

License Agreement for Bible Texts

July 27, 2001

Copyright © 2001 by World Bible Translation Center
All rights reserved.

These Scriptures:

- Are copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center.
- Are not public domain.
- May not be altered or modified in any form.
- May not be sold or offered for sale in any form.
- May not be used for commercial purposes (including, but not limited to, use in advertising or Web banners used for the purpose of selling online ad space).
- May be distributed without modification in electronic form for non-commercial use. However, they may not be hosted on any kind of server (including a Web or ftp server) without written permission. A copy of this license (without modification) must also be included.
- May be reprinted for non-commercial use, but only without modification or any additional text or commentary.
- May be quoted for any purpose, up to 1,000 verses, without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. A copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page using this pattern: "Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION © 2001 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission." If the text quoted is from one of WBTC's non-English versions, the printed title of the actual text quoted will be substituted for "HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION." The copyright notice must appear in English or be translated into another language. When quotations from WBTC's text are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials of the version (such as "ERV" for the Easy-to-Read Version in English) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any use of these Scriptures other than those listed above is prohibited. For additional rights and permission for usage, such as the use of WBTC's text on a Web site, or for clarification of any of the above, please [contact World Bible Translation Center](#) in writing or [by e-mail](#).

World Bible Translation Center
P.O. Box 820648
Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA
Telephone: 1-817-595-1664
Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE
E-Mail: info@wbtc.com
World Bible Translation Center's Web site: <http://www.wbtc.com>

This license is subject to change without notice. The current license can be found at:
<http://www.wbtc.com/articles/downloads/biblelicense.html>

To order a copy of this text online, go to:
http://www.wbtctransactions.com/articles/order/order_main.html

If the text in this document does not display correctly, use Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher.
Download Adobe Acrobat Reader from:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.htm>

Matthew

The Family History of Jesus

(Lk. 3:23b-38)

1 This is the family history of Jesus Christ. He came from the family of David* and Abraham.*

- 2 Abraham* was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. (Their mother was Tamar.) Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram.
- 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz. (Boaz' mother was Rahab.) Boaz was the father of Obed. (Obed's mother was Ruth.) Obed was the father of Jesse.
- 6 Jesse was the father of King David. David* was the father of Solomon. (Solomon's mother had been Uriah's wife.)
- 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa.
- 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram. Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.
- 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

- 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah.
- 11 Josiah was the grandfather of Jehoiachin* and his brothers. (This was during the time that the [Jewish] people were taken to Babylon [to be slaves].)
- 12 After they were taken to Babylon: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the grandfather of Zerubbabel.
- 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor.
- 14 Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Achim. Achim was the father of Eliud.
- 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob.
- 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus. Jesus is called the Christ.*

17 So there were fourteen generations from Abraham* to David.* And there were fourteen generations from David until the time when the people were taken to Babylon. And there were fourteen generations from the time when the people were taken to Babylon until Christ* was born.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

(Lk. 2:1-7)

18 The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus happened.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.
Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

Jehoiachin Literally, "Jechoniah," another name for Jehoiachin.
Christ The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, Mary learned that she was pregnant with a child. Mary was pregnant by [the power of] the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁹Mary’s husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to bring shame to Mary before the people. So he planned to divorce her secretly.

²⁰But after Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David,* don’t be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The baby that is in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

²¹She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.* Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to make clear the full meaning of the things the Lord said through the prophet*: ²³“The virgin* will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel.”* (Immanuel means, “God with us.”)

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did the thing that the Lord’s angel told him to do. Joseph married Mary. ²⁵But Joseph had no sexual union with Mary until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

Wise Men Come to Visit Jesus

2 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea. He was born during the time when Herod* was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. ²The wise men asked people, “Where is the new baby that is the king of the Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born. We saw the star rise in the sky in the east. We came to worship him.”

³King Herod* heard about this new king of the Jews. Herod was troubled about this. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too.

⁴Herod called a meeting of all the leading

Jewish priests and teachers of the law. Herod asked them where the Christ* would be born.

⁵They answered, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet* wrote about this [in the Scriptures*]:

⁶ ‘Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are important among
the rulers of Judah.

Yes, a ruler will come from you,
and that ruler will lead Israel,
my people.’”

Micah 5:2

⁷Then Herod* had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. Herod learned from the wise men the exact time they first saw the star. ⁸Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. Herod said to the wise men, “Go and look carefully to find the new baby. When you find the baby, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too.”

⁹The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. The wise men followed the star. The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the baby was. ¹⁰The wise men were happy to see the star. They were very excited. ¹¹The wise men came to the house where the baby was. They saw the baby with his mother Mary. The wise men bowed down and worshiped the baby. The wise men opened the gifts they brought for the baby. They gave the baby treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* ¹²But God warned the wise men in a dream. God warned them not to go back to Herod.* So the wise men went home to their own country a different way.

Jesus’ Parents Take Him to Egypt

¹³After the wise men left, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Get up! Take the baby and his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod* will start looking for the baby. Herod wants to kill him. So stay in Egypt until I tell you [it is safe].”

¹⁴So Joseph got up and left for Egypt with the baby and the baby’s mother. They left

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

son of David Person from the family of David, second king of Israel, about 1000 years before Christ.

Jesus The name Jesus means “salvation.”

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

virgin A girl that is not married and has never had sexual relations.

“The virgin ... Immanuel” Quote from Isa. 7:14.

Herod Herod I (the Great), ruler of Judea, 40 B.C. to 4 B.C.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

frankincense and myrrh Expensive perfumes.

during the night. ¹⁵Joseph stayed in Egypt until Herod* died. This happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet.* The Lord said, “I called my son to come out of Egypt.”*

Herod Kills the Baby Boys in Bethlehem

¹⁶Herod* saw that the wise men had fooled him. Herod was very, very angry. So Herod gave an order to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the area around Bethlehem. Herod had learned from the wise men the time [the baby was born]. It was now two years from that time. So Herod said to kill all the boys that were two years old and younger. ¹⁷So the thing God said through the prophet* Jeremiah happened:

¹⁸ “A sound was heard in Ramah.
It was bitter crying
and much sadness.
Rachel cries for her children;
and she cannot be comforted,
because her children are dead.”

Jeremiah 31:15

Joseph and Mary Return from Egypt

¹⁹After Herod* died, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. This happened while Joseph was in Egypt. ²⁰The angel said, “Get up! Take the baby and his mother and go to Israel. The people that were trying to kill the baby are now dead.”

²¹So Joseph took the baby and the baby’s mother and went to Israel. ²²But Joseph heard that Archelaus was now king in Judea. Archelaus became king when his father Herod died. So Joseph was afraid to go there. Joseph was warned in a dream. So Joseph left there and went to the area of Galilee. ²³Joseph went to a town called Nazareth and lived there. And so the thing happened that God said through the prophets.* God said that [the Christ] would be called a Nazarene.*

Herod Herod I (the Great), ruler of Judea, 40 B.C. to 4 B.C.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

“I called ... Egypt” *Quote from Hos. 11:1.*

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Nazarene A person from the city of Nazareth, a name probably meaning “branch.” See Isa. 11:1.

The Work of John the Baptizer

(Mk. 1:1–8; Lk. 3:1–9, 15–17; Jn. 1:19–28)

3 At that time John the Baptizer came and began telling people a message [from God]. This was in the desert area of Judea. ²John said, “Change your hearts and lives, because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon.” ³John the Baptizer is the one that Isaiah the prophet* was talking about. Isaiah said:

“There is a person shouting in the desert:
‘Prepare the way for the Lord.
Make his paths straight.’”

Isaiah 40:3

⁴John’s clothes were made from camel’s hair. John had a leather belt around his waist. For food, John ate locusts* and wild honey. ⁵People went to hear John. The people came from Jerusalem and all Judea and all the area around the Jordan River. ⁶People told the sins they had done, and John baptized* them in the Jordan River.

⁷Many Pharisees* and Sadducees* came to the place where John was baptizing people. When John saw them he said to them: “You are all snakes! Who warned you to run away from God’s anger that is coming? ⁸You must do the things that show that you have really changed your hearts and lives. ⁹And don’t think that you can boast and say to yourselves, ‘Abraham* is our father.’ I tell you that God could make children for Abraham from these rocks here. ¹⁰The ax is now ready to cut down the trees.* Every tree that does not make good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize* you with water to show that you changed your hearts and lives. But there is a person coming later that is greater than I am. I am not good enough to take off his shoes for

locusts Insects like grasshoppers. The law of Moses said that locusts could be eaten. See Lev. 11:21–22.

baptize(d) A Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Sadducees A leading Jewish religious group. They accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed that people don’t live again after death.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

trees The people that don’t obey God. They are like “trees” that will be cut down.

him. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit* and with fire. ¹²He will come ready to clean the grain.* He will separate the good grain from the straw. He will put the good part of the grain into his barn. And he will burn the part that is not good. He will burn it with a fire that cannot be stopped.”

Jesus Is Baptized by John

(Mk. 1:9–11; Lk. 3:21–22)

¹³At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. Jesus came to John and wanted John to baptize* him. ¹⁴But John tried to say that he was not good enough to baptize Jesus. John said, “Why do you come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!”

¹⁵Jesus answered, “Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right.” So John agreed to baptize* Jesus.

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

The Temptation of Jesus

(Mk. 1:12–13; Lk. 4:1–13)

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

⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written \lrcorner in the Scriptures* \lrcorner ,

‘It is not just bread that keeps people alive.
People’s lives depend on what
God says.’”

Deuteronomy 8:3

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

clean the grain John means that Jesus will separate the good people from the bad people.

baptize(d) A Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

⁵Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city (*Jerusalem*). The devil put Jesus on a very high place on the temple.* ⁶The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off. Why? Because it is written \lrcorner in the Scriptures* \lrcorner ,

‘God will command his angels for you,
and their hands will catch you,
so that you will not hit your foot
on a rock.’” *Psalm 91:11–12*

⁷Jesus answered him, “It also says \lrcorner in the Scriptures* \lrcorner ,

‘You must not test (*doubt*) the Lord
your God.’” *Deuteronomy 6:16*

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

¹⁰Jesus said to the devil, “Go away from me, Satan! It is written \lrcorner in the Scriptures* \lrcorner ,

‘You must worship the Lord your God.
Serve only him!’” *Deuteronomy 6:13*

¹¹So the devil left Jesus. And then some angels came to Jesus and helped him.

Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee

(Mk. 1:14–15; Lk. 4:14–15)

¹²Jesus heard that John was put in prison. So Jesus went back to Galilee. ¹³Jesus did not stay in Nazareth. He went and lived in Capernaum, a town near the lake (*Lake Galilee*). Capernaum is in the area near Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴Jesus did this to make happen what the prophet* Isaiah said:

¹⁵ “ \lrcorner Look at \lrcorner the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali,
the lands by the road that goes to the sea,
the area past the Jordan River—
Galilee, the land where non-Jewish
people live.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

¹⁶ Those people live in darkness (*sin*), but they have seen a great light; the light has come for those people that live in the land that is dark like a grave.” *Isaiah 9:1–2*

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to tell people what God wanted. This is what he said: “Change your hearts and lives, because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon.”

Jesus Chooses Some Followers

(*Mk. 1:16–20; Lk. 5:1–11*)

¹⁸Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon’s brother Andrew. The two brothers were fishermen and they were fishing in the lake with a net. ¹⁹Jesus said, “Come follow me. I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will work to gather people, not fish.” ²⁰Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.

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

Jesus Teaches and Heals People

(*Lk. 6:17–19*)

²³Jesus went everywhere in the country of Galilee. Jesus taught in the synagogues* and told the Good News about the kingdom of heaven. And Jesus healed all the people’s diseases and sicknesses. ²⁴The news about Jesus spread all over Syria. And people brought all the sick people to Jesus. These sick people were suffering from different kinds of diseases and pain. Some people were suffering with very bad pain, some people had demons* inside them, some people were epileptics,* and some people were paralyzed (*crippled*). Jesus healed all these people. ²⁵Many, many people

followed Jesus. These people were from Galilee, the Ten Towns,* Jerusalem, Judea, and the area across the Jordan River.

Jesus Teaches the People

(*Lk. 6:20–23*)

⁵Jesus saw the many people that were there. So Jesus went up on a hill and sat down. His followers came to him. ²Jesus taught the people. He said:

- ³ “What great blessings there are for the people that know they have spiritual needs!
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
- ⁴ What great blessings there are for the people that are sad now!
God will comfort them.
- ⁵ What great blessings there are for the people that are humble!
They will have the land [God promised].*
- ⁶ What great blessings there are for the people that want to do right more than anything else*!
God will fully satisfy them.
- ⁷ What great blessings there are for the people that give mercy to other people!
Mercy will be given to them.
- ⁸ What great blessings there are for the people that are pure in their thinking!
They will be with God.
- ⁹ What great blessings there are for the people that work to bring peace!
God will call them his sons and daughters.
- ¹⁰ What great blessings there are for the people that are treated badly for doing good!
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

¹¹“People will say bad things against you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things against you because you follow me. But when people do those things to you, know that God will bless you. ¹²Be happy and glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. People did those same bad things to the prophets* that lived before you.

Ten Towns Greek, “Decapolis,” an area on the east side of Lake Galilee. It once had ten main towns.

land God promised See Ps. 37:11.

want ... more than anything else Literally, “hunger and thirst ...”

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

epileptics People with a sickness that causes them sometimes to lose control of their bodies.

You Are like Salt and You Are like Light

(Mk. 9:50; Lk. 14:34–35)

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its taste, then it cannot be made salty again. Salt is good for nothing, if it loses its salty taste. It must be thrown out and people walk on it.

¹⁴“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. No. People put the light on a lamp table. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that people will see the good things you do. Live so that people will praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus and the Old Testament Writings

¹⁷“Don’t think that I have come to destroy the law [of Moses] or the [teaching of the] prophets.* I have not come to destroy their teachings. I came to give full meaning to their teachings. ¹⁸I tell you the truth. Nothing will disappear from the law until heaven and earth are gone. The law will not lose even the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter until all has happened. ¹⁹A person should obey every command, even a command that does not seem important. If a person refuses to obey any command and teaches other people not to obey that command, then that person will be the least important in the kingdom of heaven. But the person that obeys the law and teaches other people to obey the law will be great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰I tell you that you must do better than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees.* If you are not better people, then you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus Teaches About Anger

²¹“You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, ‘Don’t kill any person.* And any person that kills will be judged.’ ²²But I tell you, don’t be angry with another person. Every person is your brother. If you are angry

with other people, you will be judged. And if you say bad things to another person, you will be judged by the Jewish council. And if you call another person a fool, you will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³“So when you offer your gift to God, think about other people. If you are offering your gift before the altar,* and you remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴then leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person. Then come and offer your gift.

²⁵“If your enemy is taking you to court, then become friends with him quickly. You should do that before you go to court. If you don’t become his friend, then he might give you to the judge. And the judge might give you to a guard to put you in jail. ²⁶And I tell you that you will not leave that jail until you have paid everything you owe.

Jesus Teaches About Sexual Sin

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘Don’t do the sin of adultery.’* ²⁸But I tell you that if a person looks at a woman and wants to sin sexually with her, then that person has already done that sin with the woman in his mind. ²⁹If your right eye makes you sin, then take it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell. ³⁰If your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

(Mt. 19:9; Mk. 10:11–12; Lk. 16:18)

³¹“It was also said, ‘Any person that divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce.’* ³²But I tell you that any person that divorces his wife is causing his wife to be guilty of the sin of adultery.* The only reason for a person to divorce his wife is if his wife had sexual relations with another man. And

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

‘Don’t ... person’ Quote from Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17.

altar Place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God.

‘Don’t ... adultery’ Quote from Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18.

‘Any person ... divorce’ Quote from Deut. 24:1.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

any person that marries that divorced woman is guilty of the sin of adultery.

Jesus Teaches About Making Promises

³³“You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, ‘When you make a vow* (*promise*), don’t break that promise. Keep the vows (*promises*) that you make to the Lord.’”
³⁴But I tell you, never make a vow. Don’t make a vow using the name of heaven, because heaven is God’s throne. ³⁵Don’t make a vow using the name of the earth, because the earth belongs to God. Don’t make a vow using the name of Jerusalem, because that is the city of the great King (*God*). ³⁶And don’t even say that your own head is proof that you will keep your vow. You cannot make one hair on your head become white or black. ³⁷Say only ‘yes’ if you mean yes, and say only ‘no’ if you mean no. If you must say more than ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ it is from the Evil One (*the devil*).

Jesus Teaches About Fighting Back

(Lk. 6:29–30)

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’”^{*} ³⁹But I tell you, don’t stand against an evil person. If someone hits you on the right cheek, then turn and let him hit the other cheek too. ⁴⁰If a person wants to sue you in court and take your shirt, then let him have your coat too. ⁴¹If a soldier forces you to walk with him one mile, then go with him two miles. ⁴²If a person asks you for something, then give it to him. Don’t refuse to give to a person that wants to borrow from you.

Love All People

(Lk. 6:27–28, 32–36)

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor* and hate your enemy.’”⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those people that do bad things to you. ⁴⁵If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. Your Father lets the sun rise for the good people and the bad people. Your Father

sends rain to people that do good and to people that do wrong. ⁴⁶If you love only the people that love you, then you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors* do that. ⁴⁷And if you are nice only to your friends, then you are no better than other people. Even the people without God are nice to their friends. ⁴⁸So you must be perfect, the same as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Jesus Teaches About Giving

6“Be careful! When you do good things, don’t do those things in front of people. Don’t do those things for people to see you. If you do that, then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“When you give to poor people, don’t announce that you are giving. Don’t do like the hypocrites* do. They blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They do that in the synagogues* and on the streets. They want other people to give honor to them. I tell you the truth. Those hypocrites already have their full reward. ³So when you give to poor people, give very secretly. Don’t let any person know what you are doing. ⁴Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father can see the things that are done in secret. And he will reward you.

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

(Lk. 11:2–4)

⁵“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites.* The hypocrites love to stand in the synagogues* and on the street corners and pray loudly. They want people to see them pray. I tell you the truth. They already have their full reward. ⁶When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father. He is there in that secret place. Your Father can see the things that are done in secret. And he will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, don’t be like those people that don’t know God. They continue saying things that mean nothing. Don’t pray

vow A very strong promise that a person makes, often using the name of something important.

‘When ... Lord’ See Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21.

‘An eye ... tooth’ Quote from Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20.

‘Love your neighbor’ Quote from Lev. 19:18.

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

like that. They think that God will hear them because of the many things they say. ⁸Don't be like those people. Your Father knows the things you need before you ask him. ⁹So when you pray, you should pray like this:

- ‘Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always
be kept holy.
- ¹⁰ We pray that your kingdom will come,
and that the things you want
will be done here on earth,
the same as in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us the food we need for each day.
- ¹² Forgive the sins we have done,
the same as we have forgiven the people
that did wrong to us.
- ¹³ Don't let us be tempted (*tested*);
but save us from the Evil One
(*the devil*).’*

¹⁴Yes, if you forgive other people for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong. ¹⁵But if you don't forgive the wrong things people do to you, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrong things you do.

Jesus Teaches About Fasting

¹⁶“When you fast,* don't make yourselves look sad. The hypocrites* do that. Don't be like the hypocrites. They make their faces look strange to show people that they are fasting. I tell you the truth, those hypocrites already have their full reward. ¹⁷So when you fast, make yourself look nice. Wash your face. ¹⁸Then people will not know that you are fasting. But your Father that you cannot see will see you. Your Father sees the things that are done in secret. And he will reward you.

Serving God Is More Important than Money

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

¹⁹“Don't save treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your

house and steal the things you have. ²⁰So save your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. ²¹Your heart will be where your treasure is.

²²“How you look at other people makes you the kind of person you are. ²³If you look at people and want to help them, you will be full of light (*goodness*). But if you look at people in a selfish way, you will be full of darkness (*evil*). And if the only light you have is really darkness, then you have the worst kind of darkness.*

²⁴“No person can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one master and love the other master. Or he will follow one master and refuse to follow the other master. So you cannot serve God and Money* at the same time.

Put God's Kingdom First

(Lk. 12:22-34)

²⁵“So I tell you, don't worry about the food you need to live. And don't worry about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes. ²⁶Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or save food in barns. But your heavenly Father feeds those birds. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. ²⁷You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. ³⁰God clothes the grass in the field like that. That grass is living today, but tomorrow it is thrown into the fire to be burned. So you know that God will clothe you much more. Don't have so little faith!

³¹Don't worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²All the people that don't know God

Verse 13 Some Greek copies add: “For the kingdom and the power and the glory belong to you forever and ever. Amen.”

fast To live without food for a time of prayer or mourning.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

Verses 22, 23 Literally, “²²The lamp of the body is the eye. So, if your eye is pure (*without envy*), your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. So, if the light in you is darkness, how much is the darkness.”

Money Or, *mamona*, an Aramaic word meaning “wealth.”

try to get these things. Don't worry, because your Father in heaven knows that you need these things. ³³The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing the good things God wants you to do. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. ³⁴So don't worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries.

Jesus Teaches About Judging People

(Lk. 6:37–38, 41–42)

7“Don't judge other people, and God will not judge you. ²If you judge other people, you will be judged in the same way you judge them. And the way you give to other people will be the way God gives to you.

³“Why do you notice the small piece of dust that is in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? ⁴Why do you say to your brother, ‘Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye’? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. ⁵You are a hypocrite.* First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your brother's eye.

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

Continue to Ask God for All You Need

(Lk. 11:9–13)

⁷“Continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you. ⁸Yes, if a person continues asking, that person will receive. If a person continues looking, that person will find. And if a person continues knocking, the door will open for that person.

⁹“Do any of you have a son? If your son asked for bread, would you give him a rock? No! ¹⁰Or if your son asked for a fish, would you give him a snake? No! ¹¹You are not like God—you are evil. But you know how to give good things to your children. So surely your heavenly Father will give good things to those people that ask him.

hypocrite A bad person that acts like he is good.

A Very Important Rule

¹²“Do to other people the same things you want them to do to you. This is the meaning of the law [of Moses] and the [teaching of the] prophets.*

The Way to Heaven and the Way to Hell

(Lk. 13:24)

¹³“Enter through the narrow gate [that opens the way to heaven]. The road that leads to hell is a very easy road. And the gate to hell is very wide. Many people enter that gate. ¹⁴But the gate that opens the way to [true] life is very small. And the road to [true] life is very difficult (*hard*). Only a few people find that road.

Watch the Things People Do

(Lk. 6:43–44; 13:25–27)

¹⁵“Be careful of false prophets.* They come to you and look [gentle] like sheep. But they are really dangerous [like] wolves. ¹⁶You will know these people because of the things they do. Good things don't come from bad people, the same as grapes don't come from thorn bushes. And figs don't come from thorny weeds. ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree makes good fruit. And bad trees make bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot make bad fruit. And a bad tree cannot make good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not make good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰You will know these false people by the fruit they make (*things they do*).

²¹“Not every person that says that I am his Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven. The only people that will enter the kingdom of heaven are those people that do the things that my Father in heaven wants. ²²On the last day many people will say to me, ‘You are our Lord! We spoke for you. And for you we forced out demons* and did many miracles.*’ ²³Then I will tell those people clearly, ‘Go away from me, you people that do wrong. I never knew you.’

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

false prophets People that say they speak for God but do not really speak God's truth.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

miracle(s) Amazing works done by God's power.

A Wise Person and a Foolish Person

(Lk. 6:47–49)

²⁴“Every person that hears these things I say and obeys is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. ²⁵It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. ²⁶But the person that hears the things I teach and does not obey those things is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. ²⁷It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a loud noise.”

²⁸When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching. ²⁹Jesus did not teach like their teachers of the law. Jesus taught like a person that had authority (*power*).

Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(Mk. 1:40–45; Lk. 5:12–16)

8 Jesus came down from the hill. Many, many people followed him. ²Then a man sick with leprosy* came to Jesus. The man bowed down before Jesus and said, “Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want.”

³Jesus touched the man. Jesus said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” And immediately the man was healed from his leprosy.* ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “Don’t tell any person about what happened. But go and show yourself to the priest.* And offer the gift that Moses commanded [for people that are made well]. This will show people that you are healed.”

Jesus Heals an Officer’s Servant

(Lk. 7:1–10; Jn. 4:43–54)

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

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

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

show yourself to the priest The law of Moses said a priest must say when a Jew with leprosy was well.

officer A centurion, a Roman army officer who had authority over 100 soldiers.

⁸The officer answered, “Lord, I am not good enough for you to come into my house. All you need to do is command that my servant be healed, and he will be healed. ⁹I myself am a man under the authority (*power*) of other men. And I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes. I tell another soldier, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and my servant obeys me. [I know that you also have power like this.]”

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Jesus said to those people that were with him, “I tell you the truth. This man has more faith than any person I have found, even in Israel.* ¹¹Many people will come from the east and from the west. Those people will sit and eat with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob* in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²And those people (*the Jews*) that should have the kingdom will be thrown out. They will be thrown outside into the darkness. In that place people will cry and grind their teeth [with pain].”

¹³Then Jesus said to the officer,* “Go home. Your servant will be healed the way you believed he would.” And at that same time his servant was healed.

Jesus Heals Many People

(Mk. 1:29–34; Lk. 4:38–41)

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

¹⁶That evening people brought to Jesus many people that had demons* inside them. Jesus spoke and the demons left the people. Jesus healed all the people that were sick. ¹⁷Jesus did these things to make happen what Isaiah the prophet* said:

“He took away our diseases
and carried away our sicknesses.”

Isaiah 53:4

Israel The Jewish nation (people).

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Three of the most important Jewish leaders during the time of the Old Testament.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

Following Jesus

(Lk. 9:57–62)

¹⁸Jesus saw that all the people were around him. So Jesus told his followers to go to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹Then a teacher of the law came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, I will follow you any place you go.”

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

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

²²But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the people that are dead bury their own dead.”

The Followers See Jesus’ Power

(Mk. 4:35–41; Lk. 8:22–25)

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

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

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

Jesus Sends Demons Out from Two Men

(Mk. 5:1–20; Lk. 8:26–39)

²⁸Jesus arrived at the other side of the lake in the country of the Gadarene* people. There, two men came to Jesus. They had demons* inside them. These men lived in the burial caves. They were very dangerous. So people could not use the road by those caves. ²⁹The two men came to Jesus and shouted, “What do you want with us, Son of God? Did you come here to punish us before the right time?”

³⁰Near that place there was a large herd of pigs feeding. ³¹The demons* begged Jesus, “If

you make us leave these men, please send us into that herd of pigs.”

³²Jesus said to them, “Go!” So the demons* left those men and went into the pigs. Then the whole herd of pigs ran down the hill and into the lake. All the pigs drowned in the water.

³³The men that had the work of caring for the pigs ran away. They went into town and told the people what happened. They told about all that happened with the pigs and with the men that had demons. ³⁴Then the whole town went out to see Jesus. When the people saw Jesus, they begged him to leave their area.

Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

(Mk. 2:1–12; Lk. 5:17–26)

9 Jesus got into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ²Some people brought to Jesus a man that was paralyzed (*crippled*). The man was lying on a mat. Jesus saw that these people had much faith. So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Young man, you’ll be glad to hear this! Your sins are forgiven.”

³Some of the teachers of the law heard this. They said to themselves, “This man (*Jesus*) talks like he is God—that is blasphemy.*”

⁴Jesus knew they were thinking this. So Jesus said, “Why are you thinking such evil thoughts? ^{5–6}The Son of Man* has power on earth to forgive sins. But how can I prove this to you? Maybe you are thinking it was easy for me to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ No one could see if it really happened. But what if I say to the man, ‘Stand up and walk’? Then you will be able to see that I really have this power.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Stand up. Take your mat and go home.” ⁷And the man stood up and went home. ⁸The people saw this and they were amazed. The people praised God for giving power like this to people.

Matthew (Levi) Follows Jesus

(Mk. 2:13–17; Lk. 5:27–32)

⁹When Jesus was leaving, he saw a man named Matthew. Matthew was sitting at his place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Then Matthew stood up and followed Jesus.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Gadarene From Gadara, an area southeast of Lake Galilee.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

blasphemy Saying things against God.

¹⁰Jesus ate dinner at Matthew’s house. Many tax collectors* and other bad people came and ate with Jesus and his followers.

¹¹The Pharisees* saw that Jesus was eating with these people. The Pharisees asked Jesus’ followers, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and other bad people?”

¹²Jesus heard the Pharisees* say this. So Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. It is the sick people that need a doctor. ¹³I will tell you something. Go and learn what it means: ‘I don’t want animal sacrifices; I want you to show kindness to people.’* I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners.”

Jesus Is Not like Other Religious Leaders

(Mk. 2:18–22; Lk. 5:33–39)

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

¹⁵Jesus answered, “When there is a wedding, the friends of the bridegroom* are not sad while he is with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will leave them. The friends are sad when the bridegroom leaves. Then they will fast.*

¹⁶“When a person sews a patch over a hole on an old coat, he never uses a piece of cloth that is not yet shrunk. If he does, the patch will shrink and pull away from the coat. Then the hole will be worse. ¹⁷Also, people never pour new wine into old wine bags.* Why? Because the old bags will break. The wine will spill, and the wine bags will be ruined. But people always pour new wine into new wine bags. Then the wine and the wine bags will continue to be good.”

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

‘I don’t ... people’ Quote from Hos. 6:6.

John John the Baptizer; he told people about Christ’s coming. Read Mt. 3; Lk. 3.

fast To live without food for a time of prayer or mourning.

bridegroom A man that is getting married.

wine bags Bags made from the skin of an animal and used for holding wine.

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

(Mk. 5:21–43; Lk. 8:40–56)

¹⁸While Jesus was saying these things, a leader of the synagogue* came to him. The leader bowed down before Jesus and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and touch her with your hand, and she will live again.”

¹⁹So Jesus stood up and went with the leader. Jesus’ followers went too.

²⁰There was a woman that had been bleeding for twelve years. The woman came behind Jesus and touched the bottom of his coat. ²¹The woman was thinking, “If I can touch his coat, then I will be healed.”

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

²³Jesus continued going with the Jewish leader and went into the leader’s house. Jesus saw people there that make music for funerals. And he saw many people there upset because the girl died. ²⁴Jesus said, “Go away. The girl is not dead. She is only asleep.” But the people laughed at Jesus. ²⁵After the people were put out of the house, Jesus went into the girl’s room. Jesus held the girl’s hand, and the girl stood up. ²⁶The news about this spread all around the area.

Jesus Heals More People

²⁷When Jesus was leaving there, two blind men followed him. The blind men said loudly, “Show kindness to us, Son of David.*”

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

²⁹Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, “You believe that I can make you see again, so this will happen.” ³⁰Then the men were able to see again. Jesus warned them very strongly. Jesus said, “Don’t tell any person about this.”

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Son of David Name for the Christ (*Messiah*). He was from the family of David, king of Israel about 1000 years B.C.

³¹But the blind men left and spread the news about Jesus all around that area.

³²When the two men were leaving, some people brought another man to Jesus. This man could not talk because he had a demon* inside him. ³³Jesus forced the demon to leave the man. Then the man that couldn't talk was able to speak. The people were amazed and said, "We have never seen anything like this in Israel."

³⁴But the Pharisees* said, "The leader of demons* (*the devil*) is the one that gives him (*Jesus*) power to force demons out."

Jesus Feels Sorry for the People

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages. Jesus taught in their synagogues* and told people the Good News about the kingdom. And Jesus healed all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. ³⁶Jesus saw the many people and felt sorry for them. Jesus felt sorry for the people because the people were worried and helpless. The people were like sheep without a shepherd to lead them. ³⁷Jesus said to his followers, "There are many, many people to harvest (*save*). But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. ³⁸God owns the harvest (*people*). Pray to him that he will send more workers to help gather his harvest."

Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission

(Mk. 3:13–19; 6:7–13; Lk. 6:12–16; 9:1–6)

10 Jesus called his twelve followers together. Jesus gave them power over evil spirits. Jesus gave them power to heal every kind of disease and sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles*: Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector;* James, son of

Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot* and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one that gave Jesus to his enemies.

⁵Jesus gave these twelve apostles* some orders. Then he sent them to tell people about the kingdom. Jesus said, "Don't go to the non-Jewish people. And don't go into any town where the Samaritans* live. ⁶But go to the people of Israel (*the Jews*). They are like sheep that are lost. ⁷When you go, tell them this: 'The kingdom of heaven is coming soon.' ⁸Heal sick people. Give dead people life again. Heal those people that have leprosy.* Force demons* to leave people. I give you these powers freely. So help other people freely. ⁹Don't carry any money with you—gold or silver or copper. ¹⁰Don't carry a bag. Take for your trip only the clothes and shoes you are wearing. Don't take a walking stick. A worker should be given the things he needs.

¹¹"When you enter a city or town, find some worthy person there and stay in his home until you leave. ¹²When you enter that home say, 'Peace be with you.' ¹³If the people in that home welcome you, then they are worthy of your peace. May they have the peace you wished them. But if the people don't welcome you, then they are not worthy of your peace. Take back the peace you wished for them. ¹⁴And if a home or town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place. Shake their dust off your feet.* ¹⁵I tell you the truth. On the judgment day it will be worse for that town than for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah.*

Jesus Warns About Troubles

(Mk. 13:9–13; Lk. 21:12–17)

¹⁶"Listen! I am sending you, and you will be like sheep among wolves. So be smart like snakes. But also be like doves and do nothing wrong. ¹⁷Be careful of people. They will arrest

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

Zealot The Zealots were a Jewish political group.

Samaritans People from Samaria. They were part Jewish, but the Jews did not accept them as pure Jews.

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

Shake their dust off your feet A warning. It would show that they were finished talking to these people.

Sodom and Gomorrah Cities that God destroyed to punish the evil people that lived there.

you and take you to be judged. They will whip you in their synagogues.* ¹⁸You will be taken to stand before governors and kings. People will do this to you because of me. You will tell about me to those kings and governors and to the non-Jewish people. ¹⁹When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say or how you should say it. At that time you will be given the things to say. ²⁰It will not really be you speaking. The Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brothers will turn against their own brothers and give them to be killed. Fathers will turn against their own children and give them to be killed. Children will fight against their own parents and will send their parents to be killed. ²²All people will hate you because you follow me. But the person that continues strong until the end will be saved. ²³When you are treated badly in one city, go to another city. I tell you the truth. You will not finish going to all the cities of Israel before the Son of Man* comes again.

²⁴“A student is not better than his teacher. A servant is not better than his master. ²⁵A student should be satisfied to become like his teacher. A servant should be satisfied to become like his master. If the head of the family is called Beelzebul (*the devil*), then the other members of the family will be called worse names!

Fear God, Not People

(Lk. 12:2–7)

²⁶“So don't be afraid of those people. Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be made known. ²⁷I tell you these things in the dark (*secretly*). But I want you to tell these things in the light. I speak these things quietly and only to you. But you should tell these things freely to all people. ²⁸Don't be afraid of people. They can only kill the body. They cannot kill the soul. The only one you should fear is the One (*God*) that can destroy the body and the soul. He can send the body and the soul to hell. ²⁹When birds are sold, two small birds cost only a penny. But not even one of

those little birds can die without your Father knowing it. ³⁰God even knows how many hairs are on your head. ³¹So don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many birds.

Telling People About Your Faith

(Lk. 12:8–9)

³²“When a person stands before other people and says he believes in me, then I will say that person belongs to me. I will say this before my Father in heaven. ³³But when a person stands before people and says he does not believe in me, then I will say that person does not belong to me. I will say this before my Father in heaven.

Following Jesus May Bring You Trouble

(Lk. 12:51–53; 14:26–27)

³⁴“Don't think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword. ^{35–36}I have come to make this happen:

‘The people in a person's own family will be his enemies.

A son will be against his father.

A daughter will be against her mother.

A daughter-in-law will be against her mother-in-law.’ *Micah 7:6*

³⁷“Any person that loves his father or mother more than he loves me is not good enough to follow me. Any person who loves his son or daughter more than he loves me is not good enough to follow me. ³⁸If a person will not accept the cross (*suffering*) that will be given to him when he follows me, then that person is not good enough for me. ³⁹Any person that loves his life [more than he loves me] will lose true life. Any person that gives up his life for me will find true life.

God Will Bless People Who Accept You

(Mk. 9:41)

⁴⁰The person that accepts you also accepts me. And the person that accepts me also accepts the One (*God*) that sent me. ⁴¹Any person that meets a prophet* and accepts him will get the same reward a prophet gets. And any person that accepts a good man because

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

that man is good will get the same reward a good man gets. ⁴²If any person helps one of these little ones because they are my followers, then that person will truly get his reward. That person will get his reward even if he only gave my follower a cup of cold water.”

Jesus and John the Baptizer

(Lk. 7:18–35)

11 Jesus finished telling these things to his twelve followers. Then Jesus left there and went to the towns in Galilee to teach the people and tell them about God.

²John the Baptizer was in prison. He heard about the things Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers to Jesus. ³John’s followers asked Jesus, “Are you the man that John said was coming, or should we wait for another man?”

⁴Jesus answered, “Go back to John and tell him about the things that you hear and see: ⁵Blind people are able to see again; crippled people are able to walk again; people that have leprosy* are healed; deaf people can hear again; dead people are raised from death; and the Good News* is told to the poor people. ⁶The person that can accept* me is blessed.”

⁷While John’s followers were leaving, Jesus began talking to the people about John. Jesus said, “What did you people go out to the desert to see? A weed* blown by the wind? No! ⁸Really, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No! Those people that wear fine clothes live in king’s palaces. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet*? Yes, and I tell you, John is more than a prophet. ¹⁰This Scripture* was written about John:

‘Listen! I (God) will send my helper*
ahead of you.
He will prepare the way for you.’

Malachi 3:1

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

can accept Literally, “is not offended by.”

weed Literally, “reed.” Jesus means that John was not weak.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

helper Literally, “messenger.”

¹¹I tell you the truth: John the Baptizer is greater than any man that has ever lived. But even the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. ¹²Since the time John the Baptizer came until now, the kingdom of heaven has been going forward strongly.* People using force have been trying to get the kingdom. ¹³All the prophets* and the law of Moses, spoke until the time John came. They told about the things that would happen. ¹⁴And if you will believe the things the law and the prophets said, then you will believe that John is Elijah.* The law and the prophets said he would come. ¹⁵You people that hear me, listen!

¹⁶“What can I say about the people that live today? What are they like? The people today are like children sitting in the market place. One group of children calls to the other group,

¹⁷ ‘We played flute music for you,
but you did not dance;
we sang a sad song,
but you were not sad.’

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

Jesus Warns People That Don’t Believe

(Lk. 10:13–15)

²⁰Then Jesus criticized the cities where he did most of his miracles.* Jesus criticized those cities because the people there did not change their lives and stop sinning. ²¹Jesus said, “It

has been ... strongly Or, “has suffered violence.”

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Elijah See Mal. 4:5–6.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

miracle(s) Amazing works done by God’s power.

will be bad for you Chorazin.* It will be bad for you Bethsaida.* I did many miracles in you. If those same miracles had happened in Tyre and Sidon,* then those people in Tyre and Sidon would have changed their lives a long time ago. Those people would have worn sackcloth* and put ashes on themselves to show that they were sorry for their sins. ²²But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be worse for you than for Tyre and Sidon. ²³And you, Capernaum,* will you be lifted up to heaven? No! You will be thrown down to the place of death. I did many miracles in you. If those same miracles had happened in Sodom,* [the people of] Sodom [would have stopped sinning and it] would still be a city today. ²⁴But I tell you it will be worse for you in the day of judgment than for Sodom.”

Jesus Offers Rest to His People

(Lk. 10:21–22)

²⁵Then Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. I praise you because you have hidden these things from the wise and smart people. But you have shown these things to people that are like little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, you did this because this is what you really wanted to do.

²⁷“My Father has given me all things. No person knows the Son—only the Father knows the Son. And no person knows the Father—only the Son knows the Father. And the only people that will know about the Father are those people the Son chooses to tell.

²⁸“Come to me all you people that are tired and have heavy burdens. I will give you rest. ²⁹Accept my work and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰Yes, the work that I ask you to accept is easy. The burden I give you to carry is not heavy.”

Chorazin, Bethsaida Towns by Lake Galilee where Jesus preached to the people.

Tyre and Sidon Towns in Lebanon where bad people lived.

sackcloth A rough cloth made from animal hair. People sometimes wore it to show sadness.

Capernaum A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

Sodom A city that God destroyed to punish the evil people that lived there.

Jesus Is Lord over the Sabbath Day

(Mk. 2:23–28; Lk. 6:1–5)

12 About that same time, Jesus was walking through the fields of grain on a Sabbath day.* Jesus’ followers were with him, and they were hungry. So the followers began to pick the grain and eat it. ²The Pharisees* saw this. They said to Jesus, “Look! Your followers are doing something that is against the [Jewish] law to do on the Sabbath day.”

³Jesus said to them, “You have read what David* did when he and the people with him were hungry. ⁴David went into God’s house. David and the people with him ate the bread that was offered to God. It was against the law for David or the people with him to eat that bread. Only the priests were allowed to eat it. ⁵And you have read in the law [of Moses] that on every Sabbath day* the priests at the temple* break the law about the Sabbath day. But the priests are not wrong for doing that. ⁶I tell you that there is something here that is greater than the temple. ⁷The Scripture* says, ‘I don’t want animal sacrifices; I want you to show kindness to people.*’ You don’t really know what those words mean. If you understood those words, then you would not judge those people that have done nothing wrong.

⁸“The Son of Man* is Lord (*ruler*) over the Sabbath day.*”

Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(Mk. 3:1–6; Lk. 6:6–11)

⁹Jesus left that place and went into their synagogue.* ¹⁰In the synagogue there was a man with a crippled hand. Some Jews there were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus of

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘I don’t ... people’ Quote from Hos. 6:6.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

doing wrong. So they asked Jesus, “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath day?”*

¹¹Jesus answered, “If any of you has a sheep, and the sheep falls into a ditch on the Sabbath day,* then you will take the sheep and help it out of the ditch. ¹²Surely a man is more important than a sheep. So the law [of Moses] allows people to do good things on the Sabbath day.”

¹³Then Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Let me see your hand.” The man put his hand out for Jesus, and the hand became well again, the same as the other hand. ¹⁴But the Pharisees* left and made plans to kill Jesus.

Jesus Is God’s Chosen Servant

¹⁵Jesus knew what the Pharisees* were doing. So Jesus left that place. Many people followed Jesus, and he healed all the sick people. ¹⁶But Jesus warned the people not to tell other people who he was. ¹⁷Jesus did these things to make happen what Isaiah the prophet* said. Isaiah said,

- ¹⁸ “Here is my servant;
I (God) have chosen him.
I love him, and I am pleased with him;
I will put my Spirit* on him,
and he will judge the nations fairly.
¹⁹ He will not argue or shout;
People will not hear his voice
in the streets.
²⁰ He will not break the reed
that is already bent;
He will not stop the light
that has almost stopped burning.
He will continue until he makes fair
judgment win the victory.
²¹ All people will hope in him.”

Isaiah 42:1–4

“Is it right ... day” It was against Jewish law to work on the Sabbath day.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Jesus’ Power Is from God

(Mk. 3:20–30; Lk. 11:14–23; 12:10)

²²Then some people brought a man to Jesus. This man was blind and could not talk, because he had a demon* inside him. Jesus healed the man, and the man could talk and see. ²³All the people were amazed. The people said, “Maybe this man (Jesus) is the Son of David* [that God promised to send to us]!”

²⁴The Pharisees* heard the people saying this. The Pharisees said, “This man uses the power of Beelzebul (*the devil*) to force demons* out of people. Beelzebul is the ruler of demons.”

²⁵Jesus knew the things that the Pharisees* were thinking. So Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom that is fighting against itself will be destroyed. And every city that is divided cannot continue. And every family that is divided cannot succeed. ²⁶So if Satan (*the devil*) forces out his own demons,* then Satan is divided. And his kingdom will not be able to continue. ²⁷You say that I use the power of Beelzebul to force out demons.* If that is true, then what power do your people use when they force out demons? So your own people will prove that you are wrong. ²⁸But I use the power of God’s Spirit to force out demons. This shows that the kingdom of God has come to you.

²⁹“If a person wants to enter a strong man’s house and steal his things, first the person must tie the strong man. Then the person can steal the things from the strong man’s house.

³⁰“If a person is not with me, then he is against me. The person that does not work with me is working against me. ³¹So I tell you, people can be forgiven of every sin they do. And people can be forgiven for every bad thing they say. But if a person speaks against (*refuses to accept*) the Holy Spirit,* then that person will not be forgiven. ³²Any person that says things against the Son of Man* can be forgiven. But any person that says things against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. That person will not be forgiven now or in the future.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

Son of David Name for the Christ (*Messiah*). He was from the family of David, king of Israel about 1000 years B.C.

if Satan ... demons Literally, “if Satan forces out Satan.”

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

The Things You Do Show What You Are

(Lk. 6:43–45)

³³“If you want good fruit, you must make the tree good. If your tree is not good then it will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it makes. ³⁴You snakes! You are evil people! How can you say anything good? The mouth speaks the things that are in the heart. ³⁵A good person has good things saved in his heart. And so he speaks the good things that come from his heart. But an evil person has evil saved in his heart. So he speaks the evil things that come from his heart. ³⁶And I tell you that people will have to explain about every careless thing they have said. This will happen on the day of judgment. ³⁷The words you have said will be used to judge you. Some of your words will make you right, but some of your words will make you guilty.”

Give Us Proof!

(Mk. 8:11–12; Lk. 11:29–32)

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

³⁹Jesus answered, “Evil and sinful people are the ones that want to see a miracle for a sign (*proof*). But no miracle will be given as a sign to those people. The only sign will be the miracle that happened to the prophet* Jonah. ⁴⁰Jonah was in the stomach of the big fish for three days and three nights. In the same way, the Son of Man* will be in the grave three days and three nights. ⁴¹On the judgment day, you people that live now will be compared with the people from Nineveh,* and they will be witnesses to show that you are wrong (*guilty*). Why? Because when Jonah preached to those people, they changed their hearts and lives. And you are listening to someone greater than Jonah, [but you refuse to change]!

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

miracle(s) Amazing works done by God’s power.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Jonah’s story is in the Old Testament book of Jonah.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Nineveh City where Jonah preached. Read Jonah 3.

⁴²On the judgment day, you people that live now will also be compared with the Queen of the South,* and she will be a witness to show that you are wrong (*guilty*). Why? Because she traveled from far, far away to listen to Solomon’s wise teaching. And I tell you that someone greater than Solomon is right here, [but you won’t listen to me]!

People Today Are Full of Evil

(Lk. 11:24–26)

⁴³“When an evil spirit [from the devil] comes out of a person, that spirit travels through dry places looking for a place to rest. But that spirit finds no place to rest. ⁴⁴So the spirit says, ‘I will go back to the home (*person*) I left.’ When the spirit comes back to that person, the spirit finds that home (*person*) still empty. That home is swept clean and made neat. ⁴⁵Then the evil spirit goes out and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself. Then all the spirits go into that person and live there. And that person has even more trouble than he had before. It is the same way with the evil people that live today.”

Jesus’ Followers Are His Family

(Mk. 3:31–35; Lk. 8:19–21)

⁴⁶While Jesus was talking to the people his mother and brothers stood outside. They wanted to talk to Jesus. ⁴⁷A person told Jesus, “Your mother and brothers are waiting for you outside. They want to talk to you.”

⁴⁸Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹Then Jesus pointed to his followers and said, “See! These people are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰My true brother and sister and mother is any person that does the things my Father in heaven wants.”

Jesus Uses a Story About Planting Seed

(Mk. 4:1–9; Lk. 8:4–8)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Many, many people gathered around Jesus. So Jesus got into a boat and sat down. All the people stayed on the shore. ³Then Jesus used stories

Queen of the South Queen of Sheba. She traveled 1000 miles to learn God’s wisdom from Solomon. Read 1 Kings 10:1–13.

to teach the people many things. Jesus said: “A farmer went out to plant his seed. ⁴While the farmer was planting, some seed fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. ⁵Some seed fell on rocky ground. The ground there did not have enough dirt. The seed grew very fast there, because the ground was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. ⁷Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing. ⁸Some other seed fell on good ground. In the good ground, the seed grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain. Some plants made 60 times more, and some made 30 times more grain. ⁹You people that hear me, listen!”

Why Jesus Used Stories to Teach

(Mk. 4:10-12; Lk. 8:9-10)

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

¹¹Jesus answered, “Only you can know the secret truths about the kingdom of heaven. Those other people cannot know these secret truths. ¹²The person that has [some understanding] will be given more. And he will have even more than he needs. But the person that does not have [much understanding] will lose even the little [understanding] that he has. ¹³This is why I use these stories to teach the people: The people see, but they don’t really see. The people hear, but they don’t really understand. ¹⁴So these people show that the things Isaiah said about them are true:

‘You people will listen
and you will hear,
but you will not understand.
You people will look
and you will see,
but you will not understand
what you see.

¹⁵ Yes, the minds of these people
(the Jews) are now closed.

They have ears,
but they don’t listen.
And they refuse to see [the truth].

If their minds were not closed,
they might see with their eyes;
they might hear with their ears;
they might understand with their minds.

Then they might turn back to me and
be healed. *Isaiah 6:9-10*

¹⁶But you are blessed. You understand the things you see with your eyes. And you understand the things you hear with your ears.

¹⁷I tell you the truth. Many prophets* and good people wanted to see the things that you now see. But they did not see these things. And many prophets and good people wanted to hear the things that you now hear. But they did not hear these things.

Jesus Explains the Seeds

(Mk. 4:13-20; Lk. 8:11-15)

¹⁸“So listen to the meaning of that story about the farmer. ¹⁹What is the seed that fell by the path? That seed is like the person that hears the teaching about the kingdom but does not understand it. The Evil One (*the devil*) comes and takes away the things that were planted in that person’s heart. ²⁰And what is the seed that fell on rocky ground? That seed is like the person that hears the teaching and quickly and gladly accepts that teaching. ²¹But that person does not let the teaching go deep into his life. He keeps that teaching only a short time. When trouble or persecution* comes because of the teaching he accepted, then he quickly quits. ²²And what is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That seed is like the person that hears the teaching but lets worries about this life and love for money stop that teaching from growing. So the teaching does not make fruit* [in that person’s life]. ²³But what is the seed that fell on the good ground? That seed is like the person that hears the teaching and understands it. That person grows and makes fruit, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 30 times more.”

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

persecution Being hurt or bothered by God’s enemies.

fruit The good things God wants his people to do.

A Story About Wheat and Weeds

²⁴Then Jesus used another story to teach them. Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man that planted good seed in his field. ²⁵That night, all the people were asleep. The man’s enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat. Then the enemy went away. ²⁶Later, the wheat grew and heads of grain grew on the wheat plants. But at the same time the weeds also grew. ²⁷Then the man’s servants came to him and said, ‘You planted good seed in your field. Where did the weeds come from?’

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

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

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

Jesus Teaches with More Stories

(Mk. 4:30–34; Lk. 13:18–21)

³¹Then Jesus told the people another story: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. A person plants that seed in his field. ³²That seed is one of the smallest of all seeds. But when the seed grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes a tree, big enough for the birds to come and make nests in its branches.”

³³Then Jesus told the people another story: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixes into a big bowl of flour to make bread. The yeast makes all the dough *(bread)* rise.”

³⁴Jesus used stories to tell all these things to the people. Jesus always used stories to teach the people. ³⁵This is the same as what the prophet* said:

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

Psalms 78:2

Jesus Explains a Hard Story

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

³⁷Jesus answered, “The person that planted the good seed in the field is the Son of Man.* ³⁸The field is the world. The good seed are all of God’s children in the kingdom. The weeds are those people that belong to the Evil One *(the devil)*. ³⁹And the enemy that planted the bad seed is the devil. The harvest time is the end of the world.* And the workers that gather are God’s angels.

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

Stories About a Treasure and a Pearl

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. One day a man found the treasure. The man was very happy to find the treasure. He hid the treasure in the field again. The man went and sold everything that he owned to buy that field.

⁴⁵“Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a salesman looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶One day the salesman found a very fine pearl. The salesman went and sold everything he had to buy that pearl.

A Story About a Fishing Net

⁴⁷“Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was put into the lake. The net caught many different kinds of fish. ⁴⁸The net became full, so the fishermen pulled the net to the

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

world Literally, “age,” or “time.”

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

shore. The fishermen sat down and put all the good fish in baskets. Then they threw away the bad fish. ⁴⁹It will be the same at the end of the world.* The angels will come and separate the evil people from the good people. ⁵⁰The angels will throw the evil people into the place of fire. In that place the people will cry and grind their teeth _Lwith pain_J.”

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

The followers said, “Yes, we understand.”

⁵²Then Jesus said to the followers, “So every teacher of the law who has been taught _Lthe new things_J about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house. He has new things and old things saved in that house. And he brings out those new things with the old things.”

Jesus Goes to His Home Town

(Mk. 6:1–6; Lk. 4:16–30)

⁵³When Jesus finished teaching with these stories, he left there. ⁵⁴Jesus went to the town where he grew up. Jesus taught the people in the synagogue,* and the people were amazed. The people said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and this power to do miracles*? ⁵⁵This is only the son of the carpenter. And his mother is Mary. His brothers are James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. ⁵⁶And all his sisters are here with us. So where does this man get this wisdom and the power to do these things?” ⁵⁷And the people refused to accept Jesus.

But Jesus said to the people, “Other people give honor to a prophet.* But people in that prophet’s own town or own home don’t give honor to him.”

⁵⁸The people there did not believe in Jesus. So Jesus did not do many miracles* there.

Herod Hears About Jesus

(Mk. 6:14–29; Lk. 9:7–9)

14 At that time Herod,* the ruler _Lof Galilee_J, heard the things people said about Jesus. ²So Herod said to his servants,

world Literally, “age,” or “time.”

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

miracle(s) Amazing works done by God’s power.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Herod Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great.

“This man (*Jesus*) is really John the Baptizer. He must have risen from death. That is why he is able to do these miracles.*”

How John the Baptizer Was Killed

³Before this time, Herod* had arrested John.* Herod had tied John with chains and put him into prison. Herod arrested John because of Herodias. Herodias was the wife of Philip, Herod’s brother. ⁴Herod arrested John because John told Herod: “It is not right for you to have Herodias.” ⁵Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people. The people believed that John was a prophet.*

⁶On Herod’s* birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for Herod and his group. Herod was very pleased with her. ⁷So Herod promised that he would give her anything she wanted. ⁸Herodias told her daughter what to ask for. So she said to Herod, “Give me the head of John the Baptizer here on this plate.” ⁹King Herod was very sad. But he had promised to give the daughter anything she wanted. And the people eating with Herod had heard his promise. So Herod ordered that the thing she asked be done. ¹⁰He sent men to cut off John’s head in the prison. ¹¹And the men brought John’s head on a plate and gave it to the girl. Then the girl took the head to her mother, Herodias. ¹²John’s followers came and got his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what happened.

Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People

(Mk. 6:30–44; Lk. 9:10–17; Jn. 6:1–14)

¹³When Jesus heard what happened to John,* Jesus left in a boat. Jesus went alone to a place where there were no people. But the people heard that Jesus left. So the people left their towns and followed Jesus. They went by land to the same place Jesus went. ¹⁴When Jesus came there, he saw many, many people there. Jesus felt sorry for them, and he healed the people that were sick.

¹⁵Late that afternoon, the followers came to Jesus and said, “No people live in this place. And it is already late. Send the people

John John the Baptizer; he told people about Christ’s coming. Read Mt. 3; Lk. 3.

away so they can go to the towns and buy food for themselves.”

¹⁶Jesus answered, “The people don’t need to go away. You give them some food to eat.”

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

¹⁸Jesus said, “Bring the bread and the fish to me.” ¹⁹Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. Jesus looked into the sky and thanked God for the food. Then Jesus divided the loaves of bread. Jesus gave the bread to the followers, and the followers gave the bread to the people. ²⁰All the people ate and were filled. After the people finished eating, the followers filled twelve baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. ²¹There were about 5,000 men there that ate. There were also women and children that ate.

Jesus Walks on the Lake

(Mk. 6:45–52; Jn. 6:15–21)

²²Then Jesus made the followers get into the boat. Jesus told them to go to the other side of the lake. Jesus said that he would come later. Jesus stayed there to tell the people they could go home. ²³After Jesus said good-bye to the people, he went up into the hills. Jesus went there alone to pray. It was late, and Jesus was there alone. ²⁴At this time, the boat was already far away on the lake. The boat was having trouble because of the waves. The wind was blowing against it.

²⁵Between three and six o’clock in the morning, Jesus’ followers were still in the boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. ²⁶The followers saw Jesus walking on the water and they were afraid. They said, “It’s a ghost!” The followers shouted with fear.

²⁷But Jesus quickly spoke to them. Jesus said, “Don’t worry! It’s me! Don’t be afraid.”

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

²⁹Jesus said, “Come, Peter.”

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

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

³²After Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind became calm. ³³Then those followers in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Jesus Heals Many Sick People

(Mk. 6:53–56)

³⁴After they crossed the lake, they came to the shore at Gennesaret. ³⁵The people in that place saw Jesus. They knew who he was. So they told the other people all around there that Jesus had come. The people brought all their sick people to Jesus. ³⁶The people begged Jesus to let them only touch his coat to be healed. And all the sick people that touched Jesus’ coat were healed.

God’s Law and Rules That People Make

(Mk. 7:1–23)

15 Then some Pharisees* and teachers of the law came to Jesus. They came from Jerusalem and asked Jesus, ²“Why do your followers not obey the rules given to us by our great people that lived before us? Your followers don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

³Jesus answered, “And why do you refuse to obey God’s command so that you can follow those rules you have? ⁴God said, ‘You must honor (*respect*) your father and mother.*’ And God also said, ‘Any person that says bad things to his father or mother must be killed.*’ ⁵But you teach that a person can say to his father or mother, ‘I have something I could use to help you. But I will not use it to help you. I will give it to God.’ ⁶You teach that person to not honor his father. So you teach that it is not important to do what God said. You think that it is more important to follow those rules you have. ⁷You are hypocrites*! Isaiah was right when he spoke about you. Isaiah said:

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

‘You must honor ... mother’ Quote from Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16.

‘Any person ... killed’ Quote from Ex. 21:17.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

8 ‘These people say they honor me,
but they don’t really make me
an important part of their lives.

9 Their worship of me is for nothing.
The things they teach are only rules
that people have made.’” *Isaiah 29:13*

10 Jesus called the people to him. Jesus said, “Listen and understand what I am saying. 11 It is not the things a person puts in his mouth that make him wrong.* It is the things a person says with his mouth that make him wrong.”

12 Then the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees* are angry because of what you said?”

13 Jesus answered, “Every plant that my Father in heaven has not planted himself will be pulled up by the roots. 14 Stay away from the Pharisees.* They lead the people, but they are like blind men leading other blind men. And if a blind man leads another blind man, then both men will fall into a hole.”

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

16 Jesus said, “You still have trouble understanding? 17 Surely you know that all the food that enters a person’s mouth goes into the stomach. Then that food goes out of the body. 18 But the bad things a person says with his mouth come from the way a person thinks. And these are the things that make a person wrong.* 19 All these bad things begin in a person’s mind: evil thoughts, murder, adultery,* sexual sins, stealing, lying, saying bad things against other people. 20 These things make a person wrong. But not washing his hands before he eats does not make a person wrong.”

Jesus Helps a Non-Jewish Woman

(*Mk. 7:24–30*)

21 Jesus left that place and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that area came to Jesus. The woman shouted, “Lord, Son of David,* please help me! My

wrong Literally, “unclean” or “not pure.”

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

Son of David Name for the Christ (*Messiah*). He was from the family of David, king of Israel about 1000 years B.C.

daughter has a demon* inside her, and she is suffering very much.”

23 But Jesus did not answer the woman. So the followers came to Jesus and begged him, “Tell the woman to go away. She is following us and shouting.”

24 Jesus said, “God sent me only to the lost people* of Israel (*the Jews*).”

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

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

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

28 Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! I will do the thing you wanted me to do.” And at that time the woman’s daughter was healed.

Jesus Heals Many People

29 Then Jesus left that place and went to the shore of Lake Galilee. Jesus went up on a hill and sat down.

30 Many, many people came to Jesus. These people brought many other sick people and put the sick people before Jesus. There were people that could not walk, blind people, crippled people, deaf people, and many others. Jesus healed all these people. 31 People were amazed when they saw that people that could not speak were able to speak again. Crippled people were made strong again. People that could not walk were able to walk again. The blind were able to see again. All the people thanked the God of Israel (*the Jews*) for this.

Jesus Feeds More than 4,000 People

(*Mk. 8:1–10*)

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

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

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

people Literally, “sheep.”

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

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

³⁵Jesus told the people to sit on the ground. ³⁶Jesus took the seven loaves of bread and the fish. Then Jesus gave thanks to God for the food. Jesus divided the food and gave it to the followers. The followers gave the food to the people. ³⁷All the people ate and were full. After this, the followers filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. ³⁸There were about 4,000 men there that ate. There were also women and children that ate. ³⁹After they ate, Jesus told the people they could go home. Jesus got into the boat and went to the area of Magadan.

Some Jewish Leaders Test Jesus

(Mk. 8:11–13; Lk. 12:54–56)

16 The Pharisees* and Sadducees* came to Jesus. They wanted to test Jesus. So they asked Jesus to show them a miracle* to prove that he was from God.

²Jesus answered, “When you people see the sunset, you know what the weather will be. If the sky is red, then you say we will have good weather. ³And in the morning you watch the sunrise. If the sky is dark and red, then you say that it will be a rainy day. These things are signs of the weather. You see these signs in the sky and you know what they mean. In the same way, you see the things that are happening now. These things are also signs. But you don’t know the meaning of these signs. ⁴Evil and sinful people are the kind of people that want a miracle* for a sign (*proof*). But those people will have no sign—only the sign of Jonah.*” Then Jesus left that place and went away.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Sadducees A leading Jewish religious group. They accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed that people don’t live again after death.

miracle(s) Amazing works done by God’s power.

sign of Jonah *Jonah’s three days in a big fish are like Jesus’ three days in the grave. Read the book of Jonah in the Old Testament.*

Jesus’ Followers Misunderstand Him

(Mk. 8:14–21)

⁵Jesus and his followers went across the lake (*Lake Galilee*). But the followers forgot to bring bread. ⁶Jesus said to the followers, “Be careful! Guard against the yeast* of the Pharisees* and the Sadducees.*”

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

⁸Jesus knew that the followers were talking about this. So Jesus asked them, “Why are you talking about not having bread? Your faith is small. ⁹You still don’t understand? Remember the five loaves of bread that fed the 5,000 people? And remember that you filled many baskets with bread after the people finished eating? ¹⁰And remember the seven loaves of bread that fed the 4,000 people? Remember that you filled many baskets with bread after the people finished eating? ¹¹So I was not talking to you about bread. Why don’t you understand that? I am telling you to be careful and guard against the yeast* of the Pharisees* and the Sadducees.*”

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

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Christ

(Mk. 8:27–30; Lk. 9:18–21)

¹³Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus said to his followers, “I am the Son of Man.* Who do the people say I am?”

¹⁴The followers answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Other people say you are Elijah.* And some people say that you are Jeremiah* or one of the prophets.*”

yeast Used here as a symbol of bad influence. Like yeast, the hypocrisy of the Jewish religious leaders could not be seen. But their wrong teaching influenced many people.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Elijah A man that spoke for God about 850 B.C.

Jeremiah A man that spoke for God about 600 B.C.

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

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

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ,* the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus answered, “You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah. No person taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you who I am. ¹⁸So I tell you, you are Peter.* And I will build my church on this rock. The power of death* will not be able to defeat my church. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. When you speak judgment here on earth, that judgment will be God’s judgment. When you promise forgiveness here on earth, that forgiveness will be God’s forgiveness.”*

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

Jesus Says He Must Die

(Mk. 8:31–9:1; Lk. 9:22–27)

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

²²Peter spoke to Jesus alone. Peter began to criticize Jesus. Peter said, “God save you from those things, Lord! Those things will never happen to you!”

²³Then Jesus said to Peter, “Go away from me, Satan*! You are not helping me! You don’t care about the things of God. You only care about things that people think are important.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his followers, “If any person wants to follow me, he must say ‘No’ to the things he wants. That person must accept the cross (*suffering*) that is given to him, and he must follow me. ²⁵The person that wants to save his life will lose it. And every

person that gives his life for me will save it.

²⁶It is worth nothing for a person to have the whole world, if he loses his soul. A person could never pay enough to buy back his soul.

²⁷The Son of Man* will come again with his Father’s glory and with his angels. At that time, the Son of Man will reward each person for the things he has done. ²⁸I tell you the truth. There are some people standing here that will see the Son of Man coming with his kingdom before they die.”

Jesus Seen with Moses and Elijah

(Mk. 9:2–13; Lk. 9:28–36)

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

⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you want, I will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came over them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, “This (*Jesus*) is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Obey him!”

⁶The followers with Jesus heard this voice. They were very afraid, so they fell to the ground. ⁷But Jesus came to the followers and touched them. Jesus said, “Stand up. Don’t be afraid.” ⁸The followers looked up, and they saw Jesus was now alone.

⁹Jesus and the followers were walking down the mountain. Jesus commanded the followers, “Don’t tell any person about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait until the Son of Man* has been raised from death. Then you can tell people about what you saw.”

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

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Peter The Greek name “Peter,” like the Aramaic name “Cephas,” means “rock.”

power of death Literally, the “gates of Hades.”

When you ... God’s forgiveness Literally, “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Satan Name for the devil meaning “the enemy.” Jesus means that Peter was talking like Satan.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Moses and Elijah Two important Jewish leaders in the past.

Elijah A man that spoke for God about 850 B.C.

Elijah must come See Mal. 4:5–6.

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

Jesus Heals a Sick Boy

(Mk. 9:14–29; Lk. 9:37–43a)

¹⁴Jesus and the followers went back to the people. A man came to Jesus and bowed before him. ¹⁵The man said, “Lord, be kind to my son. He has epilepsy* and is suffering very much. My son often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶I brought my son to your followers, but they could not heal him.”

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

¹⁹Then the followers came to Jesus alone. They said, “We tried to force the demon* out of the boy, but we could not. Why were we not able to make the demon go out?”

²⁰Jesus answered, “You were not able to make the demon* go out, because your faith is too small. I tell you the truth. If your faith is as big as a mustard seed,* then you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there.’ And it will move. All things will be possible for you.” ^{21*}

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

epilepsy A sickness that causes a person sometimes to lose control of his body.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

mustard seed This seed is very, very small, but the plant grows taller than a man.

Verse 21 Some Greek copies add verse 21: “That kind of spirit comes out only if you use prayer and fasting.”

Jesus Talks About His Death

(Mk. 9:30–32; Lk. 9:43b–45)

²²Later, the followers met together in Galilee. Jesus said to the followers, “The Son of Man* will be given into the control of men. ²³Those men will kill the Son of Man. But on the third day the Son of Man will be raised from death.” The followers were very sad [to hear that Jesus would be killed].

Jesus Teaches About Paying Taxes

²⁴Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum.* In Capernaum some men came to Peter. They were the men that collected the two-drachma tax.* They asked, “Does your teacher pay the two-drachma tax?”

²⁵Peter answered, “Yes, Jesus pays the tax.”

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

²⁶Peter answered, “The other people pay the taxes.”

Jesus said, “Then the children of the king don’t have to pay taxes. ²⁷But we don’t want to make these tax collectors angry. So [pay the tax in this way]: Go to the lake and fish. After you catch the first fish, open the fish’s mouth. Inside its mouth you will find a four-drachma coin. Take that coin and give it to the tax collectors. That will pay the tax for you and me.”

Jesus Tells Who Is the Greatest

(Mk. 9:33–37; Lk. 9:46–48)

18 At that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

²Jesus called a little child to come to him. Jesus stood the child before the followers. ³Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children [in your hearts]. If you don’t do this, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴The

Capernaum A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

two-drachma tax A tax that every Jew had to pay once each year for the temple.

greatest (*most important*) person in the kingdom of heaven is the person that makes himself humble like this child.

⁵“If a person accepts a little child like this in my name, then that person accepts me.

Jesus Warns About Causes of Sin

(Mk. 9:42–48; Lk. 17:1–2)

⁶“If one of these little children believes in me, and another person causes that child to sin, then it will be very bad for that person. It would be better for that person to have a millstone* tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea. ⁷I feel sorry for the people in the world because of the things that make people sin. Those things must happen. But it will be very bad for the person that causes those things to happen.

⁸“If your hand or your foot makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose part of your body but have life forever. That is much better than to have two hands and two feet but be thrown into the fire (*hell*) that burns forever. ⁹If your eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better for you to have only one eye but have life forever. That is much better than to have two eyes but be thrown into the fire of hell.

Jesus Uses a Story About a Lost Sheep

(Lk. 15:3–7)

¹⁰“Be careful. Don’t think these little children are worth nothing. I tell you that these children have angels in heaven. And those angels are always with my Father in heaven. ¹¹*

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

millstone A large, round stone used for grinding grain.

Verse 11 Some Greek copies add verse 11: “The Son of Man came to save lost people.”

When a Person Hurts You

(Lk. 17:3)

¹⁵“If your brother or sister does something wrong to you, go and tell that person what he did wrong. Do this alone with that person. If that person listens to you, then you have helped that person to be your brother again. ¹⁶But if that person refuses to listen, then go to him again and bring one or two people with you. Then there will be two or three other people that will be able to tell all that happened.* ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, then tell the church (*group of believers*). If that person refuses to listen to the church, then treat him like he is a person that does not believe in God. Treat him like he is a tax collector.*

¹⁸“I tell you the truth. When you speak judgment here on earth, that judgment will be God’s judgment. When you promise forgiveness here on earth, that forgiveness will be God’s forgiveness.*

¹⁹“Also, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about something, then you can pray for it. And the thing you ask for will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰This is true, because if two or three people are together believing in me, I am there with them.”

Story About Forgiveness

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, when my brother won’t stop doing wrong to me, how many times must I forgive him? Should I forgive him as many as seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, you must forgive him more than seven times. You must continue to forgive him even if he does wrong to you seventy-seven times.*”

²³“So the kingdom of heaven is like a king that decided to collect the money that his servants owed him. ²⁴The king began to collect his money. One servant owed the king several thousand pounds of silver. ²⁵The servant was

Then ... happened See Deut. 19:15.

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

When you ... God’s forgiveness Literally, “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

seventy-seven times Or, “seventy times seven,” a very large number, meaning there should be no limit to forgiveness.

not able to pay the money to his master, the king. So the master ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold, even the servant's wife and children. The money would be used to pay the king what the servant owed.

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

²⁸“Later, that same servant found another servant that owed him a few dollars' worth of silver. The servant grabbed the other servant around the neck and said, ‘Pay me the money you owe me!’

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

³⁰“But the first servant refused to be patient. The servant told the judge that the other servant owed him money, and the other servant was thrown into prison. The servant had to stay in prison until he could pay everything he owed. ³¹All the other servants saw what happened. They felt very sorry for the man. So they went and told their master everything that happened.

³²“Then the master called his servant in and said, ‘You evil servant. You owed me much money, but you begged me to forgive your debt. So I told you that you did not have to pay anything. ³³So you should have given the same mercy to that other man that is a servant with you. You should have given him the same mercy that I gave you.’ ³⁴The master was very angry, so he put the servant in prison to be punished. And the servant had to stay in prison until he could pay everything he owed.

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

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

(Mk. 10:1–12)

19 After Jesus said all these things, he left Galilee. Jesus went into the area of Judea on the other side of the Jordan River. ²Many people followed Jesus. Jesus healed the sick people there.

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

⁴Jesus answered, “Surely you have read this [in the Scriptures*]: When God made the world, ‘he made people male and female.’* ⁵And God said, ‘So a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two people will become one.’* ⁶So the two people are not two, but one. God joined those two people together. So no person should separate them.”

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

⁸Jesus answered, “Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because you refused to accept God's teaching. But divorce was not allowed in the beginning. ⁹I tell you that any person that divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of the sin of adultery.* The only reason for a person to divorce and marry again is if his first wife had sexual relations with another man.”

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

¹¹Jesus answered, “Not every person can accept this truth [about marriage]. But God has made some people able to accept it. ¹²There are different reasons why some men cannot marry.* Some men were born without the ability to make children. Other men were made that way later in life by other people. And other men have given up marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. But the person that can [marry] should accept this teaching [about marriage].*”

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘he made ... female’ Quote from Gen. 1:27 or 5:2.

‘So a man ... one’ Quote from Gen. 2:24.

a command ... certificate of divorce See Deut. 24.1.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

some men cannot marry Literally, “there are eunuchs.”

But ... marriage Or, “The person that can accept this teaching about not marrying should accept it.”

Jesus Welcomes Children

(Mk. 10:13–16; Lk. 18:15–17)

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

A Rich Man Refuses to Follow Jesus

(Mk. 10:17–31; Lk. 18:18–30)

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

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

¹⁸The man asked, “Which commands?”

Jesus answered, “‘You must not murder anyone, you must not do the sin of adultery,* you must not steal anything, you must not tell lies about other people, ¹⁹you must honor (*respect*) your father and mother,’* and ‘you must love other people the same as you love yourself.’**”

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

²¹Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, then go and sell all the things you own. Give the money to the poor people. If you do this, you will have a rich treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me!”

²²But when the man heard this, he was very sad. The man was very rich and wanted to keep his money. So he left Jesus.

²³Then Jesus said to his followers, “I tell you the truth. It will be very hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Yes, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

put his hands on them Showing that Jesus was giving special blessings to these children.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

‘You must not ... mother’ Quote from Ex. 20:12–16.

‘you must love ... yourself’ Quote from Lev. 19:18.

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

²⁶Jesus looked at his followers and said, “This is something that people cannot do themselves. But God can do all things.”

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

²⁸Jesus said to the followers, “I tell you the truth. When the new world is made, the Son of Man* will sit on his great throne. And all of you that followed me will also sit on thrones. You will sit on twelve thrones and you will judge the twelve family groups of Israel.* ²⁹And every person that has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or farms to follow me will get much more than he left. And that person will have life forever. ³⁰Many people that have the highest place in life now will have the lowest place in the future. And many people that have the lowest place now will have the highest place in the future.

Jesus Uses a Story About Farm Workers

20 “The kingdom of heaven is like a man that owned some land. The man grew grapes on his land. One morning, the man went out very early to hire some other people to work in his field. ²The man agreed to pay the workers one silver coin* for working that day. Then the man sent the people into the field to work.

³“At about nine o’clock the man went to the market place and saw some other people standing there. These people were doing nothing.

⁴So the man said to them, ‘If you go and work in my field, I will pay you what your work is worth.’ ⁵So the people went to work in the field.

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

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Israel First, Israel was the Jewish nation, but the name is also used to mean all of God’s people.

silver coin A Roman denarius. One coin was the average pay for one day’s work.

⁷“The people said, ‘No person gave us a job.’
 “The man said to them, ‘Then you can go and work in my field.’

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

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

¹³“But the man that owned the field said to one of those workers, ‘Friend, I am being fair with you. You agreed to work for one silver coin. Right? ¹⁴So take your pay and go. I want to give the man that was hired last the same pay that I gave you. ¹⁵I can do what I want with my own money. Are you jealous because I am good [to those people,]?’

¹⁶“So the people that have the last place now will have the first place in the future. And the people that have the first place now will have the last place in the future.”

Jesus Talks About His Own Death

(Mk. 10:32–34; Lk. 18:31–34)

¹⁷Jesus was going to Jerusalem. His twelve followers were with him. While they were walking, Jesus gathered the followers together and spoke to them privately. Jesus said to them, ¹⁸“We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man* will be given to the leading priests and the teachers of the law. The priests and teachers of the law will say that the Son of Man must die. ¹⁹They will give the Son of Man to the non-Jewish people. Those people will laugh at

him and beat him with whips, and then they will kill him on a cross. But on the third day after his death, he will be raised to life again.”

A Mother Asks a Special Favor

(Mk. 10:35–45)

²⁰Then Zebedee’s wife came to Jesus. Her sons were with her. The mother bowed before Jesus and asked him to do something for her.

²¹Jesus said, “What do you want?”

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

²²So Jesus said to the sons, “You don’t understand what you are asking. Can you accept the kind of suffering that I must have*?”

The sons answered, “Yes, we can!”

²³Jesus said to them, “Truly you will suffer the same things that I will suffer. But I cannot choose the person that will sit at my right side or my left side. My Father has decided who will have those places. He has prepared those places for those people. Those places belong to them.”

²⁴The other ten followers heard this. They became angry with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called all the followers together. Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority over the people. ²⁶But it should not be that way with you. If one of you wants to become great, then he must serve you like a servant. ²⁷If one of you wants to become first, then he must serve you like a slave. ²⁸It is the same with the Son of Man.* The Son of Man did not come for other people to serve him. The Son of Man came to serve other people. The Son of Man came to give his life to save many people.”

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

(Mk. 10:46–52; Lk. 18:35–43)

²⁹When Jesus and his followers were leaving Jericho, many, many people followed Jesus. ³⁰There were two blind men sitting by the road. The blind men heard that Jesus was

silver coin A Roman denarius. One coin was the average pay for one day’s work.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

accept ... must have Literally, “drink the cup that I must drink.” Jesus used the idea of drinking from a cup to mean accepting the terrible things that would happen to him.

coming by. So the blind men shouted, “Lord, Son of David,* please help us!”

³¹All the people criticized the blind men. They told the blind men not to speak. But the blind men shouted more and more, “Lord, Son of David,* please help us!”

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

³³The blind men answered, “Lord, we want to be able to see.”

³⁴Jesus felt sorry for the blind men. Jesus touched their eyes and they were able to see. Then the men followed Jesus.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem like a King

(Mk. 11:1–11; Lk. 19:28–38; Jn. 12:12–19)

21 Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives.* There Jesus sent two of his followers into the town. ²Jesus said to the followers, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey tied there. With the donkey you will find a young donkey. Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. ³If any person asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell that person, ‘The Master needs these donkeys. He will send them back soon.’”

⁴This happened to make clear the full meaning of what the prophet* said:

⁵ “Tell the city of Zion,
 ‘Now your king is coming to you.
 He is humble and he is riding on a donkey.
 He is riding on a young donkey,
 born from a work animal.’”

Zechariah 9:9

⁶The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷The followers brought the mother donkey and the young donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on the donkeys, and Jesus sat on the coats. ⁸Jesus rode along the road to Jerusalem. Many people spread their coats on

Son of David Name for the Christ (*Messiah*). He was from the family of David, king of Israel about 1000 years B.C.

Mount of Olives A hill east of the city of Jerusalem where a person could look down into the temple area.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

the road for Jesus. Other people cut branches from the trees and spread the branches on the road. ⁹Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Other people were walking behind Jesus. The people shouted,

“Praise* to the Son of David*!
 ‘Welcome! God bless the One that comes
 in the name of the Lord!’

Psalms 118:26

Praise* to God in heaven!”

¹⁰Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. All the people in the city were confused. They asked, “Who is this man?”

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

Jesus Goes to the Temple

(Mk. 11:15–19; Lk. 19:45–48; Jn. 2:13–22)

¹²Jesus went into the temple* area. He threw out all the people that were selling and buying things there. Jesus turned over the tables that belonged to the men that were exchanging different kinds of money. And Jesus turned over the benches of those men that were selling doves. ¹³Jesus said to all the people there, “It is written in the Scriptures*, ‘My house will be called a house for prayer.’* But you are changing God’s house into a ‘hiding place for thieves.’*”

¹⁴Some blind people and some crippled people came to Jesus in the temple* area. Jesus healed these people. ¹⁵The leading priests and the teachers of the law saw what Jesus did. They saw that Jesus was doing great things and saw the children praising Jesus in the temple area. The children were saying, “Praise* to the Son of David.*” All these things made the priests and the teachers of the law angry.

Praise Literally, “Hosanna,” a Hebrew word used in praying to God for help. Here, it was probably a shout of joy used in praising God or his Messiah.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘My house ... prayer’ Quote from Isa. 56:7.

‘hiding place for thieves’ Quote from Jer. 7:11.

¹⁶The leading priests and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Do you hear the things these children are saying?”

Jesus answered, “Yes. The Scripture* says, ‘You (*God*) have taught children and babies to give praise.’* Have you not read that Scripture?”

¹⁷Then Jesus left that place and went out of the city to Bethany. Jesus stayed there that night.

Jesus Shows the Power of Faith

(Mk. 11:12–14, 20–24)

¹⁸Early the next morning, Jesus was going back to the city. Jesus was very hungry.

¹⁹Jesus saw a fig tree beside the road. Jesus went to the fig tree _└to get a fig to eat_┘. But there were no figs on the tree. There were only leaves. So Jesus said to the tree, “You will never again have fruit!” And then the tree dried up and died.

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

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

Jewish Leaders Doubt Jesus’ Authority

(Mk. 11:27–33; Lk. 20:1–8)

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

²⁴Jesus answered, “I will ask you a question too. If you answer me, then I will tell you what authority I have to do these things. ²⁵Tell me: When John baptized* people, did that come from God or was it only from other people?”

The priests and the Jewish leaders talked about Jesus’ question. They said to each other,

“If we answer, ‘John’s baptism was from God,’ then Jesus will say, ‘Then why didn’t you believe John?’ ²⁶But we can’t say John’s baptism was from someone else. We are afraid of the people, because they all believe that John was a prophet.*”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know _└where John’s authority came from_┘.”

Then Jesus said, “Then I won’t tell you what authority I have to do these things!”

Jesus Uses a Story About Two Sons

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

²⁹“The son answered, ‘I will not go.’ But later the son decided he should go, and the son went.

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

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

The Jewish leaders answered, “The first son.”

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth. _└You think_┘ the tax collectors* and the prostitutes* _└are bad people. But they_┘ will enter the kingdom of God before you enter.

³²John came showing you the right way to live. And you did not believe John. But the tax collectors and prostitutes believed John. And you saw that the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. But you still refused to change and believe him.

God Sends His Son

(Mk. 12:1–12; Lk. 20:9–19)

³³“Listen to this story: There was a man that owned a vineyard. He put a wall around the field and dug a hole for a wine press.* Then the man built a tower. He leased the land to some farmers. Then he left for a trip. ³⁴Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘You ... praise’ Quote from Ps. 8:3 (Greek Version).

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

baptize(d) A Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

tax collector(s) Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes. They often cheated, and the other Jews hated them.

prostitutes Women paid by men for sexual sin.

wine press A place dug in rock used to mash grapes and collect the juice for making wine.

man sent his servants to the farmers to get his share of the grapes.

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

³⁸“But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the owner’s son. This vineyard will be his. If we kill him, then it will be ours!’ ³⁹So the farmers took the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

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

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

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

‘The stone that the builders did not want
became the cornerstone.*
The Lord did this,
and it is wonderful to us.’

Psalm 118:22–23

⁴³“So I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you. God’s kingdom will be given to people that do the things God wants in his kingdom. ⁴⁴The person that falls on this stone will be broken. And if the stone falls on a person, then it will crush that person.”*

⁴⁵The leading priests and the Pharisees* heard these stories that Jesus told. They knew that Jesus was talking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to find a way to arrest Jesus. But they were afraid of the people, because the people believed that Jesus was a prophet.*

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

cornerstone First and most important rock of a building.

Verse 44 Some Greek copies omit verse 44.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Story About People Invited to a Dinner

(Lk. 14:15–24)

22 Jesus used stories to say some other things to the people. Jesus said, ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king that prepared a wedding dinner for his son. ³The king invited some people to the feast. When the feast was ready, the king sent his servants to tell those people to come. But the people refused to come to the king’s feast.

⁴“Then the king sent some more servants. The king said to the servants, ‘I have already invited those people. So tell them that my feast is ready. I have killed my best bulls and calves to be eaten. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’

⁵“[The servants went and told the people to come.] But the people refused to listen to the servants. Those people went to do other things. One person went to work in his field, and another person went to his business. ⁶Some of the other people grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. ⁷The king was very angry. The king sent his army to kill those people that killed his servants. And the army burned their city.

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

¹¹“Then the king came in to see all the people. The king saw a man there that was not dressed in the right clothes for a wedding. ¹²The king said, ‘Friend, how were you allowed to come in here? You are not wearing the right clothes for a wedding.’ But the man said nothing. ¹³So the king told some servants, ‘Tie this man’s hands and feet. Throw the man out into the darkness. In that place, people will cry and grind their teeth [with pain].’

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

Some Jewish Leaders Try to Trick Jesus*(Mk. 12:13–17; Lk. 20:20–26)*

¹⁵Then the Pharisees* left the place where Jesus was teaching. They made plans to catch Jesus saying something wrong. ¹⁶The Pharisees sent some men to Jesus _{to trick him}. They sent some of their own followers and some men from the group called Herodians.* These men said, “Teacher, we know that you are an honest man. We know that you teach the truth about God’s way. You are not afraid of what other people think about you. All men are the same to you. ¹⁷So tell us what you think. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar*? Yes or no?”

¹⁸But Jesus knew that these men were trying to trick him. So he said, “You hypocrites*! Why are you trying to catch me saying something wrong? ¹⁹Show me a coin used for paying the tax.” The men showed Jesus a silver coin.* ²⁰Then Jesus asked, “Whose picture is on the coin? And whose name is written on the coin?”

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

Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar* the things that are Caesar’s. And give to God the things that are God’s.”

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

Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus*(Mk. 12:18–27; Lk. 20:27–40)*

²³That same day some Sadducees* came to Jesus. (Sadducees believe that no person will rise from death.) The Sadducees asked Jesus a question. ²⁴They said, “Teacher, Moses told us that if a married man dies and he had no children, then his brother must marry the

woman. Then they will have children for the dead brother.* ²⁵There were seven brothers among us. The first one married but died. He had no children. So his brother married the woman. ²⁶Then the second brother also died. The same thing happened to the third brother and all the other brothers. ²⁷The woman was last to die. ²⁸But all seven men had married her. So when people rise from death, whose wife will she be?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “You don’t understand because you don’t know what the Scriptures* say. And you don’t know about the power of God. ³⁰At the time when people rise from death, there will be no marriage. People will not be married to each other. All people will be like the angels in heaven. ³¹Surely you have read what God said to you about the rising from death? ³²God said, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’*” [If God said he is their God, then these men are not really dead. He is the God only of living people.]

³³All the people heard this. They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching.

Which Command Is the Most Important?*(Mk. 12:28–34; Lk. 10:25–28)*

³⁴The Pharisees* learned that Jesus told the Sadducees* things they could not argue with. So the Pharisees met together. ³⁵One Pharisee was an expert in the law _{of Moses}. That Pharisee asked Jesus a question to test him. ³⁶The Pharisee said, “Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?”

³⁷Jesus answered, “You must love the Lord your God. You must love him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.*” ³⁸This is the first and most important command. ³⁹And the second command is like the first: ‘You must love other people the same as you love yourself.’* ⁴⁰All of the law and the

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Herodians A Jewish political group.

Caesar The name given to the emperor (ruler) of Rome.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

silver coin A Roman denarius. One coin was the average pay for one day’s work.

Sadducees A leading Jewish religious group. They accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed that people don’t live again after death.

if ... dead brother See Deut. 25:5 and Gen. 38:8.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Three of the most important Jewish leaders during the time of the Old Testament.

‘I am ... Jacob’ Quote from Ex. 3:6.

‘You must love ... mind’ Quote from Deut. 6:5.

‘You must love ... yourself’ Quote from Lev. 19:18.

writings of the prophets* take their meaning from these two commands.”

Jesus Asks the Pharisees a Question

(Mk. 12:35–37; Lk. 20:41–44)

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

The Pharisees answered, “The Christ is the Son of David.*”

⁴³Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Then why did David call him ‘Lord’? David was speaking by the power of the [Holy] Spirit.* David said,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord (God) said to my Lord (Christ):
Sit by me at my right side,
and I will put your enemies under
your control.*’ *Psalm 110:1*

⁴⁵David calls the Christ* ‘Lord.’ So how can he be David’s son?” ⁴⁶None of the Pharisees could answer Jesus’ question. And after that day no person was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions [to try to trick him].

Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders

(Mk. 12:38–40; Lk. 11:37–52; 20:45–47)

23 Then Jesus spoke to the people and to his followers. Jesus said, ²“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees* have the authority (*power*) to tell you what the law of Moses says. ³So you should obey the things they say. You should do all the things they tell you to do. But their lives are not good examples for you to follow. They tell you to do things, but they don’t do those things themselves. ⁴They make strict rules that are hard for people to obey. They try to force other people to obey all those rules. But they themselves will not try to follow any of those rules.

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Son of David Name for the Christ (*Messiah*). He was from the family of David, king of Israel about 1000 years B.C.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

control Literally, “feet.”

⁵“The only reason they do good things is for other people to see them. They wear special boxes* full of Scriptures.* They make these boxes bigger and bigger. And they make their special prayer clothes very long so that people will see them. ⁶Those Pharisees* and teachers of the law love to get the most important seats at the feasts. And they love to get the most important seats in the synagogues.* ⁷They love for people to show respect to them in the market places. And they love to have people call them ‘Teacher.’

⁸“But you must not be called ‘Teacher.’ You are all brothers and sisters together. You have only one Teacher. ⁹And don’t call any person on earth ‘Father.’ You have one Father. He is in heaven. ¹⁰And you should not be called ‘Master.’ You have only one Master, the Christ.* ¹¹The person that serves you like a servant is the greatest person among you. ¹²Every person that makes himself better than other people will be made humble. Every person that makes himself humble will be made great.

¹³“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You are hypocrites.* You close the way for people to enter the kingdom of heaven. You yourselves don’t enter, and you stop the people that are trying to enter. ¹⁴*

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

¹⁶“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You guide the people, but you are blind. You say, ‘If any person uses the

special boxes Small leather boxes containing four important Scriptures. Some Jews tied these to the forehead and left arm to show they were very religious.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

Verse 14 Some Greek copies add verse 14: “It will be bad for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You take away widows’ houses, and you make long prayers so that people can see you. So you will have a worse punishment.” See Mk. 12:40; Lk. 20:47.

name of the temple* to make a promise, that means nothing. But if any person uses the gold that is in the temple to make a promise, then he must keep that promise.’ ¹⁷You are blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple? The temple makes that gold holy. ¹⁸So the temple is greater. ¹⁸And you say, ‘If any person uses the altar* to make a promise, that means nothing. But if any person uses the gift on the altar to make a promise, then he must keep his promise.’ ¹⁹You are blind. ¹⁹You understand nothing! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar? The altar makes the gift holy. ²⁰So the altar is greater. ²⁰The person that uses the altar to make a promise is really using the altar and also everything on the altar. ²¹And the person that uses the temple to make a promise is really using the temple and also the One that lives in the temple. ²²The person that uses heaven to make a promise is also using God’s throne and the One that sits on that throne.

²³“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You are hypocrites.* You give God one tenth of everything you own—even your mint, dill, and cummin.* But you don’t obey the really important teachings of the law—being fair, showing mercy, and being faithful. These are the things you should do. And you should also continue to do those other things. ²⁴You guide the people, but you are blind! Think about a person picking a little fly out of his drink and then swallowing a camel! You are like that.*

²⁵“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You are hypocrites.* You wash clean the outside of your cups and dishes. But inside they are full of things that you got by cheating other people and pleasing yourselves. ²⁶Pharisees, you are blind! First make the

inside of the cup clean and good. Then the outside of the cup can be truly clean.

²⁷“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You are hypocrites.* You are like tombs* that are painted white. The outside of those tombs looks fine. But inside, the tombs are full of the bones of dead people. And all kinds of unclean things are inside there. ²⁸It is the same with you. People look at you and think that you are good. But on the inside you are full of hypocrisy* and evil.

²⁹“It will be bad for you teachers of the law and Pharisees.* You are hypocrites.* You build tombs for the prophets.* And you show honor to the graves of people that lived good lives. ³⁰And you say, ‘If we had lived during the time of our fathers,* we would not have helped them kill these prophets.’ ³¹You give proof that you are children (*descendants*) of those people that killed the prophets. ³²And you will finish the sin that your fathers started!

³³“You are snakes! You are from a family of poisonous snakes! You will not escape God. You will all be judged guilty and go to hell! ³⁴So I tell you this: I send to you prophets* and wise men and teachers. You will kill some of these people. You will hang some of them on crosses. You will beat some of these people in your synagogues.* You will chase them from town to town. ³⁵So you will be guilty for the death of all the good people that have been killed on earth. You will be guilty for the killing of that good man Abel.* And you will be guilty for the killing of Zechariah* son of Berachiah. He was killed between the temple* and the altar.* You will be guilty for the killing of all the good people that lived between the time of Abel and the time of Zechariah. ³⁶I tell you the truth. All of these things will happen to you people that are living now.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

altar An altar is a place where sacrifices or gifts are offered to God. There was an altar in front of the temple in Jerusalem.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

mint, dill, cummin Small plants grown in gardens and used for spices. Only very religious people would be careful enough to give a tenth of these plants.

You are like that Meaning, “You worry about the smallest mistakes but do the biggest sin.”

tombs Small buildings made to show respect for important persons that had died.

hypocrisy Acting like you are good when you are not.

prophets People that spoke for God.

fathers Important ancestors of the Jews, especially the leaders of the twelve Jewish family groups.

synagogue(s) Synagogues were places where Jews gathered for prayer, study of the Scriptures, and other public meetings.

Abel, Zechariah In the Hebrew Old Testament, the first and last men to be murdered.

Jesus Warns the People of Jerusalem

(Lk. 13:34–35)

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets.* You kill with rocks those men that God sent to you. Many, many times I wanted to help your people. I wanted to gather your people together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you did not let me. ³⁸Now your house will be left completely empty. ³⁹I tell you, you will not see me again until that time when you will say, ‘Welcome! God bless the one that comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

Future Destruction of the Temple

(Mk. 13:1–31; Lk. 21:5–33)

24 Jesus left the temple* area and was walking away. But his followers came to him to show him the temple’s buildings. ²Jesus asked the followers, “Are you looking at these buildings? I tell you the truth. They will be destroyed. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground. Not one stone will be left on another.”

³Later, Jesus was sitting at a place on the Mount of Olives.* The followers came to be alone with Jesus. They said, “Tell us when these things will happen. And what will happen to show us that it is time for you to come again and time for the world* to end?”

⁴Jesus answered: “Be careful! Don’t let any person fool you. ⁵Many people will come and use my name. They will say, ‘I am the Christ.*’ And they will fool many people. ⁶You will hear about wars that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other wars beginning. But don’t be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. ⁷Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is no food for people to eat. And there will be earthquakes in different places. ⁸These things are like the first pains when something new is born.

⁹“Then people will treat you badly. People will give you [to the rulers] to be persecuted (*hurt*) and killed. All people will hate you. All these things will happen to you because you believe in me. ¹⁰At that time, many believers will lose their faith. They will turn against each other and hate each other. ¹¹Many false prophets* will come. They will cause many people to believe wrong things. ¹²There will be more and more evil in the world. So most believers will stop showing love. ¹³But the person that continues strong to the end will be saved. ¹⁴The Good News about [God’s] kingdom will be told in the whole world. It will be told to every nation. Then the end will come.

¹⁵“Daniel the prophet* spoke about ‘the terrible thing that causes destruction.’* You will see this terrible thing standing in the holy place (*the temple*).” (You that read this should understand what it means.) ¹⁶“At that time, the people in Judea should run away to the mountains. ¹⁷People should run away without wasting the time to stop for anything. If a person is on the roof of his house, he must not go down to get things out of his house. ¹⁸If a person is in the field, he must not go back to get his coat. ¹⁹At that time, it will be bad for women that are pregnant or have small babies! ²⁰Pray that it will not be winter or a Sabbath day* when these things happen and you have to run away. ²¹Why? Because at that time there will be much trouble. There will be more trouble than has ever happened since the beginning of the world. And nothing as bad as that will ever happen again. ²²But God has decided to make that terrible time short. If that time were not made short, then no person would continue living. But God will make that time short to help the people he has chosen. ²³At that time, some person might say to you, ‘Look, there is the Christ!’* Or another person might say, ‘There he is!’ But don’t believe

prophets People that spoke for God.

‘Welcome! ... Lord’ Quote from Ps. 118:26.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Mount of Olives A hill east of the city of Jerusalem where a person could look down into the temple area.

world Literally, “age,” or “time.”

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

false prophets People that say they speak for God but do not really speak God’s truth.

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

‘the terrible thing ... destruction’ See Dan. 9:27; 12:11 (see also Dan. 11:31).

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

them. ²⁴False Christs and false prophets* will come and do great things and miracles.* They will do these things to the people God has chosen. They will do these things to try to fool his people, if that is possible. ²⁵Now I have warned you about this before it happens.

²⁶“Some person might tell you, ‘The Christ* is there in the desert!’ But don’t go into the desert to look for the Christ. Another person might say, ‘There is the Christ in that room!’ But don’t believe that. ²⁷When the Son of Man* comes, he will be seen by all people. It will be like lightning flashing in the sky that can be seen everywhere. ²⁸My coming will be clear, the same as any time you see vultures* gathering, you know there is a dead body.

²⁹“Soon after the trouble of those days, this will happen:

‘The sun will become dark,
and the moon will not give light.
The stars will fall from the sky,
and everything in the sky will
be changed.’ *Isaiah 13:10; 34:4*

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

³²“The fig tree teaches us a lesson: When the fig tree’s branches become green and soft, and new leaves begin to grow, then you know that summer is near. ³³It is the same with these things that I told you would happen. When you see all these things happening, you will know that the time* is near, ready to come. ³⁴I tell you

false prophets People that say they speak for God but do not really speak God’s truth.

miracles Here, powerful acts done by Satan’s power.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

vultures Or, eagles—birds that eat dead animals.

time The time Jesus has been talking about when a very important thing will happen. In Luke Jesus says that it is the time for God’s kingdom to come (Lk. 21:31).

the truth. All these things will happen while people of this time are still living! ³⁵The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed, but the words I have said will never be destroyed!

Only God Knows When the Time Will Be

(Mk. 13:32–37; Lk. 17:26–30, 34–36)

³⁶“No person knows when that day or time will be. The Son and the angels in heaven don’t know when that day or time will be. Only the Father knows. ³⁷When the Son of Man* comes, it will be the same as the thing that happened during Noah’s time. ³⁸In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking. People were marrying and giving their children to be married. The people were still doing those things until the day Noah entered the boat. ³⁹Those people knew nothing about what was happening. But then the flood came and all those people were destroyed. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. ⁴⁰Two men will be working together in the field. One man will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding grain with a mill.* One woman will be taken and the other woman will be left.

⁴²“So always be ready. You don’t know the day your Lord will come. ⁴³Remember this: If the owner of the house knew what time the thief was coming, then the owner would be ready for him. The owner would watch and not let the thief enter his house. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready. The Son of Man* will come at a time when you don’t expect him.

Good Servants and Bad Servants

(Lk. 12:41–48)

⁴⁵“Who is the wise and trusted servant? The master trusts one servant to give the other servants their food at the right time. Who is the servant that the master trusts to do that work? ⁴⁶When the master comes and finds that servant doing the work he gave him, the servant will be very happy. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth. The master will choose that servant to take care of everything the master owns. ⁴⁸But what will happen if the servant is evil and

mill Two large, flat rocks used for grinding grain to make flour.

thinks his master will not come back soon? ⁴⁹Then that servant will begin to beat the other servants. That servant will eat the food and get drunk with other people like him. ⁵⁰Then the master of that servant will come when the servant is not ready. It will be a time when the servant is not expecting the master. ⁵¹Then the master will punish that servant. The master will send him away to be with the hypocrites.* And in that place people will cry and grind their teeth [with pain].

Story About Ten Girls

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls that went to wait for the bridegroom.* They brought their lamps with them. ²Five of the girls were foolish. And five of the girls were wise. ³The five foolish girls brought their lamps, but they did not bring more oil for the lamps to burn. ⁴The wise girls brought their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵The bridegroom was very late. All the girls became tired and began sleeping.

⁶“At midnight someone announced, ‘The bridegroom* is coming! Come and meet him!’

⁷“Then all the girls woke up. The girls made their lamps ready. ⁸But the foolish girls said to the wise girls, ‘Give us some of your oil. The oil in our lamps is all gone.’

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

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

¹¹“Later the other girls came. The girls said, ‘Sir, sir, open the door to let us in.’

¹²“But the bridegroom answered, ‘I tell you the truth. I don’t know you.’

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

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

bridegroom A man that is getting married.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Story About Three Servants

(Lk. 19:11–27)

¹⁴“[The kingdom of heaven is] like a man leaving home to travel to another place for a visit. Before the man left, he talked with his servants. The man told his servants to take care of the things he owned while he was gone. ¹⁵He decided how much each servant would be able to care for. The man gave one servant five bags of money.* He gave another servant two bags of money. And he gave a third servant one bag of money. Then that man left. ¹⁶The servant that got five bags of money went quickly to invest the money. Those five bags of money earned five more. ¹⁷It was the same with the servant that had two bags of money. That servant invested the money and earned two more. ¹⁸But the servant that got one bag of money went away and dug a hole in the ground. Then the servant hid his master’s money in that hole.

¹⁹“After a long time the master came home. The master asked the servants what they did with his money. ²⁰The servant that got five bags of money brought five more bags of money to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, you trusted me to care for five bags of money. So I used your five bags of money to earn five more.’

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

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

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

²⁴“Then the servant that got one bag of money came to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, I knew that you were a very hard

bags of money Literally, “talents.” A talent was about 60 to 80 pounds of gold, silver or copper coins.

man. You harvest things you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not put any seed. ²⁵So I was afraid. I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the one bag of money you gave me.’

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

²⁸“So the master told his other servants, ‘Take the one bag of money from that servant and give it to the servant that has ten bags of money. ²⁹Every person that uses what he has will get more. That person will have much more than he needs. But the person that does not use what he has will have everything taken away from him.’ ³⁰Then the master said, ‘Throw that useless servant outside, into the darkness! In that place people will cry and grind their teeth [with pain].’

The Son of Man Will Judge All People

³¹“The Son of Man* will come again. He will come with great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be king and sit on his great throne. ³²All the people of the world will be gathered before the Son of Man. Then the Son of Man will separate all people into two groups. This is like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³The Son of Man will put the sheep (*good people*) on his right and the goats (*bad people*) on his left.

³⁴“Then the king will say to those good people on his right, ‘Come. My Father has given you great blessings. Come and get the kingdom God promised you. That kingdom has been prepared for you since the world was made. ³⁵You can have this kingdom, because I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I

was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the good people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our home? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’

⁴⁰“Then the king will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here,* you also did for me.’

⁴¹“Then the king will say to those bad people on his left, ‘Go away from me. God has already decided that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever. That fire was prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²You must go away, because I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your home. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

⁴⁴“Then those people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?’

⁴⁵“Then the king will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you refused to do for any of my people here,* you refused to do for me.’

⁴⁶“Then those bad people will go away. They will have punishment forever. But the good people will go and have life forever.”

The Jewish Leaders Plan to Kill Jesus

(Mk. 14:1–2; Lk. 22:1–2; Jn. 11:45–53)

26 After Jesus finished saying all these things, he said to his followers, ²“You know that the day after tomorrow is Passover.* On that day the Son of Man* will be given [to his enemies] to be killed on a cross.”

any of my people here Literally, “one of the least of these brothers of mine.”

Passover Important Jewish holy day. They ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

³Then the leading priests and the older Jewish leaders had a meeting at the palace where the high priest* lived. The high priest's name was Caiaphas. ⁴In the meeting, they tried to find a way to arrest Jesus without the people seeing it. They planned to arrest Jesus and kill him. ⁵The men in the meeting said, "We cannot arrest Jesus during Passover.* We don't want the people to become angry and cause a riot."

A Woman Does Something Special

(Mk. 14:3–9; Jn. 12:1–8)

⁶Jesus was in Bethany. He was at the house of Simon the leper.* ⁷While Jesus was there, a woman came to him. She had an alabaster* jar filled with very expensive perfume. The woman poured this perfume on Jesus' head while Jesus was eating.

⁸The followers saw the woman do this and became upset at the woman. The followers asked, "Why waste that perfume? ⁹That perfume could be sold for much money and the money could be given to poor people."

¹⁰But Jesus knew what happened. Jesus said, "Why are you troubling this woman? She did a very good thing for me. ¹¹You will always have poor people with you.* But you will not always have me. ¹²This woman poured perfume on my body. She did this to prepare me for burial after I die. ¹³I tell you the truth. The Good News* will be told to people in all the world. And in every place where the Good News is told, the story of what this woman did will also be told. And people will remember her."

Judas Becomes an Enemy of Jesus

(Mk. 14:10–11; Lk. 22:3–6)

¹⁴Then one of the twelve followers went to talk to the leading priests. This was the follower named Judas Iscariot. ¹⁵Judas said, "I

will give you Jesus. What will you pay me for doing this?" The priests gave Judas 30 silver coins. ¹⁶After that time Judas waited for the best time to give Jesus to the priests.

Jesus Eats the Passover Meal

(Mk. 14:21–22; Lk. 22:7–14, 21–23; Jn. 13:21–30)

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

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

²⁰In the evening Jesus was at the table with the twelve followers. ²¹They were all eating. Then Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. One of you twelve here will soon give me to my enemies."

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

²³Jesus answered, "The man that has dipped his hand into the same bowl with me is the person that will be against me. ²⁴The Son of Man* will go [and die]. The Scriptures* say this will happen. But it will be very bad for the person that gives the Son of Man [to be killed]. It would be better for that person if he were never born."

²⁵Then Judas said to Jesus, "Teacher, surely I will not be against you!" (Judas is the one that would give Jesus to his enemies.)

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

The Lord's Supper

(Mk. 14:22–26; Lk. 22:15–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25)

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. Jesus thanked God for the bread and divided it. He gave the bread to his followers.

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

Passover Important Jewish holy day. They ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

leper A person that had leprosy, a very bad skin disease.

alabaster A beautiful kind of stone that can be carved.

You will ... with you See Deut. 15:11.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Festival of Unleavened Bread An important Jewish holiday week. In the Old Testament it began the day after Passover, but by this time the two holidays had become one.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Jesus said, “Take this bread and eat it. This bread is my body.”

²⁷Then Jesus took a cup of wine. Jesus thanked God for it and gave it to the followers. Jesus said, “Every one of you drink this. ²⁸This wine is my blood. My blood (*death*) begins the new agreement [from God to his people]. This blood is given for many people to forgive their sins. ²⁹I tell you this: I will not drink this wine again until that day when we are together in my Father’s kingdom and the wine is new. Then I will drink it again with you.”

³⁰All the followers sang a song. Then they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Jesus Says His Followers Will Leave Him

(Mk. 14:27–31; Lk. 22:31–34; Jn. 13:36–38)

³¹Jesus told the followers, “Tonight you will lose your faith because of me. It is written [in the Scriptures*]:

‘I will kill the shepherd,
and the sheep will run away.’

Zechariah 13:7

³²But [after I die], I will rise from death. Then I will go into Galilee. I will be there before you go there.”

³³Peter answered, “All the other followers may lose their faith because of you. But I will never lose my faith.”

³⁴Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. Tonight you will say you don’t know me. You will say this three times before the rooster crows.”

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

Jesus Prays Alone

(Mk. 14:32–42; Lk. 22:39–46)

³⁶Then Jesus went with his followers to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to his followers, “Sit here while I go there and pray.”

³⁷Jesus told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee to come with him. Then Jesus began to be very sad and troubled. ³⁸Jesus said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, “My soul is full of

sorrow. My heart is breaking with sadness. Stay awake here with me and wait.”

³⁹Then Jesus walked a little farther away from them. Jesus fell to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, don’t give me this cup* [of suffering]. But do what you want, not what I want.” ⁴⁰Then Jesus went back to his followers. Jesus found his followers sleeping. Jesus said to Peter, “You men could not stay awake with me for one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right. But your body is weak.”

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

⁴³Then Jesus went back to the followers. Again Jesus found them sleeping. Their eyes were very tired. ⁴⁴So Jesus left them and went away one more time and prayed. This third time he prayed, he said the same thing.

⁴⁵Then Jesus went back to the followers and said, “You are still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man* to be given to sinful people. ⁴⁶Stand up! We must go. Here comes the man that is giving me [to my enemies].”

Jesus Is Arrested

(Mk. 14:43–50; Lk. 22:47–53; Jn. 18:3–12)

⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came there. Judas was one of the twelve followers. Judas had many people with him. These people were sent from the leading priests and the older leaders of the people. These people with Judas had swords and clubs. ⁴⁸Judas* planned to do something to show the people which man was Jesus. Judas said, “The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest him.” ⁴⁹So Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hello, teacher!” Then Judas kissed Jesus.

cup Jesus is talking about the bad things that will happen to him. Accepting these things will be very hard, like drinking a cup of something that tastes very bad.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13–14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

Judas Literally, “the one that betrayed him.”

Mount of Olives A hill east of the city of Jerusalem where a person could look down into the temple area.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Friend, do the thing you came to do.”

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

⁵²Jesus said to the man, “Put your sword back in its place. People that use swords will be killed with swords. ⁵³Surely you know I could ask my Father and he would give me more than twelve armies of angels. ⁵⁴But this thing must happen this way so that it will be like the Scriptures* said.”

⁵⁵Then Jesus said to all the people, “You came to get me with swords and clubs like I am a criminal. Every day I sat in the temple* area teaching. You did not arrest me there. ⁵⁶But all these things have happened so that it will be like the prophets* wrote.” Then all of Jesus’ followers left him and ran away.

Jesus Before the Jewish Leaders

(Mk. 14:53-65; Lk. 22:54-55, 63-71; Jn. 18:13-14, 19-24)

⁵⁷The men that arrested Jesus led him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest.* The teachers of the law and the older Jewish leaders were gathered there. ⁵⁸Peter followed Jesus, but he did not come near Jesus. Peter followed Jesus to the yard of the high priest’s house. He went in and sat with the guards. Peter wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.

⁵⁹The leading priests and the Jewish council tried to find something against Jesus so that they could kill him. They tried to find people to lie and say that Jesus had done wrong. ⁶⁰Many people came and told false things about Jesus. But the council could find no real reason to kill Jesus. Then two people came ⁶¹and said, “This man (*Jesus*) said, ‘I can destroy the temple* of God and build it again in three days.’”

⁶²Then the high priest* stood and said to Jesus, “These people have said things against

you. Do you have something to say about these charges against you? Are these people telling the truth?” ⁶³But Jesus said nothing.

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

⁶⁴Jesus answered, “Yes, I am. But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man* sitting at the right side of God. And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵When the high priest* heard this, [he was very angry]. He tore his clothes and said, “This man has said things that are against God! We don’t need any more witnesses. You all heard him say these things against God.

⁶⁶What do you think?”

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

⁶⁷Then they spit in Jesus’ face. And they hit him with their fists. Other people slapped Jesus. ⁶⁸They said, “Show us that you are a prophet,* Christ*! Tell us who hit you!”

Peter Is Afraid to Say He Knows Jesus

(Mk. 14:66-72; Lk. 22:56-62; Jn. 18:15-18, 25-27)

⁶⁹At that time, Peter was sitting in the yard. A servant girl came to Peter. The girl said, “You were with Jesus, that man from Galilee.”

⁷⁰But Peter said that he was never with Jesus. He said this to all the people there. Peter said, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”

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

⁷²Again, Peter said that he was never with Jesus. Peter said, “I promise to God that I don’t know this man Jesus!”

⁷³A short time later, some people standing there went to Peter and said, “We know you are one of those men that followed Jesus. We know this because of the way you talk.”

⁷⁴Then Peter began to curse. He said strongly, “I promise to God that I don’t know

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

Son of Man A name Jesus used for himself. In Dan. 7:13-14, this is the name for the Messiah, the one God chose to save his people.

prophet A prophet could say things that most people could not know.

this man Jesus!” After Peter said this, a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: “Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me.” Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

Jesus Is Taken to Governor Pilate

(Mk. 15:1; Lk. 23:1–2; Jn. 18:28–32)

27 Early the next morning, all the leading priests and older leaders of the people decided to kill Jesus. ²They tied Jesus with chains. Then they led him to Pilate the governor. They gave Jesus to Pilate.

Judas Kills Himself

(Acts 1:18–19)

³Judas saw that they had decided to kill Jesus. Judas was the one that gave Jesus to his enemies. When Judas saw what happened, he was very sorry for what he did. So he took the 30 silver coins back to the priests and the leaders. ⁴Judas said, “I sinned. I gave you an innocent man to be killed.”

The Jewish leaders answered, “We don’t care! That’s a problem for you, not us.”

⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple.* Then Judas left that place and hanged himself.

⁶The leading priests picked up the silver coins in the temple. They said, “Our law does not allow us to keep this money with the temple money, because this money has paid for a man’s death.” ⁷So they decided to use the money to buy a field called Potter’s Field. This field would be a place to bury people that died while visiting in Jerusalem. ⁸That is why that field is still called the Field of Blood. ⁹So the thing happened that Jeremiah the prophet* said:

“They took 30 silver coins. That was how much the Jewish people decided to pay for his life. ¹⁰They used those 30 silver coins to buy the potter’s field, like the Lord commanded me.”*

Governor Pilate Questions Jesus

(Mk. 15:2–5; Lk. 23:3–5; Jn. 18:33–38)

¹¹Jesus stood before Pilate the governor. Pilate asked him questions. He said, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Yes, I am.”

¹²When the leading priests and the older Jewish leaders accused Jesus, he said nothing.

¹³So Pilate said to Jesus, “You hear these people accusing you of all these things. Why don’t you answer?”

¹⁴But Jesus said nothing to answer Pilate. Pilate was very surprised at this.

Pilate Tries but Fails to Free Jesus

(Mk. 15:6–15; Lk. 23:13–25; Jn. 18:39–19:16)

¹⁵Every year at the Passover* time the governor would free one person from the prison. This was always a person that the people wanted to be made free. ¹⁶At that time there was a man in prison who was known to be very bad. His name was Barabbas.* ¹⁷All the people gathered at Pilate’s house. Pilate asked the people, “I will free one man for you. Which man do you want me to free: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ*?” ¹⁸Pilate knew that the people gave Jesus to him because the people were jealous.

¹⁹Pilate said these things while he was sitting in the place for judging. While he was sitting there, his wife sent a message to him. The message said, “Don’t do anything with that man (*Jesus*). He is not guilty. And today I had a dream about him, and it troubled me very much.”

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

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

The people answered, “Barabbas!”

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

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

Passover Important Jewish holy day. They ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

Barabbas In some Greek copies the name is Jesus Barabbas.

Christ The “anointed one” (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

prophet A person that spoke for God. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

“They took ... me” See Zech. 11:12–13; Jer. 32:6–9.

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

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

²⁴Pilate saw that he could do nothing to make the people change. And he saw that the people were becoming upset. So Pilate took some water and washed his hands* so that all the people could see. Then Pilate said, “I am not guilty of this man’s death. You are the ones that are doing it!”

²⁵All the people answered, “We will be responsible for his death. We accept for ourselves and for our children any punishment for his death.”

²⁶Then Pilate freed Barabbas. Pilate told some soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

Pilate’s Soldiers Tease Jesus

(Mk. 15:16–20; Jn. 19:2–3)

²⁷Then Pilate’s soldiers brought Jesus into the governor’s palace. All the soldiers gathered around Jesus. ²⁸The soldiers took off Jesus’ clothes and put a red robe on him. ²⁹Then the soldiers used thorny branches to make a crown. They put this crown of thorns on Jesus’ head, and they put a stick in his right hand. Then the soldiers bowed before Jesus and teased him. They said, “Hello, king of the Jews!” ³⁰The soldiers spit on Jesus. Then they took his stick and hit him on the head many times. ³¹After they finished teasing Jesus, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led Jesus away to be killed on a cross.

Jesus Is Killed on a Cross

(Mk. 15:21–32; Lk. 23:26–43; Jn. 19:17–27)

³²The soldiers were going out of the city with Jesus. The soldiers forced another man there to carry the cross for Jesus. This man’s name was Simon from Cyrene. ³³They came to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull.”) ³⁴At Golgotha, the soldiers gave Jesus wine to drink. This wine

was mixed with gall.* Jesus tasted the wine but refused to drink it. ³⁵The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then the soldiers gambled with dice to decide who would get Jesus’ clothes. ³⁶The soldiers sat there and continued watching Jesus. ³⁷The soldiers put a sign above Jesus’ head with the charge against him written on it. The sign said: “THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ³⁸Two robbers were nailed to crosses beside Jesus. One robber was put beside Jesus on the right and the other was put on the left. ³⁹People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. People shook their heads ⁴⁰and said, “You said you could destroy the temple and build it again in three days. So save yourself! Come down from that cross, if you are really the Son of God!”

⁴¹The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the older Jewish leaders were also there. These men teased Jesus the same as the other people. ⁴²They said, “He saved other people. But he can’t save himself! People say he is the king of Israel (*the Jews*). If he is the king, then he should come down now from the cross. Then we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusted God. So let God save him now, if God really wants him. He himself said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴And in the same way, the robbers that were being killed on crosses beside Jesus also said bad things to him.

Jesus Dies

(Mk. 15:33–41; Lk. 23:44–49; Jn. 19:28–30)

⁴⁵At noon the whole country became dark. This darkness continued for three hours. ⁴⁶At about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” This means, “My God, my God, why have you left me alone?”*

⁴⁷Some of the people standing there heard this. The people said, “He is calling Elijah.”*

⁴⁸Quickly one of the people ran and got a sponge. That person filled the sponge with vinegar and tied the sponge to a stick. Then he

gall Probably a drink of wine mixed with drugs to relieve pain.

“My God ... alone” Quote from Ps. 22:1.

“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 that spoke for God about 850 B.C.

washed his hands Pilate did this as a sign to show that he wanted no part in what the people did.

used the stick to give the sponge to Jesus to drink from it. ⁴⁹But the other people said, “Don’t bother him (*Jesus*). We want to see if Elijah will come to save him.”

⁵⁰Again Jesus cried with a loud voice. Then he died.*

⁵¹When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple* was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. Also, the earth shook and rocks were broken. ⁵²All the graves opened, and many of God’s people that had died were raised from death. ⁵³Those people came out of the graves. After Jesus was raised from death, those people went into the holy city (*Jerusalem*), and many people saw them.

⁵⁴The army officer* and the soldiers guarding Jesus saw this earthquake and everything that happened. They were very afraid and said, “He really was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵Many women were standing away from the cross, watching. These were the women that followed Jesus from Galilee to care for him. ⁵⁶Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of James and John* were there.

Jesus Is Buried

(Mk. 15:42–47; Lk. 23:50–56; Jn. 19:38–42)

⁵⁷That evening a rich man named Joseph came to Jerusalem. Joseph was a follower of Jesus from the town of Arimathea. ⁵⁸Joseph went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus’ body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give Jesus’ body to Joseph. ⁵⁹Then Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a new linen cloth. ⁶⁰Joseph put Jesus’ body in a new tomb (*grave*) that Joseph had dug in a wall of rock. Then he closed the tomb by rolling a very large stone to cover the entrance. After he did these things, Joseph went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary were sitting near the tomb.

died Literally, “let his spirit leave.”

curtain in the temple A curtain divided the “Most Holy Place” from the other part of the temple, the special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

army officer A centurion, a Roman army officer that had authority over 100 soldiers.

James and John Literally, “the sons of Zebedee.”

The Tomb of Jesus Is Guarded

⁶²That day was the day called Preparation day.* The next day, the leading priests and the Pharisees* went to Pilate. ⁶³They said, “Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive he said, ‘After three days I will rise from death.’” ⁶⁴So give the order for the tomb to be guarded well until after three days. His followers might come and try to steal the body. Then they could tell the people that he has risen from death. That lie will be even worse than what they said about him before.”

⁶⁵Pilate said, “Take some soldiers and go guard the tomb the best way you know.” ⁶⁶So they all went to the tomb and made it safe from thieves. They did this by sealing the stone in the entrance and putting soldiers there to guard it.

News That Jesus Has Risen from Death

(Mk. 16:1–8; Lk. 24:1–12; Jn. 20:1–10)

28 The day after the Sabbath day* was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.*

²At that time there was a very strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came from the sky. The angel went to the tomb* and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then the angel sat on the stone. ³The angel was shining very bright like lightning. His clothes were white like snow. ⁴The soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid of the angel. They shook with fear and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one that was killed on the cross. ⁶But Jesus is not here. He has risen from death, like he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. ⁷And go quickly and tell his followers. Tell them: ‘Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.’” Then the angel said, “Now I have told you.”

Preparation day Friday, the day before the Sabbath day.

Pharisees The Pharisees were a Jewish religious group that claimed to follow carefully all Jewish laws and customs.

Sabbath day Saturday, a special day for Jews to rest and honor God.

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

⁸So the women left the tomb* quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell his followers what happened. ⁹While the women were running to tell the followers, Jesus was standing there before them. Jesus said, “Hello!” The women went to Jesus. They held him at his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers (*followers*) to go to Galilee. They will see me there.”

Report to the Jewish Leaders

¹¹The women went to tell the followers. At the same time, some of the soldiers that were guarding the tomb* went into the city. They went to tell the leading priests everything that happened. ¹²Then the priests met with the older Jewish leaders and made a plan. They paid the soldiers much money [to tell a lie]. ¹³They said to the soldiers, “Tell the people that Jesus’ followers came during the night and stole the

body while you were sleeping. ¹⁴If the governor hears about this, we will satisfy him and save you from trouble.” ¹⁵So the soldiers kept the money and obeyed the priests. And that story is still spread among the Jews even today.

Jesus Talks to His Followers

(Mk. 16:14–18; Lk. 24:36–49; Jn. 20:19–23; Acts 1:6–8)

¹⁶The eleven followers went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷On the mountain the followers saw Jesus. They worshiped him. But some of the followers did not believe that it was really Jesus. ¹⁸So Jesus came to them and said, “All authority (*power*) in heaven and on earth is given to me. ¹⁹So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize* them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.* ²⁰Teach those people to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

Baptize A Greek word meaning to immerse, dip, or bury a person or thing briefly under water.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.