

## **Easy-to-Read Version**

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## Mark

The book of Mark is the second in the New Testament. But it may have been the first Gospel (one of the four books that tell the Good News about Jesus). Mark lived in Jerusalem with his mother and knew many of Jesus' early followers. Mark also travelled with the apostle Paul. And one early Christian author said that Mark served as a translator for the apostle Peter. Perhaps that is when Mark began to write down the stories that Peter told about Jesus.

Mark probably wrote this book during a time of trouble between the Roman government and the people in Judea. The Jews hated being ruled by Rome. But they were afraid to speak out against the government. Many did not want to talk openly about Jesus because he had been considered an enemy of Rome. But this did not stop Mark from making it clear that Jesus is God's Son and his Messiah (Chosen King).

The book of Mark describes how Jesus invited some people to be his close followers. Together they travelled from place to place announcing that God's kingdom had come. Jesus healed many people, even freeing some from the power of demons. Jesus was not like other religious leaders of his time. He did not avoid people who were sick or known as sinners. He invited all kinds of people to be his followers. He forgave people of sin, which others thought only God had the right to do. And he did not keep the religious rules that many people thought he should. All this made

the religious leaders angry and jealous, and they began to look for a way to kill Jesus. But this was all part of God's plan. So Jesus told his followers that he must soon suffer and die. He also told them that he would come back to life. At that time they did not understand what Jesus meant.

Finally, Jesus went to Jerusalem. He visited the Temple and taught the people. Mark makes it clear that he is there as God's representative. But many people did not accept Jesus as God's prophet and Chosen King. The Jewish leaders arrested him and turned him over to the Roman governor to be killed. After being killed on a cross, Jesus was raised to life again. He appeared to some women and asked them to give a message to his followers. The women were afraid at first to say anything to anyone, but then they did what Jesus told them to do. Jesus had already warned his followers that people would try to kill them for telling the Good News about him. These women were examples of how each follower of Jesus must overcome fear and share the Good News with others. Some later copies of the book of Mark end with Jesus' telling his followers to do just that.

The book of Mark tells about...

The beginning of the Good News (1:1 – 3:35)

The mystery of the kingdom and its king (4:1 – 8:38)

Jesus with his followers (9:1 – 10:52)

Jesus visiting the Temple and later being killed (11:1 – 15:47)

Jesus' life after death (16:1-20)

## John Prepares the Way for Jesus

(Matt. 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-9,15-17; John 1:19-28)

**1** The Good News about Jesus the Messiah,\* the Son of God,† begins <sup>2</sup> with what Isaiah the prophet wrote:

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

He will prepare the way for you.”‡

<sup>3</sup>“There is someone shouting in the desert:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord!

Make the road straight for him.’”¶

<sup>4</sup>This was John, the one who came and was baptizing people in the desert area. He told them to be baptized to show that they wanted to change their lives, and then their sins would be forgiven. <sup>5</sup>All the people from Jerusalem and the rest of Judea came out to John. They confessed the bad things they had done, and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

<sup>6</sup>John wore clothes made from camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup>This is what John told the people: “There is someone coming later who is able to do more than I can. I am not good enough to be the slave who stoops down to untie his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## Jesus Is Baptized by John

(Matt. 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22)

<sup>9</sup>About that time Jesus came there from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the sky torn open. And he saw the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>A voice came from heaven and said, “You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you.”

## Jesus Goes Away to Be Tempted

(Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

<sup>12</sup>Then the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. <sup>13</sup>He was there for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. During this time he was out among the wild animals, and angels were there taking care of him.

## Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee

(Matt. 4:12-17; Luke 4:14-15)

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee and told people the Good News from God. <sup>15</sup>He said, “The time is right for God’s kingdom to come. It is very near. <sup>§</sup>Change your hearts and lives, and believe the Good News!”

## Jesus Chooses Some Followers

(Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11)

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw Simon\*\* and his brother Andrew. These brothers were fishermen, and they were throwing a net†† into the

\***1:1 the Messiah** Literally, “Christ”, a Greek translation of the Hebrew word “Messiah”. See Christ and Messiah in the Word List. Also in verse 20 and throughout this book.

†**1:1 the Son of God** Some Greek copies do not have these words.

‡**1:2** Quote from Mal. 3:1.

¶**1:3** Quote from Isa. 40:3.

§**1:15 is very near** Or “is coming soon” or “has come”.

\*\***1:16 Simon** Simon’s other name was Peter. Also in verses 29,30,36.

††**1:16 net** A small, round net with weights around the edge for throwing over fish to trap them.

lake to catch fish. <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish.” <sup>18</sup> Right then they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus walked a little farther and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat, preparing their nets to catch fish. <sup>20</sup> As soon as Jesus saw them, he told them to come. They left their father Zebedee and the men who worked for him in the boat, and they followed Jesus.

### Jesus Frees a Man From an Evil Spirit

(Luke 4:31-37)

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and taught the people. <sup>22</sup> They were amazed at his teaching because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like someone with authority. <sup>23</sup> While Jesus was in their synagogue, a man suddenly came in who had an evil spirit inside him. He began shouting, <sup>24</sup> “Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered with a warning: “Be quiet and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit made the man shake. Then the spirit, screaming loudly, came out of the man.

<sup>27</sup> The people were amazed. They asked each other, “What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and he teaches with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> So the news about Jesus spread quickly through the whole area around Galilee.

### Jesus Heals Many People

(Matt. 8:14-17; Luke 4:38-41)

<sup>29</sup> Jesus left the synagogue with James and John. They went at once to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> As soon as they arrived, Jesus was told that Simon’s mother-in-law was very sick. She was in bed with a fever. <sup>31</sup> So he went in to see her. He held her hand and helped her stand up. The fever left her, and she began serving them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset,<sup>‡</sup> the people brought to Jesus all those who were sick. They also brought those who had demons inside them. <sup>33</sup> Everyone in the town gathered at the door of that house. <sup>34</sup> Jesus healed many of those who had different kinds of sicknesses. He also forced many demons out of people. But he would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.<sup>¶</sup>

### Jesus Goes to Other Towns

(Luke 4:42-44)

<sup>35</sup> The next morning, Jesus woke up very early. He left the house while it was still dark and went to a place where he could be alone and pray. <sup>36</sup> Later, Simon and his friends went out and searched everywhere for Jesus. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus answered, “We should go to another place. We can go to other towns around here, and I can tell God’s message to those people too. That is why I came.” <sup>39</sup> So Jesus travelled everywhere in Galilee. He spoke in the synagogues, and he forced demons out of people.

<sup>‡</sup>1:32 *after sunset* That is, at the end of the Sabbath day (see verse 21), when people were free to bring sick people to Jesus.

<sup>¶</sup>1:34 *who he was* Meaning that the demons knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. See Mark 3:11-12.

### Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(Matt. 8:1-4; Luke 5:12-16)

<sup>40</sup> A man who had a dreaded skin disease came to Jesus. The man knelt down before him and begged, “You have the power to heal me if you want.”

<sup>41</sup> At first, Jesus felt angry.<sup>§§</sup> Then he put his hand on the man and said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” <sup>42</sup> Immediately the disease disappeared, and the man was healed.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus told the man to go, but he gave him a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> “Don’t tell anyone about what happened. But go and let the priest look at you.\* And offer the gift to God for your healing that Moses commanded.† This will tell everyone that you have been healed.”

<sup>45</sup> The man left there and told everyone he saw that Jesus had healed him. So the news about Jesus spread. And that is why he could not enter a town if people saw him. He stayed in places where no one lived. But people came from all the towns to the places where he was.

### Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

(Matt. 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26)

**2** A few days later, Jesus came back to Capernaum. The news spread that he was back home. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd gathered to hear him speak. The house was so full that there was no place to stand, not even outside the door. While Jesus was teaching, <sup>3</sup> some people brought a paralysed man to him. He was being carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> But they could not get the man inside to Jesus because of all the people. So they went to the roof

above Jesus and made a hole in it. Then they lowered the man down on his mat. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the paralysed man, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>6</sup> Some of the teachers of the law were sitting there. They thought to themselves, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this man say things like that? What an insult to God! Only God can forgive sins!”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus immediately knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, “Why do you have these questions in your minds? <sup>9</sup> Maybe you are thinking it was easy for me to say to this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ because no one can see whether it happened or not. But what if I say to him, ‘Stand up, pick up your mat and walk?’ <sup>10</sup> Then, if it happens, you will know that I, as the Son of Man, have power on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus said to the paralysed man, <sup>11</sup> “I tell you, stand up. Pick up your mat and go home.”

<sup>12</sup> The paralysed man stood up. He picked up his mat and went straight out the door with everyone watching. They were amazed and praised God. They said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

### Levi Follows Jesus

(Matt. 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32)

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went out by the lake again. A large crowd gathered around him, so he began teaching them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw a man named Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Levi stood up and followed him.

§§1:41 *felt angry* Most Greek copies have “Moved with pity ...”. But it is hard to explain why some good Greek copies and Latin versions have “Filled with anger ...”, so many scholars now consider it to be the original reading.

\*1:44 *let the priest look at you* The Law of Moses said a priest must decide when a person with a skin disease was well.

†1:44 *Moses commanded* See Lev 14:1-32.

<sup>15</sup> Later, Jesus was having a meal at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and others with bad reputations had also become followers of Jesus. So many of these people were there eating with Jesus and his close followers. <sup>16</sup> When some teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Jesus eating with such bad people, they asked his followers, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and other sinners?"

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Sick people are the ones who need a doctor, not those who are healthy. I came to ask sinners to join me, not those who do everything right."

### A Question About Fasting

(*Matt. 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39*)

<sup>18</sup> Once the followers of John and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came to Jesus and said, "Why don't your followers fast the way John's followers and the followers of the Pharisees do?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered, "At a wedding the friends of the bridegroom are not sad while he is with them. As long as they have him there, it is not the time for fasting. <sup>20</sup> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them. Then they will be sad and fast.

<sup>21</sup> "When someone patches old clothes, they never use a piece of cloth that is not yet shrunk. If they do, the patch of new cloth will shrink and pull away from the old cloth and make a bigger hole. <sup>22</sup> Also, no one ever pours new wine<sup>‡</sup> into old wineskins. The wine will burst the old wineskins, and the wine will be ruined as well. You always put new wine into new wineskins."

### Jesus Is Lord Over the Sabbath Day

(*Matt. 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5*)

<sup>23</sup> One time on a Sabbath day, Jesus and his followers were walking through some fields of grain. As the followers walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain to eat. <sup>24</sup> Some Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look at your followers! Why are they doing this work that our Law does not allow on the Sabbath day?"

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "You have read what David did when he and those with him had no food and were hungry. <sup>26</sup> It was during the time of Abiathar the high priest. David went into God's house and ate the bread that was offered to God. He also gave some of it to those who were with him. This was against the Law, which says that only priests can eat that bread."

<sup>27</sup> Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, "The Sabbath day was made to serve the needs of people. People were not made to serve the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath."

### Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(*Matt. 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11*)

**3** Jesus went to the synagogue again, where there was a man with a paralysed hand. <sup>2</sup> Some people who were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus were watching him closely. They were waiting to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the man with the paralysed hand, "Stand up here where everyone can see you."

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "What does the law allow us to do on the Sabbath day: to do good or to do evil? Is it right to save a life or to destroy it?" But no one said anything.

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<sup>‡</sup>**2:22 new wine** Grape juice that is just beginning to ferment, which creates pressure inside a sealed container.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus looked at the people. He was angry, but he felt very sad because they had closed their minds. He said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” The man held out his hand, and it was healed. <sup>6</sup> Then the Pharisees left and met with the Herodians to plan a way to kill Jesus.

### Many Follow Jesus

<sup>7</sup> Jesus went away with his followers to the lake, and a large crowd of people from Galilee followed him. Also many people came from Judea, <sup>8</sup> from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from the area across the Jordan River and from the area around Tyre and Sidon. These people came because they had heard about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing.

<sup>9</sup> Jesus told his followers to get a small boat ready for him to use to keep the crowds of people from trampling him. <sup>10</sup> He had healed many of them, so all the sick people were pushing towards him to touch him. <sup>11</sup> Some people had evil spirits inside them. When the evil spirits saw Jesus, they fell to the ground before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!” <sup>12</sup> But Jesus gave the spirits a strong warning not to tell anyone who he was.

### Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles

*(Matt. 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16)*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up into the hills. He told some of his followers, those he wanted, to join him there. So they went to meet with him. <sup>14</sup> He chose twelve of them and called them apostles. He wanted these twelve men to be with him, and he wanted to send them to other places to tell people God’s message. <sup>15</sup> He also wanted them to have the power to force

demons out of people. <sup>16</sup> These are the names of the twelve men Jesus chose:

Simon (the one Jesus named Peter),  
<sup>17</sup> James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee (Jesus called them Boanerges, which means “Sons of Thunder”),

<sup>18</sup> Andrew,  
Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
Matthew,  
Thomas,  
James, the son of Alphaeus,  
Thaddaeus,  
Simon, the Zealot,

<sup>19</sup> Judas Iscariot, the one who later turned against Jesus.

### Jesus’ Power Is From God

*(Matt. 12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23; 12:10)*

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus went home, but again a large crowd gathered there. There were so many people that he and his followers could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about all these things, they went to get him because they thought he was crazy.

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law from Jerusalem said, “Satan,<sup>†</sup> the ruler of demons, is living inside him. This is the one giving him the power to force demons out of people.”

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them together and taught them with stories. He said, “Why would Satan force his own demons out of people? <sup>24</sup> A kingdom that fights against itself will not survive. <sup>25</sup> And a family that is divided will not survive. <sup>26</sup> If Satan is against himself and is fighting against his own people, he will not survive. That would be the end of Satan.

<sup>27</sup> “No, that’s not what has happened here. Only someone who is stronger than the strong man can enter his house and

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<sup>†</sup>3:22 *Satan* Literally, “Beelzebul” (the devil).

steal his things. You have to be able to tie him up before you can rob his house.

<sup>28</sup>“Now it is true that people can be forgiven for all the sinful things they do. They can even be forgiven for saying bad things about God. <sup>29</sup>But I tell you that you will never be forgiven for speaking against the Holy Spirit. You will always be guilty of that sin.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus said this because the teachers of the law had accused him of having an evil spirit inside him.

### Jesus' Followers Are His True Family

*(Matt. 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21)*

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus' mother and brothers came. They stood outside and sent someone in to tell him to come out. <sup>32</sup>Many people were sitting around Jesus. They said to him, “Your mother, your brothers and your sisters<sup>s</sup> are outside asking for you.”

<sup>33</sup>Jesus answered them, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>Then he looked at the people sitting around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>My true brother and sister and mother are those who do what God wants.”

### A Story About a Farmer Sowing Seed

*(Matt. 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)*

**4** Another time Jesus began teaching by the lake, and a large crowd gathered around him. He got into a boat so that he could sit and teach from the lake. All the people stayed on the shore near the water. <sup>2</sup>Jesus used stories to teach them many things. One of his lessons included this story:

<sup>3</sup>“Listen! A farmer went out to sow seed. <sup>4</sup>While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell on the path. The birds

came and ate all that seed. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough soil. It grew quickly there because the soil was not deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, the plants were burned. They died because they did not have deep roots. <sup>7</sup>Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew up and slowed the growth of the good plants. So they did not make grain. <sup>8</sup>But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it began to grow, and it made grain. Some plants made 30 times more grain, some 60 times more and some 100 times more.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said, “You people who hear me, listen!”

### Why Jesus Used Stories to Teach

*(Matt. 13:10-17; Luke 8:9-10)*

<sup>10</sup>Later, when Jesus was away from the people, the twelve apostles and his other followers asked him about the stories.

<sup>11</sup>Jesus said, “God has allowed you to know the secret truth about God's kingdom. But to those other people I tell everything by using stories. <sup>12</sup>I do this so that,

“They will look and look but not really see;

they will listen and listen but not understand.

If they understood, they might turn to me,

and I would forgive them.”\*\*

### Jesus Explains the Story About Seed

*(Matt. 13:18-23; Luke 8:11-15)*

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the followers, “Do you understand this story? If you don't, how will you understand any story? <sup>14</sup>The farmer is like someone

§3:32 *and your sisters* Some Greek copies do not have these words.

\*\*4:12 Quote from Isa. 6:9-10.

who spreads God's teaching like seed. <sup>15</sup>Sometimes the seed falls on the path. This is like some people who hear the teaching of God. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the teaching that was planted in them.

<sup>16</sup>"Other people are like the seed planted on rocky ground. They are happy to hear the teaching and accept it at once. <sup>17</sup>But they don't allow it to 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.

<sup>18</sup>"Others are like the seed planted among the thorny weeds. They hear the teaching, <sup>19</sup>but their lives become full of other things: the worries of this life, the love for money and everything else they want. This slows the growth of the teaching, so it does not produce good results in their lives. <sup>††</sup>

<sup>20</sup>"And others are like the seed planted on the good ground. They hear the teaching and accept it. Then they grow and produce a good crop—sometimes 30 times more, sometimes 60 times more and sometimes 100 times more."

### **Pay Attention to the Light**

*(Luke 8:16-18)*

<sup>21</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "You don't take a lamp and hide it under a bowl or a bed, do you? Of course not. You put it on a lampstand. <sup>22</sup>Everything that is hidden will be made clear. Every secret thing will be made known. <sup>23</sup>You people who hear me, listen! <sup>24</sup>Think carefully about what you are hearing. The more attention you give, the more understanding you will have. And you will be given even more. <sup>25</sup>The people who

have some understanding will receive more. But those who do not have much will lose even the small amount they have."

### **Jesus Uses a Story About Seed**

<sup>26</sup>Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a man who plants seed in the ground. <sup>27</sup>The seed begins to grow. It grows night and day. It doesn't matter whether the man is sleeping or awake, the seed still grows. He doesn't know how it happens. <sup>28</sup>Without any help the ground produces grain. First the plant grows, then the head and then all the grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the grain is ready, the man cuts it. This is the harvest time."

### **Another Kingdom Story**

*(Matt. 13:31-32,34-35; Luke 13:18-19)*

<sup>30</sup>Then Jesus said, "What can I use to show you what God's kingdom is like? What story can I use to explain it? <sup>31</sup>God's kingdom is like a mustard seed, which is smaller than any other seed on earth that you can plant. <sup>32</sup>But when you plant it, it grows bigger than all the other plants in your garden. It has branches big enough for birds to come and make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus used many stories like these to teach the people. He taught them as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup>He always used stories to teach them. But when he was alone with his followers, he explained everything to them.

### **Jesus Stops a Storm**

*(Matt. 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25)*

<sup>35</sup>That evening, Jesus said to his followers, "Let's go across the lake." <sup>36</sup>So they left the crowd behind and went

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<sup>††</sup>**4:19 does not produce ... lives** Literally, "becomes unfruitful", meaning that these people do not do the good things God wants his people to do.

with Jesus, who was already back in the boat. Some other boats were also there with him. <sup>37</sup> A strong wind came up on the lake. The waves were coming over the sides and into the boat, and it was almost full of water. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the back part of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers woke him and said, “Teacher, don’t you care about us? We are going to drown!”

<sup>39</sup> Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the water, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind stopped, and the lake became calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his followers, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

<sup>41</sup> They were very afraid and asked each other, “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the water obey him!”

### Jesus Frees a Man From Evil Spirits

(Matt. 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39)

**5** Jesus and his followers went across the lake to the area where the Gerasene people<sup>‡‡</sup> lived. <sup>2</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man came to him from the caves where the dead are buried. This man had an evil spirit living inside him. <sup>3</sup> He lived in the burial caves. No one could keep him tied up, even with chains. <sup>4</sup> Many times people had put chains on his hands and feet, but he broke the chains. No one was strong enough to control him. <sup>5</sup> Day and night he stayed around the burial caves and on the hills. He would scream and cut himself with rocks.

<sup>6</sup> While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him. He ran to Jesus and bowed to the ground before him. <sup>7-8</sup> As Jesus was saying, “You evil spirit, come out of this man,” the man shouted loudly,

“What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Promise in God’s name not to punish me!”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked the man, “What is your name?”

The man answered, “My name is Legion,<sup>¶¶</sup> because there are many of us.” <sup>10</sup> The evil spirits inside the man begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area.

<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was eating on a hill near there. <sup>12</sup> The evil spirits begged Jesus, “Send us to the pigs. Let us go into them.” <sup>13</sup> So Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs ran down the hill and into the lake. They were all drowned. There were about 2000 pigs in that herd.

<sup>14</sup> The men who had the work of caring for the pigs ran away. They ran to the town and to the fields and told everyone what had happened. The people went out to see. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus, and they saw the man who had the many evil spirits. He was sitting down and was wearing clothes. He was in his right mind again. When they saw this, they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen what Jesus did told the others what had happened to the man who had the demons living in him. And they also told them about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.

<sup>18</sup> Jesus was preparing to leave in the boat. The man who was now free from the demons begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> But Jesus did not allow the man to go. He said, “Go home to your family and friends. Tell them about all that the Lord has done for you. Tell them how the Lord was good to you.”

<sup>‡‡</sup>5:1 *Gerasene people* Some Greek copies have “Gadarenes” and others have “Gergesenes”.

<sup>¶¶</sup>5:9 *Legion* This name means very many. A legion was about 6000 men in the Roman army.

<sup>20</sup> So the man left and told the people in the Ten Towns about the great things Jesus had done for him. Everyone was amazed.

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

(Matt. 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56)

<sup>21</sup> Jesus went back to the other side of the lake in the boat. There, a large crowd of people gathered around him on the shore. <sup>22</sup> A leader of the synagogue came. His name was Jairus. When he saw Jesus, he fell down at his feet. <sup>23</sup> He begged Jesus again and again, saying, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and lay your hands on her. Then she will be healed and will live.”

<sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with Jairus. A big crowd followed Jesus, pressing him on every side.

<sup>25</sup> There among the people was a woman who had been bleeding for the past twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered very much. Many doctors had tried to help her, and all the money she had was spent, but she was not improving. In fact, her sickness was getting worse.

<sup>27</sup> The woman heard about Jesus, so she followed him with the other people and touched his coat. <sup>28</sup> She thought, “If I can just touch his clothes, that will be enough to heal me.” <sup>29</sup> As soon as she touched his coat, her bleeding stopped. She felt that her body was healed from all the suffering. <sup>30</sup> Jesus immediately felt power go out from him, so he stopped and turned around. “Who touched my clothes?” he asked.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus’ followers said to him, “How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’ when there are so many people pushing against you?”

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus continued looking for the one who touched him. <sup>33</sup> The woman knew that she was healed, so she came and bowed at Jesus’ feet. She was shaking with fear. She told Jesus the whole story. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, “Dear woman, you are made well because you believed. Go in peace. You will not suffer any more.”

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was still there speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. They said, “Your daughter is dead. There is no need to bother the Teacher.”

<sup>36</sup> But Jesus overheard<sup>§§</sup> what the men said. He said to the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus let only Peter, James and John the brother of James go with him. <sup>38</sup> They went to the synagogue leader’s house, where Jesus saw many people crying loudly. There was a lot of confusion. <sup>39</sup> He entered the house and said, “Why are you people crying and making so much noise? This child is not dead. She is only sleeping.” <sup>40</sup> But everyone laughed at him.

Jesus told the people to leave the house. Then he went into the room where the child was. He brought the child’s father and mother and his three followers into the room with him. <sup>41</sup> Then Jesus held the girl’s hand and said to her, “*Talitha, koum!*” (This means “Little girl, I tell you to stand up!”) <sup>42</sup> The girl immediately stood up and began walking. (She was twelve years old.) The father and mother and the followers were completely amazed. <sup>43</sup> Jesus gave the father and mother very strict orders not to tell people about this. Then he told them to give the girl some food to eat.

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§§5:36 *overheard* Or “ignored”.

### Jesus Goes to His Home Town

(Matt. 13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30)

**6** Jesus left and went back to his home town. His followers went with him. <sup>2</sup>On the Sabbath day Jesus taught in the synagogue. And many of the people who heard him were amazed. They said, “Who is this? Where did he learn all these things? How did he get such wisdom? Who gave it to him? And where did he get the power to do miracles? <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this the carpenter we know—Mary’s son, the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? And don’t his sisters still live here in town?” So they had a problem accepting him.

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “The only place people don’t honour a prophet is in his home town, with his own relatives and family.” <sup>5</sup>Jesus was not able to do any miracles there except the healing of some sick people by laying his hands on them. <sup>6</sup>He was surprised that the people there had no faith.

### Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission

(Matt. 10:1,5-15; Luke 9:1-6)

Jesus went around teaching the people in one village after another. <sup>7</sup>Then he called his twelve apostles together. He sent them out in groups of two and gave them power over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup>This is what he told them: “Take nothing for your trip except a stick for walking. Take no food, no bag and no money. <sup>9</sup>You can wear sandals, but don’t take extra clothes. <sup>10</sup>When you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup>If people anywhere refuse to welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a warning to them.”

<sup>12</sup>The apostles left and went to other places. They talked to the people and told them to change their hearts and lives. <sup>13</sup>They forced many demons out of people and put olive oil on\* many who were sick and healed them.

### Herod Thinks Jesus Is John the Baptizer

(Matt. 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9)

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard about Jesus, because Jesus was now famous. Some people said, “He is John the Baptizer. He must have risen from death, and that is why he can do these miracles.”

<sup>15</sup>Other people said, “He is Elijah.”

And others said, “He is a prophet. He is like the prophets who lived long ago.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod heard these things about Jesus, he said, “I killed John by cutting off his head. Now he has been raised from death!”

### How John the Baptizer Was Killed

<sup>17</sup>Herod himself had ordered his soldiers to arrest John and put him in prison. Herod did this to please his wife Herodias. She had been married to Herod’s brother Philip, but then Herod married her. <sup>18</sup>John told Herod, “It is not right for you to be married to your brother’s wife.” <sup>19</sup>So Herodias hated John. She wanted him dead, but she was not able to persuade Herod to kill him. <sup>20</sup>Herod was afraid to kill John, because he knew that he was a good and holy man. So he protected him. He liked listening to John, although what John said left him with so many questions.

<sup>21</sup>Then the right time came for Herodias to cause John’s death. It happened on Herod’s birthday. Herod gave a party for the most important government lead-

\* **6:13 put olive oil on** Olive oil was used like a medicine. It also became a symbol of the healing power of God that was given to Jesus and then to his followers by the Holy Spirit.

ers, the commanders of his army and the most important people in Galilee.<sup>22</sup> The daughter of Herodias<sup>†</sup> came to the party and danced. When she danced, Herod and the people eating with him were very pleased.

So King Herod said to the girl, "I will give you anything you want."<sup>23</sup> He promised her, "Anything you ask for I will give to you—even half of my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup>The girl went to her mother and asked, "What should I ask King Herod to give me?"

Her mother answered, "Ask for the head of John the Baptizer."

<sup>25</sup>So right then the girl went back in to the king. She said to him, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer. Bring it to me now on a plate."

<sup>26</sup>King Herod was very sad, but he didn't want to break the promise he had made to her in front of his guests.<sup>27</sup> So he sent a soldier to cut off John's head and bring it to him. The soldier went and cut off John's head in the prison.<sup>28</sup> He brought the head back on a plate and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.<sup>29</sup> When John's followers heard about what had happened, they came and got John's body and put it in a tomb.

### Jesus Feeds More Than 5000

(*Matt. 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14*)

<sup>30</sup>The apostles Jesus had sent out came back to him. They gathered around him and told him about all they had done and taught.<sup>31</sup> Jesus and his followers were in a very busy place. There were so many people that he and his follow-

ers did not even have time to eat. He said to them, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest."

<sup>32</sup>So Jesus and his followers went away alone. They went in a boat to a place where no one lived.<sup>33</sup> But many people saw them leave and knew who they were. So people from every town ran to the place where they were going and got there before Jesus and his followers.<sup>34</sup> As Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd waiting. He felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd to care for them. So he taught the people many things.

<sup>35</sup>It was now very late in the day. Jesus' followers came to him and said, "No one lives around here, and it is already very late.<sup>36</sup> So send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns around here to buy some food to eat."

<sup>37</sup>But Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to Jesus, "Do you want us to go and buy enough bread to feed all these people? We would all have to work a month to earn enough to buy that much bread!"<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>38</sup>Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have now? Go and see."

They counted their loaves of bread. They came to Jesus and said, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

<sup>39</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Tell everyone to sit in groups on the green grass."<sup>40</sup> So all the people sat in groups. There were about 50 or 100 people in each group.

<sup>†</sup>6:22 *The daughter of Herodias* Some Greek copies have "His daughter Herodias".

<sup>‡</sup>6:37 *We would ... bread* Literally, "Shall we go and buy 200 denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He looked up to the sky and thanked God for the food. Then he broke the bread into pieces, which he gave to his followers to distribute to the people. Then he divided the two fish among everyone there.

<sup>42</sup> They all ate until they were full.

<sup>43</sup> After they finished eating, the followers filled twelve baskets with the pieces of bread and fish that were left. <sup>44</sup> There were 5000 men there who ate.

### Jesus Walks on Water

*(Matt. 14:22-33; John 6:16-21)*

<sup>45</sup> Then Jesus told the followers to get into the boat. He told them to go to the other side of the lake to Bethsaida. He said he would come later. He stayed there to tell everyone they could go home. <sup>46</sup> After he said goodbye to them, he went up into the hills to pray.

<sup>47</sup> That night the boat was still in the middle of the lake. Jesus was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the boat far away on the lake. And he saw the followers working hard to row the boat. The wind was blowing against them. Sometime between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus went out to the boat, walking on the water. He continued walking until he was almost past the boat. <sup>49</sup> But the followers saw Jesus walking on the water. They thought he was a ghost, and they started screaming. <sup>50</sup> It scared them all to see him. But he spoke to them and said, "Don't worry! It's me! Don't be afraid." <sup>51</sup> When he got into the boat with the followers, the wind stopped. The followers were completely amazed. <sup>52</sup> It was like the miracle he had done with the bread. But their minds were so closed that they still didn't understand what that meant.

### Jesus Heals Many Sick People

*(Matt. 14:34-36)*

<sup>53</sup> Jesus and his followers went across the lake and came to shore at Gennesaret. They tied the boat there. <sup>54</sup> When they were out of the boat, the people there saw Jesus. They knew who he was, <sup>55</sup> so they ran to tell others throughout that area. As Jesus went from place to place, the people found out where he was and brought their sick ones to him on mats. <sup>56</sup> Jesus went into towns, cities and farms around that area. And everywhere he went, the people brought those who were sick to the marketplaces. They begged him 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

*(Matt. 15:1-20)*

**7** Some Pharisees and some teachers of the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. <sup>2</sup> They saw that some of his followers ate food with hands that were not clean, meaning that they did not wash their hands in a certain way. <sup>3</sup> The Pharisees and all the other Jews never eat before washing their hands in this special way. They do this to follow the traditions they have from their great leaders who lived long ago. <sup>4</sup> And when these Jews return from the market, they never eat without first washing themselves. And they follow many other rules they have been taught, like the washing of cups, pitchers and pots.<sup>¶</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The Pharisees and teachers of the law said to Jesus, "Your followers don't follow the traditions we have from our past

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<sup>¶</sup>7:4 pots Some Greek copies add "and couches".

leaders. They eat their food with hands that are not clean. Why do they do this?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "You are all hypocrites. Isaiah was right when he wrote these words from God about you:

"These people honour me with their words,

but I am not really important to them.

<sup>7</sup> Their worship of me is useless

because the things they teach are only human rules."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> You have stopped following God's commands, preferring instead the man-made rules you got from others."

<sup>9</sup> Then he said, "You show great skill in avoiding something that God has commanded so that you can follow your own teachings! <sup>10</sup> Moses said, 'You must respect your father and mother.'" <sup>\*\*</sup> He also said, 'Whoever says anything bad to their father or mother must be killed.'<sup>††</sup>

<sup>11</sup> But you let people 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.'<sup>12</sup> From then on, you say, they cannot do anything to help their father or mother. <sup>13</sup> So you are teaching that it is not important to do what God said. You think it is more important to follow those traditions you have, which you pass on to others. And you do many other things like that."

<sup>14</sup> Jesus called the people to him again. He said, "Everyone should listen to me and understand what I am saying. <sup>15</sup> Nothing you put in your mouth can cause God to reject you."<sup>‡</sup> The things

you do and say that come from inside are what makes you displeasing to him."<sup>¶</sup>  
<sup>16</sup> §§

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus left the people and went into the house. His followers asked Jesus about what he had told the people. <sup>18</sup> He said, "Do you still have trouble understanding? Surely you know that nothing that enters the mouth from the outside can make people unacceptable to God. <sup>19</sup> Food does not go into a person's mind. It goes into the stomach. Then it goes out of the body." (By saying this, Jesus meant that any food is all right to eat.)

<sup>20</sup> And Jesus said, "What makes people displeasing to God is what comes from the way they think. <sup>21</sup> All these bad things begin inside a person, in the mind: bad thoughts, sexual sins, stealing, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, doing bad things to people, lying, doing things that are morally wrong, jealousy, insulting people, proud talking and foolish living. <sup>23</sup> These evil things come from inside a person. And these are the things that make people displeasing to God."

### Jesus Helps a Non-Jewish Woman

(Matt. 15:21-28)

<sup>24</sup> Jesus went from there to the area around Tyre. He did not want the people in that area to know he was there, so he went into a house. But he could not stay hidden. <sup>25</sup> A woman heard that he was there. Her little daughter had an evil spirit inside her. So the woman came to Jesus and fell down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> She

§7:7 Quote from Isa. 29:13.

\*\*7:10 Quote from Exod. 20:12; Deut. 5:16.

††7:10 Quote from Exod. 21:17.

‡7:15 *cause God to reject you* Literally, "make you unclean", meaning to make you impure or unsuitable for worship to God. See unclean in the Word List. Also in verses 18,23.

¶7:15 *what makes you displeasing to him* Literally, "what makes you unclean". Also in verses 18,20.

§§7:16 Some Greek copies add verse 16: "You people who hear me, listen!"

was not a Jew. She was born in Phoenicia, an area in Syria. She begged Jesus to force the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> Jesus told the woman, "It is not right to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs. First let the children eat all they want."

<sup>28</sup> She answered, "That is true, Lord. But the dogs under the table can eat the pieces of food that the children don't eat."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, "That is a very good answer. You may go. The demon has left your daughter."

<sup>30</sup> The woman went home and found her daughter lying on the bed. The demon was gone.

### Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the area around Tyre and went through Sidon. On his way to Lake Galilee he went through the area of the Ten Towns. <sup>32</sup> While he was there, some people brought a man to him who was deaf and could not talk clearly. The people begged Jesus to put his hand on the man to heal him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus led the man away from the people to be alone with him. He put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spat on a finger and put it on the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> Jesus looked up to the sky and with a loud sigh he said, "*Ephphatha!*" (This means "Open!") <sup>35</sup> As soon as Jesus did this, the man was able to hear. He was able to use his tongue, and he began to speak clearly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus told the people not to tell anyone about this. But the more he told them not to say anything, the more people they told. <sup>37</sup> They were all completely amazed. They said, "Everything he has done is good. He makes deaf people able to hear and gives a new voice to people who could not talk."

### Jesus Feeds More Than 4000

(Matt. 15:32-39)

**8** Another time there was again a large crowd of people with Jesus. The people had nothing to eat, so he called his followers to him and said, <sup>2</sup> "I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days, and now they have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup> I should not send them home hungry. If they leave without eating, they will faint on the way home. Some of them live a long way from here."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus' followers answered, "But we are far away from any towns. Where can we get enough bread to feed all these people?"

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have?"

They answered, "We have seven loaves of bread."

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told the people to sit on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread into pieces and gave them to his followers. He told them to give the bread to the people, and they did as he said. <sup>7</sup> The followers also had a few small fish. Jesus gave thanks for the fish and told them to give the fish to the people.

<sup>8</sup> They all ate until they were full. Then the followers filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that were left. <sup>9</sup> There were about 4000 people who ate. After they had eaten, Jesus told them to go home. <sup>10</sup> Then he went in a boat with his followers to the area of Dalmanutha.

### Some People Doubt Jesus' Authority

(Matt. 16:1-4; Luke 11:16,29)

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came to Jesus and started to argue with him. They wanted to test him, so they asked him to do a miracle as a sign from God. <sup>12</sup> Jesus sighed deeply and said, "Why do you

people ask to see a miracle as a sign? I want you to know that no miracle will be done to prove anything to you.”<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus left them and went in the boat to the other side of the lake.

### **Jesus' Followers Misunderstand Him**

*(Matt. 16:5-12)*

<sup>14</sup>The followers had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. They had forgotten to bring more. <sup>15</sup>Jesus warned them, “Be careful! Guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.”

<sup>16</sup>The followers discussed the meaning of this. They said, “Maybe he said this because we have no bread.”

<sup>17</sup>Jesus knew that the followers were talking about this. So he asked them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Have you closed your minds?”

<sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes that can't see? Do you have ears that can't hear? Remember what I did before, when we did not have enough bread? <sup>19</sup>I divided five loaves of bread for 5000 people. Remember how many baskets you filled with pieces of food that were not eaten?”

The followers answered, “We filled twelve baskets.”

<sup>20</sup>“And when I divided seven loaves of bread for 4000 people, how many baskets did you fill with the leftover pieces?”

They answered, “We filled seven baskets.”

<sup>21</sup>Then he said to them, “You remember these things I did, but you still don't understand?”

### **Jesus Heals a Blind Man in Bethsaida**

<sup>22</sup>Jesus and his followers came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch the man. <sup>23</sup>So Jesus held the blind man's

hand and led him out of the village. Then he spat on the man's eyes. He laid his hands on him and asked, “Can you see now?”

<sup>24</sup>The man looked up and said, “Yes, I see people. They look like trees walking around.”

<sup>25</sup>Again Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes, and the man opened them wide. His eyes were healed, and he was able to see everything clearly. <sup>26</sup>Jesus told him to go home. He said, “Don't go into the town.”

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

*(Matt. 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-21)*

<sup>27</sup>Jesus and his followers went to the towns in the area of Caesarea Philippi. While they were travelling, Jesus asked the followers, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup>They answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Others say you are Elijah. And others say you are one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus warned them, “Don't tell anyone who I am.”

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

*(Matt. 16:21-28; Luke 9:22-27)*

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus began to teach his followers that he, as the Son of Man, must suffer many things. He told them that he would not be accepted by the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests and the teachers of the law. He said that he must be killed and then rise from death three days later. <sup>32</sup>Jesus told them everything that would happen. He did not keep anything secret.

Peter took Jesus away from the other followers to talk to him alone. Peter crit-

icized him for saying these things.<sup>33</sup> But Jesus turned and looked at his followers. Then he criticized Peter. He said to Peter, “Get away from me, Satan!\* You don’t care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important.”

<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus called the crowd and his followers to him. He said, “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. <sup>35</sup> If you try to save the life you have, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me and for the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world if you yourself are lost. <sup>37</sup> You could never pay enough to buy back your life. <sup>38</sup> People today are so sinful. They have been unfaithful to God. As you live among them, don’t be ashamed of me and my teaching. If that happens, then I, the Son of Man, will be ashamed of you when I come with the glory of my Father and the holy angels.”

**9** Then Jesus said, “Believe me when I say that some of you people standing here will see God’s kingdom come with power before you die.”

### Jesus Is Seen With Moses and Elijah

(Matt. 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36)

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched him, Jesus was changed. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became shining white—whiter than anyone on earth could make them. <sup>4</sup> Then they saw

two men there talking with Jesus. They were Elijah and Moses.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will make three shelters here—one to honour you, one to honour Moses and one to honour Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> Peter did not know what to say, because he and the other two followers were so afraid.

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud and said, “This is my Son and I love him. Do what he says!”

<sup>8</sup> The followers looked, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus and the followers were walking back down the mountain, he gave them these instructions: “Don’t tell anyone about what you saw on the mountain. Wait until after the Son of Man rises from death. Then you can tell people what you saw.”

<sup>10</sup> So the followers did not talk to anyone else about what they had seen. But they discussed among themselves what Jesus meant about rising from death.

<sup>11</sup> They asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come‡ first?”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, “They are right to say that Elijah must come first. Elijah makes all things the way they should be. But why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man will suffer much and that people will think he is worth nothing?

<sup>13</sup> I tell you that Elijah has already come. And people did to him all the bad things they wanted to do. The Scriptures said this would happen to him.”

\***8:33 Satan** Name for the devil meaning “the enemy”. Jesus means that Peter was talking like Satan.

†**8:34 carry the cross** A symbol meaning to accept a new life of shame, suffering and death. See cross in the Word List.

‡**9:11 Elijah must come** See Mal. 4:5-6.

### Jesus Frees a Boy From an Evil Spirit

(Matt. 17:14-20; Luke 9:37-43a)

<sup>14</sup>When Jesus, Peter, James and John went back to the other followers, they saw many people around them. The teachers of the law were arguing with the followers. <sup>15</sup>When the people saw Jesus, they were very surprised and ran to welcome him.

<sup>16</sup>Jesus asked, “What are you arguing about with the teachers of the law?”

<sup>17</sup>A man answered, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He is controlled by an evil spirit that keeps him from talking. <sup>18</sup>When the spirit attacks him, it throws him on the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth and becomes very stiff. I asked your followers to force the evil spirit out, but they could not.”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, “You people today don’t believe! How long must I stay with you? How long must I be patient with you? Bring the boy to me!”

<sup>20</sup>So the followers brought the boy to Jesus. When the evil spirit saw Jesus, it attacked the boy. The boy fell down and rolled on the ground. He was foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

The father answered, “Since he was very young. <sup>22</sup>The spirit often throws him into a fire or into water to kill him. If you can do anything, please have pity on us and help us.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to the father, “Why did you say ‘if you can’? All things are possible for the one who believes.”

<sup>24</sup>Immediately the father shouted, “I do believe. Help me to believe more!”

<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that all the people were running there to see what was hap-

pening, he spoke to the evil spirit. He said, “You evil spirit that makes this boy deaf and stops him from talking—I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!”

<sup>26</sup>The evil spirit screamed. It caused the boy to fall on the ground again, and then it came out. The boy looked as if he was dead. Many people said, “He is dead!” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took hold of his hand and helped him stand up.

<sup>28</sup>Later, Jesus went into the house, and his followers were alone with him. They asked him, “Why weren’t we able to force that evil spirit out?”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “That kind of spirit can be forced out only with prayer.”<sup>f</sup>

### Jesus Talks About His Death

(Matt. 17:22-23; Luke 9:43b-45)

<sup>30</sup>Then Jesus and his followers left there and went through Galilee. Jesus did not want the people to know where they were. <sup>31</sup>He wanted to teach his followers alone. He said to them, “The Son of Man will be handed over to the control of other men, and they will kill him. But three days later, he will rise from death.” <sup>32</sup>The followers did not understand what he meant, and they were afraid to ask him.

### Who Is the Greatest?

(Matt. 18:1-5; Luke 9:46-48)

<sup>33</sup>Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum. After they went into a house, Jesus said to them, “I heard you arguing on the way here. What were you arguing about?” <sup>34</sup>But the followers did not answer, because their argument on the road was about which one of them was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus sat down and called the twelve apostles to him. He said, “Who-

<sup>f</sup>9:29 *prayer* Some Greek copies have “prayer and fasting”.

ever wants to be the most important must make others more important than themselves. They must serve everyone else.”

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus took a small child and stood the child in front of the followers. He held the child in his arms and said,  
<sup>37</sup> “When you accept one of these little children as one who belongs to me, you accept me. And anyone who accepts me also accepts the one who sent me.”

### Whoever Is Not Against Us Is For Us (Luke 9:49-50)

<sup>38</sup> Then John said, “Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of someone. We told him to stop, because he does not belong to our group.”

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Don’t stop him. Whoever uses my name to do powerful things will not soon say bad things about me.

<sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is with us.

<sup>41</sup> I can assure you that anyone who helps you by giving you a drink of water because you belong to the Messiah will definitely get a reward.

### Jesus Warns About Causes of Sin (Matt. 18:6-9; Luke 17:1-2)

<sup>42</sup> “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 sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand makes you sin, cut it off. It is better for you to lose part of your body and have eternal life than to have two hands and go to hell. There the fire never stops.

<sup>44</sup> <sup>45</sup> If your foot makes you sin, cut it off. It is better for you to lose part of your body and have eternal life than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>46</sup> <sup>\*\*47</sup> If your eye makes you sin, take it out. It is better for you to have only one eye and enter God’s kingdom than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. <sup>48</sup> The worms that eat the people in hell never die. The fire there is never stopped.

<sup>49</sup> “Everyone will be salted with fire.”†

<sup>50</sup> “Salt is good. But if it loses its salty taste, you can’t make it good again. So, don’t lose that good quality of salt you have. And live in peace with each other.”

### Jesus Teaches About Divorce (Matt. 19:1-12)

**10** Then Jesus left there and went into the area of Judea and across the Jordan River. Again, many people came to him, and Jesus taught them as he always did.

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came to Jesus and tried to make him say something wrong. They asked him, “Is it right for a man to divorce his wife?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “What did Moses command you to do?”

<sup>4</sup> The Pharisees said, “Moses allowed a man to divorce his wife by writing a certificate of divorce.”‡

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said, “Moses wrote that command for you because you refused to accept God’s teaching. <sup>6</sup> But when God made the world, ‘he made people male and female.’<sup>¶</sup> <sup>7</sup> ‘That is why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. <sup>8</sup> And the two people

§9:44 Some Greek copies add verse 44, which is the same as verse 48.

\*\*9:46 Some Greek copies add verse 46, which is the same as verse 48.

††9:49 Some Greek copies add, “and every sacrifice will be salted with salt”. In the Old Testament salt was put on sacrifices. This verse could mean that Jesus’ followers will be tested by suffering and that they must offer themselves to God as sacrifices.

‡10:4 *Moses ... certificate of divorce* See Deut. 24:1.

¶10:6 Quote from Gen. 1:27; 5:2.

will become one.<sup>8</sup> So they are no longer two, but one.<sup>9</sup> God has joined them together, so no one should separate them.”

<sup>10</sup> Later, when the followers and Jesus were in the house, they asked him again about the question of divorce. <sup>11</sup> He said, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman has sinned against his wife. He is guilty of adultery. <sup>12</sup> And the woman who divorces her husband and marries another man is also guilty of adultery.”

### Jesus Welcomes Children

(*Matt. 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17*)

<sup>13</sup> People brought their little children to Jesus so that he could bless them by laying his hands on them. But the followers told the people to stop. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, it made him angry. So he said to the followers, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people who are like children. <sup>15</sup> The truth is, you must accept God’s kingdom like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus held the children in his arms. He blessed them by laying his hands on them.

### A Rich Man Refuses to Follow Jesus

(*Matt. 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30*)

<sup>17</sup> Jesus started to leave, but a man ran to him and knelt down before him. The man asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to have the life that never ends?”

<sup>18</sup> Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. <sup>19</sup> And you know his commands: ‘You must not murder anyone, you must not commit adultery, you must not steal, you must not

lie, you must not cheat anyone, you must respect your father and mother.’”<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The man said, “Teacher, I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at the man in a way that showed how much he cared for him. He said, “There is still one thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> The man was very upset when Jesus told him to give away his money, because he was very rich. So he went away sad.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked at his followers and said to them, “It will be very hard for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom!”

<sup>24</sup> The followers were amazed at what Jesus said. But he said again, “My children, it is very hard<sup>†</sup> to enter God’s kingdom! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom!”

<sup>26</sup> The followers were even more amazed and said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “That is something people cannot do, but God can. He can do anything.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “We left everything to follow you!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “I can promise that everyone who has left their home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or farm for me and for the Good News about me <sup>30</sup> will get a hundred times more than they left. Here in this world they will get more homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and farms. And with these things they will have perse-

§§10:8 Quote from Gen. 2:24.

\*10:19 Quote from Exod. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20.

†10:24 *hard* Some ancient Greek copies have “hard for those who trust in riches”.

cutions. But in the world that is coming they will also get the reward of eternal life. <sup>31</sup> Many people who have the highest place now will have the lowest place in the future. And the people who have the lowest place now will have the highest place then.”

### Jesus Talks Again About His Death

(*Matt. 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34*)

<sup>32</sup> Jesus and those with him were on their way to Jerusalem. He was at the front of the group. His followers were wondering what was happening, and the people who followed behind them were feeling afraid. Jesus gathered the twelve apostles again and talked with them alone. He told them what would happen in Jerusalem. <sup>33</sup> He said, “We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the leading priests and teachers of the law. They will say that he must die and will hand him over to the foreigners, <sup>34</sup> who will laugh at him and spit on him. They will beat him with whips and kill him. But three days later, he will rise to life again.”

### James and John Ask for a Favour

(*Matt. 20:20-28*)

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want to ask you to do something for us.”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

<sup>37</sup> The sons answered, “Let us share the great honour you will have as king. Let one of us sit at your right side and the other at your left.”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus said, “You don’t understand what you are asking. Can you drink from the cup<sup>‡</sup> that I must drink from? Can you be baptized with the same baptism<sup>¶</sup> that I must go through?”

<sup>39</sup> The sons answered, “Yes, we can!”

Jesus said to the sons, “It is true that you will drink from the cup that I drink from. And you will be baptized with the same baptism that I must go through. <sup>40</sup> But it is not for me to say who will sit at my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he chooses.”

<sup>41</sup> When the other ten followers heard this, they were angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called all the followers together. He said, “The non-Jewish people have men they call rulers. You know that those rulers love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority over the people. <sup>43</sup> But it should not be that way with you.

“Whoever wants to be your leader must be willing to serve the rest of you.

<sup>44</sup> Whoever wants to be first must serve the others like a slave.

<sup>45</sup> When the Son of Man came to earth, he did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life to save many people.”

### Jesus Heals a Blind Man

(*Matt. 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43*)

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to the town of Jericho. When Jesus left there with his followers, a large crowd was with them. A blind man named Bartimaeus (meaning “son of Timaeus”) was sitting by the road. He was always begging for

<sup>‡</sup>10:38 *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 39.

<sup>¶</sup>10:38 *baptized with the same baptism* Baptism, which usually means to be immersed in water, has a special meaning here—being covered or “buried” in troubles. Also in verse 39.

money. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by, he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, please help me!”

<sup>48</sup>Many people criticized the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, “Son of David, please help me!”

<sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, “Tell him to come here.”

So they called the blind man and said, “You can be happy now. Stand up! Jesus is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup>Jesus asked the man, “What do you want me to do for you?”

He answered, “Teacher, I want to see again.”

<sup>52</sup>Jesus said, “Go. You are healed because you believed.” Immediately the man was able to see again. He followed Jesus down the road.

### Jesus Enters Jerusalem Like a King

*(Matt. 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19)*

**11** Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. They came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of his followers to do something. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a young donkey that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkey, tell them, “The Lord needs it. He will send it back soon.”

<sup>4</sup>The two followers went into the town. They found a young donkey tied

in the street near the door of a house, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>Some people were standing there and saw this. They asked, “What are you doing? Why are you untying that donkey?” <sup>6</sup>The followers answered the way Jesus told them to, and the people let them take the donkey.

<sup>7</sup>These followers brought the donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on it, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their coats on the road for Jesus. Others cut branches in the fields and spread the branches on the road. <sup>9</sup>Some of them were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. Everyone shouted,

“Praise<sup>§</sup> Him!

Welcome! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”<sup>\*\*</sup>

<sup>10</sup>God bless the kingdom of our father David.

That kingdom is coming!

Praise to God in heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the Temple. He looked at everything in the Temple area, but it was already late. So he went to Bethany with the twelve apostles.

### Jesus Puts a Curse on a Fig Tree

*(Matt. 21:18-19)*

<sup>12</sup>The next day, when Jesus and his followers were leaving Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup>Looking ahead, he saw a fig tree with leaves. So he went closer to see if it had any figs growing on it. But he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the right time for figs to grow. <sup>14</sup>Jesus said to the tree, “People will never eat fruit from you again.” And his followers heard him say this.

<sup>§</sup>11:9 *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 verse 10.

<sup>\*\*</sup>11:9 Quote from Ps. 118:25-26.

## Jesus Goes to the Temple

(Matt. 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22)

<sup>15</sup> When Jesus and his followers returned to Jerusalem, they entered the Temple area. Jesus began chasing out the people who were buying and selling 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. <sup>16</sup> He refused to allow anyone to carry things through the Temple area. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus began teaching the people and said, “It is written in the Scriptures, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.’<sup>††</sup> But you have changed it into a ‘hiding place for thieves’.”<sup>‡‡</sup>

<sup>18</sup> When the leading priests and the teachers of the law heard what Jesus said, they began trying to find a way to kill him. They were afraid of him because all the people were amazed at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> That night Jesus and his followers left the city.

### The Fig Tree and Faith, Prayer and Forgiveness

(Matt. 21:20-22)

<sup>20</sup> The next morning Jesus was walking with his followers. They saw the fig tree that he had spoken to the day before. The tree was dry and dead, even the roots. <sup>21</sup> Peter remembered the tree and said to Jesus, “Teacher, look! Yesterday, you put a curse on that fig tree. Now it is dry and dead!”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> The truth is, you can say to this moun-

tain, ‘Get up and throw yourself into the sea.’ And if you have no doubts in your mind and believe that what you say will happen, then God will do it for you. <sup>24</sup> So I tell you to ask for what you want in prayer. And if you believe that you have received those things, then they will be yours. <sup>25</sup> When you are praying and you remember that you are angry with another person about something, forgive that person. Forgive them so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins.” <sup>26</sup> ¶¶

### Leaders Reject Jesus’ Authority

(Matt. 21:23-27; Luke 20:1-8)

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his followers went again to Jerusalem. Jesus was walking in the Temple area. The leading priests, the teachers of the law and the older leaders came to him. <sup>28</sup> They said, “Tell us! What authority do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “I will ask you a question. You answer my question. Then I will tell you whose authority I use to do these things. <sup>30</sup> Tell me: When John baptized people, did his authority come from God or was it only from other people? Answer me.”

<sup>31</sup> These leaders talked about Jesus’ question. They said to each other, “If we answer, ‘John’s baptism was from God,’ then he will say, ‘Then why didn’t you believe John?’ <sup>32</sup> But we can’t say that John’s baptism was from someone else.” (These leaders were afraid of the people, because they all believed that John was a prophet.)

<sup>33</sup> So the leaders answered Jesus, “We don’t know the answer.”

††11:17 Quote from Isa. 56:7.

‡‡11:17 Quote from Jer. 7:11.

¶¶11:26 Some early Greek copies add verse 26: “But if you don’t forgive others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.”

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

### Jesus Tells a Story About a Vineyard

(*Matt. 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-19*)

**12** Jesus used stories to teach the people. He said, “A man decided to plant a vineyard. He prepared an area for pressing the grapes and storing the wine. Then 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.

<sup>2</sup>“When the time came for making wine, he sent one of his servants to get his share from the farmers. <sup>3</sup>But the farmers grabbed the servant and beat him. They sent him away with nothing. <sup>4</sup>Then the man sent another servant to the farmers. They showed no respect for this servant either and struck him on the head. <sup>5</sup>So the man sent another servant. The farmers killed this servant. The man sent many other servants to the farmers. The farmers beat some of them and killed the others.

<sup>6</sup>“The man had only one person left to send to the farmers. It was the one he loved most, his son. So he sent his son, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’

<sup>7</sup>“But the farmers said to each other, ‘This is the owner’s son, and this vineyard will be his. If we kill him, it will be ours.’ <sup>8</sup>So they took the son, killed him and threw his body out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup>“So what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those farmers and put others in charge of the vineyard. <sup>10</sup>Surely you have read this in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders refused to accept became the cornerstone.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord did this, and it is wonderful to us.’”<sup>§§</sup>

<sup>12</sup>When these Jewish leaders heard this story, they knew it was about them. They wanted to find a way to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid of what the crowd would do. So they left him and went away.

### Jesus Replies to a Trick Question

(*Matt. 22:15-22; Luke 20:20-26*)

<sup>13</sup>Later, the leaders sent some Pharisees and some men from the group called Herodians to Jesus. They wanted to catch him saying something they could use against him. <sup>14</sup>They went to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we know that you are an honest man. When you speak, you don’t worry about what others might think. It doesn’t matter to you who is listening, you always teach the truth about God’s way. Tell us, is it right to pay taxes to Caesar? Should we pay them or not?”

<sup>15</sup>But Jesus knew that these men were really trying to trick him. He said, “Why are you trying to catch me saying something wrong? Bring me a silver coin. Let me see it.” <sup>16</sup>They gave Jesus a coin and he asked, “Whose picture is on the coin? And whose name is written on it?” They answered, “It is Caesar’s picture and Caesar’s name.”

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” The men were amazed at what Jesus said.

### Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus

(*Matt. 22:23-33; Luke 20:27-40*)

<sup>18</sup>Then some Sadducees came to Jesus. (Sadducees believe that no one will rise from death.) They asked him a question: <sup>19</sup>“Teacher, Moses wrote

§§12:11 Quote from Ps. 118:22-23.

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.\* <sup>20</sup> There were seven brothers. The first brother married but died. He had no children. <sup>21</sup> So the second brother married the woman. But he also died and had no children. The same thing happened with the third brother. <sup>22</sup> All seven brothers married the woman and died. None of the brothers had children with her. And she was the last to die. <sup>23</sup> But all seven brothers had married her. So at the time when people rise from death, whose wife will she be?"

<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered, "How could you be so wrong? It's because you don't know what the Scriptures say. And you don't know anything about God's power. <sup>25</sup> When people rise from death, there will be no marriage. People will not be married to each other. All people will be like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> Surely you have read what God said about people rising from death. In the book where Moses wrote about the burning bush,<sup>†</sup> it says that God told Moses this: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'<sup>‡</sup> <sup>27</sup> He is the God only of people who are living, so these men were not really dead. You Sadducees are so wrong!"

### Which Command Is the Most Important?

(Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-28)

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Phar-

isees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked him, "Which of God's commands is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'People of Israel, listen! The Lord our God is the only Lord. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength.'<sup>¶</sup> <sup>31</sup> The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbour<sup>§</sup> the same as you love yourself.'<sup>\*\*</sup> These two commands are the most important."

<sup>32</sup> The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You are right in saying that God is the only Lord and that there is no other god. <sup>33</sup> And you must love God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength. And you must love others the same as you love yourself. These commands are more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices we give to God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So he said to him, "You are close to the kingdom of God." And after that time, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

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

(Matt. 22:41-46; Luke 20:41-44)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. He asked, "Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> With the help of the Holy Spirit, David himself says, 'The Lord God said to my Lord:

\*12:19 See Deut. 25:5,6.

†12:26 *burning bush* See Exod. 3:1-12.

‡12:26 Quote from Exod. 3:6.

¶12:30 Quote from Deut. 6:4-5.

§12:31 *your neighbour* Or "others". Jesus' teaching in Luke 10:25-37 makes clear that this includes anyone in need.

\*\*12:31 Quote from Lev. 19:18.

Sit by me at my right side,  
and I will put your enemies under your  
control.<sup>††‡‡</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Here, David himself calls the Messiah  
'Lord'. So how can he be David's son?"

The huge crowd loved hearing Jesus  
teach.

### Jesus Criticizes the Teachers of the Law

(*Matt. 23:6-7; Luke 11:43; 20:45-47*)

<sup>38</sup> Jesus continued teaching. He said,  
"Be careful of the teachers of the  
law. They like to walk around wearing  
clothes that make them look important.  
They love it when people greet them  
with respect in the marketplaces. <sup>39</sup> They  
love to have the most important seats in  
the synagogues and the places of hon-  
our at banquets. <sup>40</sup> But they cheat wid-  
ows and take their homes. Then they try  
to make themselves look good by say-  
ing long prayers. God will punish them  
greatly."

### True Giving

(*Luke 21:1-4*)

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat near the Temple collection  
box<sup>¶¶</sup> and watched as people put money  
into it. Many rich people put in a lot  
of money. <sup>42</sup> Then a poor widow came  
and put in two very small copper coins,  
worth less than a penny.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus called his followers to him and  
said, "This poor widow put in only two  
small coins. But the truth is, she gave  
more than all those rich people. <sup>44</sup> They  
have plenty, and they gave only what  
they did not need. This woman is very

poor, but she gave all she had. It was  
money she needed to live on."

### Jesus Warns About the Future

(*Matt. 24:1-25; Luke 21:5-24*)

**13** Jesus was leaving the Temple  
area. One of his followers said to  
him, "Teacher, look how big those stones  
are! What beautiful buildings!"

<sup>2</sup> Jesus said, "Do you see these great  
buildings? They will all be destroyed.  
Every stone will be thrown down to the  
ground. Not one stone will be left on  
another."

<sup>3</sup> Later, Jesus was on the Mount of  
Olives. He was sitting alone with Peter,  
James, John and Andrew. Across the val-  
ley, they could see the Temple buildings.  
They said to Jesus, <sup>4</sup> "Tell us when these  
things will happen. And what will show  
us it is time for them to happen?"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Be careful! Don't  
let anyone fool you. <sup>6</sup> Many people will  
come and pretend to be me. They will  
say, 'I am the Messiah.'<sup>§§</sup> And they will  
fool many people. <sup>7</sup> You 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 before the end comes. <sup>8</sup> Nations  
will fight against other nations. King-  
doms will fight against other kingdoms.  
There will be times of famine and earth-  
quakes in different places. These things  
are only the beginning of troubles, like  
the first pains of a woman giving birth.

<sup>9</sup> "You must be careful! There are peo-  
ple who will arrest you and take you  
to be judged for being my followers.  
They will beat you in their synagogues.

<sup>††</sup>12:36 *control* Literally, "feet".

<sup>‡‡</sup>12:36 Quote from Ps. 110:1.

<sup>¶¶</sup>12:41 *collection box* A special box in the Jewish place for worship where people put their gifts to God.

<sup>§§</sup>13:6 *the Messiah* Literally "the one", meaning the chosen king sent by God. See Matt. 24:5 and Messiah in the Word List.

You will be forced to stand before kings and governors. You will tell them about me. <sup>10</sup>Before the end comes, the Good News must be told to all nations. <sup>11</sup>Even when you are arrested and put on trial, don't worry about what you will say. Say whatever God tells you at the time. It will not really be you speaking. It will be the Holy Spirit.

<sup>12</sup>"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. <sup>13</sup>All people will hate you because you follow me. But those who remain faithful to the end will be saved.

<sup>14</sup>"But when you see 'the terrible thing that causes destruction',\* you will know it is time to run. You will see this thing standing in the place where it should not be." (Reader, I trust you understand what this means.) "Everyone in Judea at that time should run away to the mountains. <sup>15</sup>They should run away without stopping for anything. If someone is on the roof of their house, they must not go inside to get anything out of the house. <sup>16</sup>If someone is in the field, they must not go back to get a coat.

<sup>17</sup>"During that time it will be hard for women who are pregnant or have small babies. <sup>18</sup>Pray that these things will not happen in winter, <sup>19</sup>because those days will be full of trouble. There will be more trouble than has ever happened since the beginning, when God made the world. And nothing that bad will ever happen again. <sup>20</sup>But the Lord has decided to make that terrible time short. If it were

not made short, no one could survive. But the Lord will make that time short to help the special people he has chosen.

<sup>21</sup>"Someone might say to you at that time, 'Look, there is the Messiah!' Or another person might say, 'There he is!' But don't believe them. <sup>22</sup>False messiahs and false prophets will come and do miracles and wonders,<sup>†</sup> trying to fool the people God has chosen, if that is possible. <sup>23</sup>So be careful. Now I have warned you about all this before it happens.

### When Jesus Comes Again

(*Matt. 24:29-51; Luke 21:25-36; 19:12-13,40*)

<sup>24</sup>"During the days following that time of trouble,

"The sun will become dark,  
and the moon will not give light.

<sup>25</sup>The stars will fall from the sky,  
and the powerful forces in the sky will  
be shaken.<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>26</sup>"Then people will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>He will send his angels all around the earth to gather his chosen people from every part of the earth.

<sup>28</sup>"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. <sup>29</sup>In the same way, when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time<sup>¶</sup> is very near, already present. <sup>30</sup>I assure you that all these things will happen while some of the people of this time are still living. <sup>31</sup>The whole world, earth

\***13:14 the terrible thing ... destruction** See Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11.

†**13:22 miracles and wonders** Here, amazing acts done by Satan's power.

‡**13:25** See Isa. 13:10; 34:4.

¶**13:29 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.

and sky, will be destroyed, but my words will last forever.

<sup>32</sup>“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. <sup>33</sup>Be careful! Always be ready. You don’t know when that time will be.

<sup>34</sup>“It’s like a man who goes on a journey and leaves his house in the care of his servants. He gives each one a special job to do. He tells the servant guarding the door to always be ready. And this is what I am telling you now. <sup>35</sup>You must always be ready. You don’t know when the owner of the house will come back. He might come in the afternoon, or at midnight or when the cockerel crows or when the sun rises. <sup>36</sup>If you are always ready, he will not find you sleeping, even if he comes back earlier than expected. <sup>37</sup>I tell you this, and I say it to everyone: ‘Be ready!’”

### The Plan to Kill Jesus

(*Matt. 26:1-5; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-53*)

**14** It was now only two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and teachers of the law were trying to find a way to arrest Jesus without the people seeing it. Then they could kill him. <sup>2</sup>They said, “But we cannot arrest Jesus during the festival. We don’t want the people to be angry and cause a riot.”

### A Woman Honours Jesus

(*Matt. 26:6-13; John 12:1-8*)

<sup>3</sup>Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a dreaded skin disease. While he was eat-

ing there, a woman came to him. She had an alabaster bottle filled with expensive perfume made of pure nard. She broke off the top of the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head.

<sup>4</sup>This upset some of the people there, and they complained to each other, “What a waste of expensive perfume! <sup>5</sup>It was worth a full year’s pay.<sup>§</sup> It could have been sold and the money given to those who are poor.” And they told the woman what a bad thing she had done.

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you giving her such trouble? She did a very good thing for me. <sup>7</sup>If you want to help the poor, they are always nearby.\*\* You can give to them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>This woman did the only thing she could do for me. She poured perfume on my body before I die to prepare it for burial. <sup>9</sup>The 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.”

### Judas Agrees to Help Jesus’ Enemies

(*Matt. 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6*)

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, went to talk to the leading priests about handing Jesus over to them. <sup>11</sup>They were very happy about this, and they promised to pay him. So he waited for the best time to hand Jesus over to them.

### The Passover Meal

(*Matt. 26:17-25; Luke 22:7-14,21-23; John 13:21-30*)

<sup>12</sup>It was now the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread—the day the

<sup>§</sup>14:5 *a full year’s pay* Literally, “300 *denarii*”. One Roman *denarius*, a silver coin, was the average pay for one day’s work.

\*\*14:7 See Deut. 15:11.

lamb was killed for Passover. Jesus' followers came to him and said, "We will go and prepare everything for you to eat the Passover meal. Where do you want us to have the meal?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus sent two of his followers into the city. He said to them, "Go into the city. You will see a man carrying a jar of water. He will come to you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup> He will go into a house. Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks that you show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover meal.' <sup>15</sup> The owner will show you a large room upstairs that is ready for us. Prepare the meal for us there."

<sup>16</sup> So the followers left and went into the city. Everything happened the way Jesus said it would. So the followers prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup> In the evening Jesus went to that house with his twelve followers. <sup>18</sup> While they were all at the table eating, he said, "Believe me when I say that one of you will turn against me—one of you eating with me now."

<sup>19</sup> The followers were very sad to hear this. Each one said to Jesus, "Surely I am not the one!"

<sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, "It is one of you twelve—the one who is dipping his bread in the same bowl with me. <sup>21</sup> The 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."

### **The Lord's Supper**

*(Matt. 26:26-30; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)*

<sup>22</sup> While 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 and eat this bread. It is my body."

<sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it, and gave it to them. They all drank from the cup. <sup>24</sup> Then he said, "This wine is my blood, which will be poured out for many to begin the new agreement that God makes with his people. <sup>25</sup> I want you to know, I will not drink this wine again until that day when I drink it in God's kingdom and the wine is new."

<sup>26</sup> They all sang a song and then went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Jesus Says His Followers Will Leave Him**

*(Matt. 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)*

<sup>27</sup> Then Jesus told the followers, "You will all lose your faith. The Scriptures say,

'I will kill the shepherd, and the sheep will run away.'<sup>††</sup>

<sup>28</sup> But after I am killed, I will rise from death. Then I will go to Galilee. I will be there before you come."

<sup>29</sup> Peter said, "All the other followers may lose their faith. But that will never happen to me."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "The truth is, tonight you will say you don't know me. You will say it three times before the cockerel crows twice."

<sup>31</sup> But Peter strongly protested, "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**

*(Matt. 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46)*

<sup>32</sup> Jesus and his followers went to a place named Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> But he

<sup>††</sup>14:27 Quote from Zech. 13:7.

told Peter, James and John to come with him. He began to be very distressed and troubled, <sup>34</sup>and he said to them, “My heart is so heavy with sorrow, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went on a little farther away from them, fell to the ground and prayed. He asked that, if possible, he would not have this time of suffering. <sup>36</sup>He said, “*Abba*,<sup>‡‡</sup> Father! You can do all things. Don’t make me drink from this cup.”<sup>¶¶</sup> But do what you want, not what I want.”

<sup>37</sup>Then he went back to his followers and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, why are you sleeping? Could you not stay awake with me for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right, but your body is weak.”

<sup>39</sup>Again Jesus went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>Then he went back to the followers and again found them sleeping. They could not stay awake. They did not know what they should say to him.

<sup>41</sup>After Jesus prayed a third time, he went back to his followers. He said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? That’s enough! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the control of sinful men. <sup>42</sup>Stand up! We must go. Here comes the man who is handing me over to them.”

### Jesus Is Arrested

(*Matt. 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:3-12*)

<sup>43</sup>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, the teachers of the law and the older leaders.

<sup>44</sup>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. Guard him carefully as you take him away.” <sup>45</sup>So Judas went over to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” Then he kissed him. <sup>46</sup>The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>One of the followers standing near Jesus grabbed his sword and pulled it out. He swung it at the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said, “Why do you come to get me with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? <sup>49</sup>Every day I was with you teaching in the Temple area. You did not arrest me there. But all these things have happened to show the full meaning of what the Scriptures said.” <sup>50</sup>Then all of Jesus’ followers left him and ran away.

<sup>51</sup>One of those following Jesus was a young man wearing only a linen cloth. When the people tried to grab him, <sup>52</sup>he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.

### Jesus Before the Religious Leaders

(*Matt. 26:57-68; Luke 22:54-55,63-71; John 18:13-14,19-24*)

<sup>53</sup>Those who arrested Jesus led him to the house of the high priest. All the leading priests, the older leaders and the teachers of the law were gathered there. <sup>54</sup>Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance. He followed him to the

<sup>‡‡</sup>14:36 *Abba* An Aramaic word that was used by Jewish children as a name for their father.

<sup>¶¶</sup>14:36 *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.

courtyard of the high priest's house. He went into the courtyard and sat there with the guards, warming himself by their fire.

<sup>55</sup>The leading priests and the whole high council tried to find something that Jesus had done wrong so they could kill him. But the council could find no proof that would allow them to kill Jesus. <sup>56</sup>Many people came and told lies against Jesus, but they all said different things. None of them agreed.

<sup>57</sup>Then some others stood up and told more lies against Jesus: <sup>58</sup>"We heard this man<sup>§§</sup> say, 'I will destroy this Temple built by human hands. And three days later, I will build another Temple not made by human hands.'" <sup>59</sup>But even what these people said did not agree.

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before everyone and said to Jesus, "These people said things against you. Do you have something to say about their charges? Are they telling the truth?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus said nothing to answer him.

The high priest asked Jesus another question: "Are you the Messiah, \* Son of the blessed God?"

<sup>62</sup>Jesus answered, "Yes, I am the Son of God. And in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful. And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven."<sup>†</sup>

<sup>63</sup>When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes in anger. He said, "We don't need any more witnesses! <sup>64</sup>You all heard these insults to God. What do you think?"

Everyone agreed that Jesus was guilty and must be killed. <sup>65</sup>Some of the people there spat at him. They covered his eyes and hit him with their fists. They said, "Be a prophet<sup>‡</sup> and tell us who hit you!" Then the guards led Jesus away and beat him.

### Peter Says He Doesn't Know Jesus

(*Matt. 26:69-75; Luke 22:56-62; John 18:15-18,25-27*)

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was still in the courtyard, a servant girl of the high priest came there. <sup>67</sup>She saw him warming himself by the fire. She looked closely at him and said, "You were with Jesus, that man from Nazareth."

<sup>68</sup>But Peter said this was not true. "That makes no sense," he said. "I don't know what you are talking about!" Then he left and went to the entrance of the courtyard, and a cockerel crowed.<sup>¶</sup>

<sup>69</sup>When the servant girl saw him there, she began saying again to the people standing around, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup>Again Peter said it was not true.

A short time later, the people standing there said, "We know you are one of them, because you are from Galilee."

<sup>71</sup>Then Peter began to curse. He said, "I swear to God, I don't know this man you are talking about!"

<sup>72</sup>As soon as Peter said this, the cockerel crowed the second time. Then he remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the cockerel crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter began to cry.

§§14:58 *this man* That is, Jesus. His enemies avoided saying his name.

\*14:61 *Messiah* Literally, "Christ", a Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah". See Christ and Messiah in the Word List.

†14:62 *Son of Man ... heaven* See Ps. 110:1 and Dan. 7:13.

‡14:65 *prophet* A prophet often knows things that are hidden to other people.

¶14:68 Some Greek copies do not have "and a cockerel crowed".

### Governor Pilate Questions Jesus

(*Matt. 27:1-2,11-14;*  
*Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38*)

**15** Very early in the morning, the leading priests, the older leaders, the teachers of the law and the whole high council decided what to do with Jesus. They tied him, led him away and handed him over to Governor Pilate.

<sup>2</sup>Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Yes, that is right.”

<sup>3</sup>The leading priests accused Jesus of many things. <sup>4</sup>So Pilate asked Jesus another question. He said, “You can see that these people are accusing you of many things. Why don’t you answer?”

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus still did not answer, and this really surprised Pilate.

### Pilate Tries to Free Jesus

(*Matt. 27:15-31; Luke 23:13-25;*  
*John 18:39 – 19:16*)

<sup>6</sup>Every year during the Passover festival, the governor would free one prisoner for the people—any prisoner they asked for. <sup>7</sup>There was a man in prison at that time named Barabbas. He and the rebels with him had been put in prison for committing murder during a riot.

<sup>8</sup>The people came to Pilate and asked him to free a prisoner as he always did. <sup>9</sup>Pilate asked them, “Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup>Pilate knew that the leading priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of him. <sup>11</sup>But the leading priests persuaded the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas, not Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>Pilate asked the people again, “So what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?”

<sup>13</sup>The people shouted, “Kill him on a cross!”

<sup>14</sup>Pilate asked, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

But the people shouted louder and louder, “Kill him on a cross!”

<sup>15</sup>Pilate wanted to please the people, so he set Barabbas free for them. And he told the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then he handed him over to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

<sup>16</sup>Pilate’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s palace (called the Praetorium). They called the whole company of soldiers together. <sup>17</sup>They put a purple robe<sup>§</sup> on Jesus, made a crown from thorny branches and put it on his head. <sup>18</sup>Then they began greeting him, “We salute you, king of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>They kept on beating his head with a stick and spitting on him. Then they knelt down before him and pretended to honour him as a king. <sup>20</sup>After they finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him out of the palace to be killed on a cross.

### Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

(*Matt. 27:32-44; Luke*  
*23:26-43; John 19:17-19*)

<sup>21</sup>There was a man from Cyrene named Simon walking into the city from the fields. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. <sup>22</sup>They led Jesus to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull”.) <sup>23</sup>There they gave him some wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused to drink it. <sup>24</sup>The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then they divided his clothes among them.

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§15:17 **purple 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.

selves, throwing dice to see who would get what.

<sup>25</sup> It was nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to the cross. <sup>26</sup> There was a sign with the charge against him written on it. It said, "the king of the jews". <sup>27</sup> They also nailed two criminals to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left. <sup>28</sup> \*\*

<sup>29</sup> People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. They shook their heads and said, "You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. <sup>30</sup> So save yourself! Come down from that cross!"

<sup>31</sup> The leading priests and the teachers of the law were there, and they also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved others, but he can't save himself! <sup>32</sup> If he really is the Messiah, the king of Israel, he should come down from the cross now. When we see this, we will believe in him." The criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also said bad things to him.

### Jesus Dies

(Matt. 27:45-56; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-30)

<sup>33</sup> At noon the whole country became dark. The darkness continued until three o'clock. <sup>34</sup> And at three o'clock Jesus cried out loudly, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani.*" This means "My God, my God, why have you left me alone?"<sup>††</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Some of the people standing there heard this. They said, "Listen! He is calling Elijah."<sup>‡‡</sup>

<sup>36</sup> One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine. Then he used a stick to hold the sponge up for Jesus to drink from it. The man said, "We should wait now and see if Elijah will come to take him down from the cross."

<sup>37</sup> Then Jesus cried out loudly and died.

<sup>38</sup> When 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. <sup>39</sup> The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died. The officer said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup> Some women were standing away from the cross, watching. Among these women were Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses. <sup>41</sup> These were the women who had followed Jesus in Galilee and cared for him. Many other women who had come with Jesus to Jerusalem were also there.

### Jesus Is Buried

(Matt. 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

<sup>42</sup> This day was called Preparation Day. (That means the day before the Sabbath day.) It was becoming dark. <sup>43</sup> A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to go to Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. Joseph was an important member of the high council. He was one of the people who wanted God's kingdom to come.

<sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. So he called for

\*\* 15:28 Some Greek copies add verse 28: "And this showed the full meaning of the Scripture that says, 'They put him with criminals.'"

†† 15:34 Quote from Ps 22:1.

‡‡ 15:35 *He is calling Elijah* The word for "My God" (*Eli* in Hebrew or *Eloi* in Aramaic) sounded to the people like the name of Elijah, a famous man who spoke for God about 850 BC.

the army officer in charge and asked him if Jesus was already dead. <sup>45</sup>When Pilate heard it from the officer, he told Joseph he could have the body.

<sup>46</sup>Joseph bought some linen cloth. He took the body from the cross, wrapped it in the linen and put the body in a tomb that had been dug out of a wall of rock. Then he closed the tomb by rolling a large stone to cover the entrance. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw the place where Jesus was put.

### Jesus Has Risen From Death

*(Matt. 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)*

**16** The next day after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James bought some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on that day, the first day of the week, the women were going to the tomb. It was just after sunrise. <sup>3</sup>The women said to each other, "There is a large stone covering the entrance of the tomb. Who will move the stone for us?"

<sup>4</sup>Then they looked up and saw that the huge stone had been moved away from the entrance. <sup>5</sup>They went into the tomb and saw a young man there. He was sitting on the right side, wearing a white robe. This startled the women.

<sup>6</sup>But the man said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, the one who was killed on a cross. He is risen from death! He is not here. Look, here is the place where they put him when he was dead. <sup>7</sup>Now go and tell his followers. And be sure to tell Peter. Tell them, 'Jesus is going into Galilee and

will be there before you. You will see him there, just as he told you.'"

<sup>8</sup>The women were very afraid and confused. They left the tomb and ran away. They did not tell anyone about what had happened, because they were afraid.<sup>48</sup>

### Some Followers See Jesus

*(Matt. 28:9-10; John 20:11-18; Luke 24:13-35)*

<sup>9</sup>Jesus rose from death early on the first day of the week. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, a woman he had helped before by forcing seven demons out of her. <sup>10</sup>After Mary saw Jesus, she went and told his followers. They were very sad and were crying. <sup>11</sup>But Mary told them that Jesus was alive. She said that she had seen Jesus, but they did not believe her.

<sup>12</sup>Later, Jesus appeared to two followers while they were walking in the country. But Jesus did not look the same as before he was killed. <sup>13</sup>These followers went back to the other followers and told them what happened. Again, the followers did not believe them.

### Jesus Talks to His Followers

*(Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:6-8)*

<sup>14</sup>Later, Jesus appeared to the eleven followers while they were eating. He criticized them because they had so little faith. They were stubborn and refused to believe the people who said Jesus had risen from death.

<sup>15</sup>He said to them, "Go everywhere in the world and tell the Good News to everyone. <sup>16</sup>Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But those who do

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<sup>48</sup>**16:8** The book ends here in the two oldest Greek copies found. A few later copies have this shorter ending: "But they soon gave all the instructions to Peter and those with him. After that, Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the holy message that will never change—that people can be saved forever."

not believe will be judged guilty. <sup>17</sup> And the people who believe will be able to do these things as proof: they will use my name to force demons out of people. They will speak in languages they have never learned. <sup>18</sup> If they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be hurt. They will lay their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

### **Jesus Goes Back to Heaven**

*(Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11)*

<sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus said these things to his followers, he was carried up

into heaven. There, Jesus sat at the right side of God. <sup>20</sup> The followers went everywhere in the world telling people the Good News, and the Lord helped them. By giving them power to do miracles the Lord proved that their message was true.