoner for the people—any prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time there was a man in prison who was known to be very bad. His name was Barabbas.^{††}

¹⁷When a crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, "I will free one man for you. Which one do you want me to free: Barabbas or Jesus who some call the Messiah?" ¹⁸Pilate knew that they had

***27:10 *They took ... me* See Zech. 11:12-13; Jer. 32:6-9.

††27:16 *Barabbas* In some Greek copies the name is Jesus Barabbas.

handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting there in the place for judging, his wife sent a message to him. It said, “Don’t do anything with that man. He is not guilty. Last night I had a dream about him, and it troubled me very much.”

²⁰ But the leading priests and older leaders told the people to ask for Barabbas to be set free and for Jesus to be killed.

²¹ Pilate said, “I have Barabbas and Jesus. Which one do you want me to set free for you?”

The people answered, “Barabbas!”

²² Pilate asked, “So what should I do with Jesus, the one called the Messiah?”

All the people said, “Kill him on a cross!”

²³ Pilate asked, “Why do you want me to kill him? What wrong has he done?”

But they shouted louder, “Kill him on a cross!”

²⁴ Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do to make the people change. In fact, it looked as if there would be a riot. So he took some water and washed his hands^{‡‡} in front of them all. He said, “I am not guilty of this man’s death. You are the ones who are doing it!”

²⁵ The people answered, “We will take full responsibility for his death. You can blame us and our children!”^{¶¶}

²⁶ Then Pilate set Barabbas free. And he told some soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then he handed him over to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

Pilate’s Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus

(Mark 15:16-20; John 19:2-3)

²⁷ Then Pilate’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s palace, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They took off Jesus’ clothes and put a scarlet robe^{§§} on him. ²⁹ Then they made a crown from thorny branches and put it on his head, and they put a stick in his right hand. Then they knelt down before him, making fun of him. They said, “We salute you, king of the Jews!” ³⁰ They spat on him. Then they took his stick and kept hitting him on the head with it. ³¹ After they finished making fun of him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be killed on a cross.

Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

(Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:17-19)

³² The soldiers were going out of the city with Jesus. They saw a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. ³³ They came to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull”.) ³⁴ There the soldiers gave Jesus some wine mixed with gall.* But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it.

³⁵ The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then they threw dice to divide his clothes between them.[†] ³⁶ The soldiers stayed there to guard him. ³⁷ They put a sign above his head with the charge

^{‡‡}27:24 *washed his hands* Pilate did this as a sign to show that he wanted no part in what the people did.

^{¶¶}27:25 *We will ... children* Literally, “May his blood be on us and on our children.”

^{§§}27:28 *scarlet robe* Probably a soldier’s robe that looked like the purple robes worn by kings. They put this on Jesus to make fun of him for claiming to be a king.

*27:34 *gall* Probably used as a drug to relieve pain.

†27:35 *they threw dice ... them* See Ps. 22:18.

against him written on it: “this is jesus, the king of the jews.”

³⁸Two criminals were nailed to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁹People walked by and shouted insults at Jesus. They shook their heads ⁴⁰and said, “You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. So save yourself! Come down from that cross if you really are the Son of God!”

⁴¹The leading priests, the teachers of the law and the older leaders were also there. They made fun of Jesus the same as the other people did. ⁴²They said, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself! If he is the king of Israel, he should come down now from the cross! Then we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusted God and even said he was God’s son. So let God save him now, if God really wants him.”

⁴⁴And in the same way, the criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also insulted him.

Jesus Dies

(Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-30)

⁴⁵At noon the whole country became dark. The darkness continued for three hours. ⁴⁶About three o’clock Jesus cried out loudly, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” This means “My God, my God, why have you left me alone?”[‡]

⁴⁷Some of the people standing there heard this. They said, “He is calling Elijah.”[¶]

⁴⁸One of them ran quickly and got a sponge and filled it with sour wine. Then he used a stick to hold the sponge up for

Jesus to drink from it. ⁴⁹But the others said, “We should wait now and see if Elijah will come to save him.”

⁵⁰Again Jesus cried out loudly and then died.[§]

⁵¹When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. Also, the earth shook and rocks were broken. ⁵²The graves opened, and many of God’s people who had died were raised from death. ⁵³They came out of the graves. And after Jesus was raised from death, they went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and many people saw them.

⁵⁴The army officer and the soldiers guarding Jesus were terribly frightened by the earthquake and everything they saw happening. They said, “So he really was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵Many women were standing away from the cross, watching. These were the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for him. ⁵⁶Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of James and John** were there.

Jesus Is Buried

(Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

⁵⁷That evening a rich man named Joseph came to Jerusalem. He was a follower of Jesus from the town of Arimathea. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus’ body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give Jesus’ body to him. ⁵⁹He took the body and wrapped it in a new linen cloth. ⁶⁰Joseph put Je-

[‡]27:46 Quote from Ps. 22:1.

[¶]27:47 *He is calling Elijah* The word for “My God” (*Eli* in Hebrew or *Eloi* in Aramaic) sounded to the people like the name “Elijah”, a famous prophet.

[§]27:50 *died* Literally, “let his spirit leave”.

**27:56 *James and John* Literally, “the sons of Zebedee”.

sus' body in a new tomb that he had dug out of a wall of rock. Then he closed the tomb by rolling a very large stone to cover the entrance. After he did this, he went away.⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary were sitting near the tomb.

The Tomb of Jesus Is Guarded

⁶²That day was the day called Preparation Day. The next day, the leading priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.⁶³ They said, "Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive he said, 'I will rise from death in three days.'⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be guarded well for three days. His followers might come and try to steal the body. Then they could tell everyone that he has risen from death. That lie will be even worse than what they said about him before."

⁶⁵Pilate said, "Take some soldiers, go to the tomb and guard it the best way you know."⁶⁶ So they all went to the tomb and made it safe from thieves. They did this by sealing the stone in the entrance and putting soldiers there to guard it.

Jesus Has Risen From Death

(Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)

28 The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. That day at dawn Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

²Suddenly an angel of the Lord came from the sky, and there was a huge earthquake. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on top of the stone.³ The angel was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as

snow.⁴ The soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross.⁶ But he is not here. He has risen from death, as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was.⁷ And go quickly and tell his followers, 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee and will be there before you. You will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."

⁸So the women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell his followers what had happened.⁹ Suddenly, Jesus was there in front of them. He said, "Hello!" The women went to him and, holding on to his feet, worshipped him.¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my followers^{††} to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

Report to the Leaders

¹¹While the women went to tell the followers, some of the soldiers who were guarding the tomb went into the city. They went to tell the leading priests everything that had happened.¹² Then the priests met with the older leaders and made a plan. They paid the soldiers a lot of money¹³ and said to them, "Tell the people that Jesus' followers came during the night and stole the body while you were sleeping.¹⁴ If the governor hears about this, we will talk to him and keep you out of trouble."¹⁵ So the soldiers kept the money and obeyed the priests. And that story is still spread among the Jews even today.

^{††}**28:10** *followers* Literally, "brothers".

Jesus Talks to His Followers

*(Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-49;
John 20:19-23; Acts 1:6-8)*

¹⁶The eleven followers went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷On the mountain the followers saw Jesus and worshipped him. But some of them still had doubts. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰And teach them to obey everything I have told you to do. And know this: I am always with you. I will be with you until the end of time.”