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# Mark

## The Coming of Jesus

(Mt. 3:1–12; Lk. 3:1–9, 15–17; Jn. 1:19–28)

**1** The Good News\* about Jesus Christ, the Son of God,\* begins <sup>2</sup>with what the prophet\* Isaiah said would happen. Isaiah wrote:

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

*Malachi 3:1*

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

*Isaiah 40:3*

**4** So John the Baptizer came and was baptizing people in the desert area. He told the people to be baptized\* to show they wanted to change their lives. Then their sins would be forgiven. **5** All the people from Judea and Jerusalem went out to John. These people told the sins they had done, and then they were baptized by John in the Jordan River. **6** John wore clothes made from camel’s hair. John had a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts\* and wild honey. **7** This is what John told the people: “There is a person coming later who is greater than I am. I am not good enough to kneel down and untie his

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

**the Son of God** Some Greek copies omit these words.

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

**helper** Literally, “messenger.”

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

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

shoes. **8** I baptize you with water. But that person who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.\*”

## Jesus Is Baptized

(Mt. 3:13–17; Lk. 3:21–22)

**9** At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the place where John was. John baptized\* Jesus in the Jordan River. **10** While Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the sky open. The Holy Spirit\* came down to Jesus like a dove. **11** A voice came from heaven and said: “You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you.”

## Jesus Goes Away to Be Tempted

(Mt. 4:1–11; Lk. 4:1–13)

**12** Then the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert alone. **13** Jesus was in the desert 40 days. He was there with the wild animals. While Jesus was in the desert, he was tempted by Satan (the devil).<sup>1</sup> Then angels came and helped Jesus.

## Jesus Chooses Some Followers

(Mt. 4:12–22; Lk. 4:14–15; 5:1–11)

**14** After this, John was put into prison. Jesus went into Galilee and told people the Good News from God. **15** Jesus said, “The right time is now here. The kingdom of God is near. Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!”

**16** Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. Jesus saw Simon\* and Simon’s brother, Andrew. These two men were fishermen, and they were

**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.

**Simon** Simon’s other name was Peter.

throwing a net into the lake to catch fish. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and follow me. I will make you [a different kind of] fishermen. You will work to gather people, [not fish].” <sup>18</sup>So Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat, preparing their nets to catch fish. <sup>20</sup>Their father Zebedee and the men that worked for him were in the boat with the brothers. When Jesus saw the brothers he told them to come. They left their father and followed Jesus.

### Jesus Heals a Man That Had an Evil Spirit

(Lk. 4:31-37)

<sup>21</sup>Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum.\* On the Sabbath day\* Jesus went into the synagogue\* and taught the people. <sup>22</sup>The people there were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. Jesus did not teach like their teachers of the law. Jesus taught like a person that had authority (*power*). <sup>23</sup>While Jesus was in the synagogue, a man was there that had an evil spirit [from the devil] inside him. The man shouted, <sup>24</sup>“Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said strongly, “Be quiet! Come out of the man!” <sup>26</sup>The evil spirit made the man shake. Then the spirit made a loud noise and came out of the man.

<sup>27</sup>The people were amazed. They asked each other, “What is happening here? This man is teaching something new. And he teaches with authority (*power*)! He even gives commands to evil spirits, and the spirits obey him.” <sup>28</sup>So the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.

### Jesus Heals Many People

(Mt. 8:14-17; Lk. 4:38-41)

<sup>29</sup>Jesus and the followers left the synagogue.\* They all went with James and

John to the home of Simon\* and Andrew. <sup>30</sup>Simon’s mother-in-law was very sick. She was in bed and had fever. The people there told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup>So Jesus went to her bed. Jesus held her hand and helped her stand up. The fever left her, and she was healed. Then she began serving them.

<sup>32</sup>That night, after the sun went down, the people brought many sick people to Jesus. They also brought people that had demons\* inside them. <sup>33</sup>All the people in the town gathered at the door of that house. <sup>34</sup>Jesus healed many people that had different kinds of sicknesses. Jesus also forced many demons to leave people. But Jesus would not allow the demons to speak, because the demons knew who he was.\*

### Jesus Prepares to Tell the Good News

(Lk. 4:42-44)

<sup>35</sup>The next morning, Jesus woke up very early. Jesus left the house while it was still dark. He went to a place to be alone and pray. <sup>36</sup>Later, Simon\* and his friends went to look for Jesus. <sup>37</sup>They found Jesus and said, “All the people are looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup>Jesus answered, “We should go to another place. We can go to other towns around here. Then I can tell people [God’s message] in those places also. That is why I came.” <sup>39</sup>So Jesus traveled everywhere in Galilee. He spoke in the synagogues.\* And he forced demons\* to leave people.

### Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(Mt. 8:1-4; Lk. 5:12-16)

<sup>40</sup>A man that had leprosy\* came to Jesus. The man bowed on his knees and begged Jesus, “You have the power to heal me if you want.”

<sup>41</sup>Jesus felt sorry for the man. So Jesus touched the man and said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” <sup>42</sup>Immediately the leprosy disappeared, and he was healed.

<sup>43</sup>Jesus told the man to go. But Jesus warned him strongly. Jesus said, <sup>44</sup>“Don’t tell any

**Capernaum** A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

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

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

**Simon** Simon’s other name was Peter.

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

**who he was** The demons knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

**leprosy** A very bad skin disease.

person about what I did for you. But go and show yourself to the priest. And offer a gift to God because you have been healed. Offer the gift that Moses commanded.\* This will show people that you are healed.”<sup>45</sup>The man left there and told all the people he saw that Jesus had healed him. So the news about Jesus spread. And that is why Jesus could not enter a town if people saw him. Jesus stayed in places where people did not live. But people came from all the towns to the places where Jesus was.

### Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

(Mt. 9:1–8; Lk. 5:17–26)

**2** A few days later, Jesus came back to Capernaum.\* The news spread that Jesus was back home. <sup>2</sup>Many, many people gathered to hear Jesus speak. The house was full. There was no place to stand, not even outside the door. Jesus was teaching these people. <sup>3</sup>Some people brought a paralyzed (*crippled*) man to Jesus. Four men were carrying the paralyzed man. <sup>4</sup>But they could not bring the man to Jesus because the house was full of people. So the men went to the roof above Jesus and made a hole in the roof. Then they lowered the mat with the paralyzed man on it. <sup>5</sup>Jesus saw that these men had much faith. So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>6</sup>Some of the teachers of the law were sitting there. They saw what Jesus did, and they said to themselves, <sup>7</sup>“Why does this man say things like that? He is saying things that are against God. Only God can forgive sins.”

<sup>8</sup>Jesus knew that these teachers of the law were thinking those things about him. So Jesus said to them, “Why do you have these questions in your minds? <sup>9–10</sup>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 to the crippled man, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ [No one could see if it really happened.] But what if I say to the man, ‘Stand up. Take your bed and walk’? Then you will be able to see if I really have this power or

not.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, <sup>11</sup>“I tell you, stand up. Take your mat and go home.” <sup>12</sup>The paralyzed man stood up. He took his mat and walked out of the room. All the people could see him. The people were amazed and praised God. They said, “This is the most amazing thing we have ever seen!”

### Levi (Matthew) Follows Jesus

(Mt. 9:9–13; Lk. 5:27–32)

<sup>13</sup>Jesus went to the lake again. Many people followed him there. So Jesus taught them. <sup>14</sup>Jesus was walking beside the lake, and he saw a man named Levi, son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting at his place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Then Levi stood up and followed Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Later that day, Jesus ate at Levi’s house. There were many tax collectors\* and other bad people eating there with Jesus and his followers. There were many of these people that followed Jesus. <sup>16</sup>The teachers of the law (they were Pharisees\*) saw Jesus eating with these tax collectors and other bad people. They asked Jesus’ followers, “Why does he (*Jesus*) eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

<sup>17</sup>Jesus heard this, and he said to them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. It is the sick people that need a doctor. I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners.”

### Jesus Is Not like Other Religious Leaders

(Mt. 9:14–17; Lk. 5:33–39)

<sup>18</sup>The followers of John\* and the Pharisees\* were fasting.\* Some people came to Jesus and said, “John’s followers fast, and the followers of the Pharisees fast. But your followers don’t fast. Why?”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, “[When there is a wedding,] the friends of the bridegroom\* are not sad while he is with them. They cannot

**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.

**John** John the Baptizer, who preached to the Jews about Christ’s coming. See Mk. 1:4–8.

**fasting, fast** To fast is to live without food for a time of prayer or mourning.

**bridegroom** A man that is getting married.

**Moses commanded** See Lev. 14:1–32.

**Capernaum** A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

**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.

fast\* (*be sad*) while the bridegroom is still there. <sup>20</sup>But the time will come when the bridegroom will leave them. The friends are sad when the bridegroom leaves. Then they will fast.

<sup>21</sup>“When a person sews a patch over a hole on an old coat, that person never uses a piece of cloth that is not yet shrunk. If he does, the patch will <sub>shrink and</sub> pull away from the coat. Then the hole will be worse. <sup>22</sup>Also, people never pour new wine into old wine bags.\* Why? Because the new wine will break the bags, and the wine will be ruined with the wine bags. People always put new wine into new wine bags.”

### Jesus Is Lord over the Sabbath Day

(Mt. 12:1–8; Lk. 6:1–5)

<sup>23</sup>On the Sabbath day,\* Jesus was walking through some grain fields. Jesus’ followers were walking with him. The followers picked some grain <sub>to eat</sub>. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees\* saw this and said to Jesus, “Why are your followers doing that? It is against the <sub>Jewish</sub> law to do that on the Sabbath day.”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “You have read what David\* did when he and the people with him were hungry and needed food. <sup>26</sup>It was during the time of Abiathar the high priest.\* David went into God’s house and ate the bread that was offered to God. And the law <sub>of Moses</sub> says that only priests can eat that bread. David also gave some of the bread to those people with him.”

<sup>27</sup>Then Jesus said to the Pharisees,\* “The Sabbath day\* was made to help people. People were not made to be ruled by the Sabbath day. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man\* is Lord (*master*) of every day, even the Sabbath.”

**fasting, fast** To fast is to live without food for a time of prayer or mourning.

**wine bags** Animal skins used for holding wine.

**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.

**high priest** The most important Jewish priest and leader.

**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.

### Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(Mt. 12:9–14; Lk. 6:6–11)

**3** Another time Jesus went into the synagogue.\* In the synagogue there was a man with a crippled hand. <sup>2</sup>Some Jews there were watching Jesus closely. They were waiting to see if he would heal the man on a Sabbath day.\* They wanted to see Jesus do something wrong so that they could accuse him. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Stand up here so that all the people can see you.”

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus asked the people, “Which thing is right to do on the Sabbath day: to do good, or to do evil? Is it right to save a life or to destroy one?” The people said nothing to answer Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Jesus looked at the people. He was angry. But he felt very sad because they were stubborn. Jesus said to the man, “Let me see your hand.” The man put his hand out for Jesus, and it was healed. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees\* left and made plans with the Herodians\* about a way to kill Jesus.

### Many People Follow Jesus

<sup>7</sup>Jesus went away with his followers to the lake. Many people from Galilee followed him. <sup>8</sup>Many, many people also came from Judea, from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from the area across the Jordan River, and from the area around Tyre and Sidon.\* These people came because they heard about all the things Jesus was doing. <sup>9</sup>Jesus saw the many people. So he told his followers to get a small boat and make it ready for him. Jesus wanted the boat so that the many, many people would not push against him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus had healed many people. So all the sick people were pushing toward him to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Some people had evil spirits <sub>from the devil</sub> inside them. When the evil spirits saw Jesus, they bowed before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!” <sup>12</sup>But Jesus commanded the spirits strongly not to tell people who he was.

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

**Herodians** A Jewish political group.

**Tyre and Sidon** Towns in Lebanon where bad people lived.

**Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles**

(Mt. 10:1–4; Lk. 6:12–16)

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus went up on a hill. Jesus told some men to come to him. These were the men Jesus wanted. These men went up to Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Jesus chose twelve men and called them apostles.\* Jesus wanted these twelve men to be with him, and he wanted to send them to other places to tell people [God’s message]. <sup>15</sup>And Jesus wanted these men to have the power to force demons\* out of people. <sup>16</sup>These are the names of the twelve men Jesus chose: Simon (Jesus gave him the name Peter); <sup>17</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Jesus gave them the name Boanerges. This name means “Sons of Thunder”); <sup>18</sup>Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot,\* <sup>19</sup>and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one that gave Jesus [to his enemies].

**Jesus’ Power Is from God**

(Mt. 12:22–32; Lk. 11:14–23; 12:10)

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus went home. But again many people gathered there. There were so many people that Jesus and his followers could not eat. <sup>21</sup>Jesus’ family heard about all these things. They went to get him because people said that Jesus was crazy.

<sup>22</sup>And the teachers of the law from Jerusalem said, “Beelzebul (*the devil*) is living inside him (*Jesus*)! He uses power from the ruler of demons\* to force demons out of people.”

<sup>23</sup>So Jesus called them together and talked to them using some stories. Jesus said, “Satan will not force his own demons\* out of people. <sup>24</sup>A kingdom that fights against itself cannot continue. <sup>25</sup>And a family that is divided cannot succeed. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan is against himself and fights against his own people, then he cannot continue. That would be the end of Satan.

<sup>27</sup>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.

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

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

**Zealot** Zealots were a Jewish political group.

<sup>28</sup>I tell you the truth. All sins that people do can be forgiven. And all the bad things people say against God can be forgiven. <sup>29</sup>But any person that says bad things against (*refuses to accept*) the Holy Spirit\* will never be forgiven. He will always be guilty of that sin.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus said this because the teachers of the law said that Jesus had an evil spirit (*devil*) inside him.

**Jesus’ Followers Are His True Family**

(Mt. 12:46–50; Lk. 8:19–21)

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus’ mother and brothers came. They stood outside and sent a person in to tell Jesus to come out. <sup>32</sup>Many people were sitting around Jesus. They said to him, “Your mother and brothers are waiting for you outside.”

<sup>33</sup>Jesus asked, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus looked at those people sitting around him. He said, “These people are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>My true brother and sister and mother are those people that do the things God wants.”

**Story About a Farmer Planting Seed**

(Mt. 13:1–9; Lk. 8:4–8)

**4** Another time Jesus began teaching by the lake. Many, many people gathered around Jesus. So Jesus got into a boat and went out on the lake. All the people stayed on the shore next to the water. <sup>2</sup>Jesus taught the people from the boat. Jesus used many stories to teach them. He said, <sup>3</sup>“Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. <sup>4</sup>While the farmer was planting, some seed fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. <sup>5</sup>Some 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. <sup>6</sup>But the sun rose and the plants were burned. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. <sup>7</sup>Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing. So those plants did not make grain. <sup>8</sup>Some other seed fell on good ground. In the good ground, the seed began to grow. It grew and made

**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.

grain. Some plants had 30 grains, other plants had 60 grains, and some had 100 grains.”

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

### Jesus Tells Why He Used Stories

(Mt. 13:10–17; Lk. 8:9–10)

<sup>10</sup>Later, Jesus was away from the people. The twelve apostles\* and Jesus’ other followers asked him about the stories.

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

‘They will look and look,  
but never really see;  
they will listen and listen,  
but never understand.  
If they saw and understood,  
they might change and be forgiven.’”

*Isaiah 6:9–10*

### Jesus Explains the Story About the Seed

(Mt. 13:18–23; Lk. 8:11–15)

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the followers, “Do you understand this story? If you don’t, then how will you understand any story? <sup>14</sup>The farmer is like a person that plants God’s teaching in people. <sup>15</sup>Sometimes the teaching falls on the path. This is like some people. Those people hear the teaching of God. But Satan (*the devil*) comes and takes away the teaching that was planted in them. <sup>16</sup>Other people are like the seed planted on rocky ground. They hear the teaching and quickly and gladly accept it. <sup>17</sup>But those people don’t allow the teaching to go deep into their lives. They keep that teaching only a short time. When trouble or persecution\* comes because of the teaching they accepted, they quickly quit. <sup>18</sup>Other people are like the seed planted among the thorny weeds. These people hear the teaching. <sup>19</sup>But then these things come into their lives: the worries of this life, the love of money, and wanting all kinds of other things. These things stop the teaching from growing. So that

teaching does not make fruit\* in the lives of those people. <sup>20</sup>Other people are like the seed planted on the good ground. They hear the teaching and accept it. Then they grow and make fruit—sometimes 30 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 100 times more.”

### You Must Use What You Have

(Lk. 8:16–18)

<sup>21</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do you take a lamp and hide it under a bowl or under a bed? No! You put the lamp on a lamp table. <sup>22</sup>Everything that is hidden will be made clear. Every secret thing will be made known. <sup>23</sup>You people that hear me, listen!

<sup>24</sup>“Think carefully about the things you hear. The way you give is the way God will give to you. But God will give you more than you give. <sup>25</sup>The person that has something will receive more. But the person that does not have much will lose even the little amount he has.”

### Jesus Uses a Story About Seed

<sup>26</sup>Then Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is like a man that plants seed in the ground. <sup>27</sup>The seed begins to grow. It grows night and day. It is not important if the man is sleeping or awake; the seed still grows. The man does not know how the seed grows. <sup>28</sup>Without any help, the ground grows grain. First the plant grows, then the head, and then all the grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the grain is ready, the man cuts it. This is the harvest time.”

### The Kingdom Is Like a Mustard Seed

(Mt. 13:31–32, 34–35; Lk. 13:18–19)

<sup>30</sup>Then Jesus said, “What can I use to show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story can I use to explain it? <sup>31</sup>The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed that you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup>But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in your garden. It has branches that are very big. The wild birds can come and make nests there and be protected from the sun.”

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

**persecution(s)** Being hurt or bothered by Christ’s enemies.

**fruit** The good things God wants his people to do.

<sup>33</sup>Jesus used many stories like these to teach them. He taught them all that they could understand. <sup>34</sup>Jesus always used stories to teach the people. But when Jesus and his followers were alone together, Jesus explained everything to them.

**The Followers See Jesus' Power**

*(Mt. 8:23–27; Lk. 8:22–25)*

<sup>35</sup>That day, at evening, Jesus said to his followers, “Come with me across the lake.” <sup>36</sup>Jesus and the followers left the people there. They went in the same boat that Jesus was already sitting in. There were also other boats with them. <sup>37</sup>A very bad wind came on the lake. The waves were coming over the sides and into the boat. The boat was almost full of water. <sup>38</sup>Jesus was inside the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went to him and woke him. They said, “Teacher, do you care about us? We will drown!”

<sup>39</sup>Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to stop. Jesus said, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind stopped and the lake became calm.

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

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

**Jesus Frees a Man from Evil Spirits**

*(Mt. 8:28–34; Lk. 8:26–39)*

**5** Jesus and his followers went across the lake to the area where the Gerasene people lived. <sup>2</sup>When Jesus got out of the boat, a man came to him from the caves where dead people are buried. This man had an evil spirit [from the devil] living inside of him. <sup>3</sup>This man lived in the burial caves. No person could tie him. Even chains could not keep this man tied. <sup>4</sup>Many times people had used chains to tie the man's hands and feet. But the man broke the chains on his hands and feet. No person was strong enough to control him. <sup>5</sup>Day and night the man walked around the burial caves and on the hills. The man would scream and cut himself with rocks.

<sup>6</sup>While Jesus was far away, the man saw him. The man ran to Jesus and bowed down

before him. <sup>7–8</sup>Jesus said to the man, “You evil spirit, come out of that man.” So the man shouted with a loud voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you to promise to God that you will not punish me!”

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

The man answered, “My name is Legion,\* because there are many spirits inside me.”

<sup>10</sup>The spirits inside the man begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area.

<sup>11</sup>A large herd of pigs was eating on a hill near there. <sup>12</sup>The evil spirits begged Jesus, “Send us to the pigs. Let us go into them.” <sup>13</sup>So Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs ran down the hill and into the lake. All the pigs were drowned. There were about 2,000 pigs in that herd.

<sup>14</sup>The men that had the work of caring for the pigs ran away. The men ran to the town and to the farms. They told all the people what happened. The people went out to see what happened. <sup>15</sup>The people came to Jesus. They saw the man that had the many evil spirits. The man was sitting and was wearing clothes. He was in his right mind again. The people were afraid. <sup>16</sup>Some people were there and saw what Jesus did. These people told the other people what happened to the man that had the demons\* living in him. And they also told about the pigs. <sup>17</sup>Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.

<sup>18</sup>Jesus was preparing to leave in the boat. The man that was freed from the demons begged to go with Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>But Jesus did not allow the man to go. Jesus said, “Go home to your family and friends. Tell them about all the things the Lord did for you. Tell them that the Lord was good to you.” <sup>20</sup>So the man left and told the people in the Ten Towns\* about the great things Jesus did for him. All the people were amazed.

**Legion** This name means very many. A legion was about 5,000 men in the Roman army.

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

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

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

(Mt. 9:18–26; Lk. 8:40–56)

<sup>21</sup>Jesus went in the boat back across to the other side of the lake. There, many people gathered around him by the lake. <sup>22</sup>A leader of the synagogue\* came to that place. His name was Jairus. Jairus saw Jesus and bowed down before him. <sup>23</sup>Jairus begged and begged Jesus. He said, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her. Then she will be healed and will live.”

<sup>24</sup>So Jesus went with Jairus. Many people followed Jesus. They were pushing very close around him.

<sup>25</sup>A woman was there among the people. This woman had been bleeding for the past twelve years. <sup>26</sup>The woman suffered very much. Many doctors tried to help her. All the money she had was spent. But she was not improving. Her sickness was becoming worse. <sup>27</sup>The woman heard about Jesus. So she followed Jesus with the people and touched his coat. <sup>28</sup>The woman thought, “If I can touch his clothes, that will be enough to heal me.” <sup>29</sup>When the woman touched his coat, her bleeding stopped. The woman felt that her body was healed from the suffering. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus felt power go out from him. So he stopped and turned around. Then he asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

<sup>31</sup>The followers said to Jesus, “There are many people pushing against you. But you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

<sup>32</sup>But Jesus continued looking for the person that touched him. <sup>33</sup>The woman knew that she was healed. So she came and bowed at Jesus’ feet. The woman was shaking with fear. She told Jesus the whole story. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to the woman, “Dear woman, you are made well because you believed. Go in peace. You will have no more suffering.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus was still there speaking. Some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue\* leader. The men said, “Your daughter is dead. There is now no need to bother the teacher (*Jesus*).”

<sup>36</sup>But Jesus did not care what the men said. Jesus said to the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid; only believe.”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus let only Peter, James, and John the brother of James go with him. <sup>38</sup>Jesus and these followers went to the house of Jairus, the synagogue\* leader. Jesus saw many people there crying loudly. There was much confusion. <sup>39</sup>Jesus entered the house and said to the people, “Why are you people crying and making so much noise? This child is not dead. She is only sleeping.” <sup>40</sup>But all the people laughed at Jesus. Jesus told the people to leave the house. Then Jesus went into the room where the child was. He brought the child’s father and mother and his three followers into the room with him. <sup>41</sup>Then Jesus held the girl’s hand and said to her, “*Talitha, koum!*” (This means, “Little girl, I tell you to stand up!”) <sup>42</sup>The girl stood up and began walking. (The girl was twelve years old.) The father and mother and the followers were amazed. <sup>43</sup>Jesus gave the father and mother very strict orders not to tell people about this. Then Jesus told them to give the girl some food to eat.

### Jesus Goes to His Home Town

(Mt. 13:53–58; Lk. 4:16–30)

**6** Jesus left there and went back to his home town. His followers went with him. <sup>2</sup>On the Sabbath day\* Jesus taught in the synagogue.\* Many people heard him teach and were amazed. These people said, “Where did this man get this teaching? How did he get this wisdom? Who gave it to him? And where did he get the power to do miracles\*? Surely, not from God! <sup>3</sup>He is only the carpenter. And his mother is Mary. He is the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters are here with us.” The people did not accept Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to the people, “Other people give honor to a prophet.\* But in his own town with his own people and in his own home, a prophet does not get honor.” <sup>5</sup>Jesus was not able to do many miracles\* in that town. The

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

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

**prophet** A person that spoke for God.

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

only miracles he did were to heal some sick people by putting his hands on them. <sup>6</sup>Jesus was very surprised because those people did not have faith. Then Jesus went to other villages in that area and taught.

**Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission**

*(Mt. 10:1, 5-15; Lk. 9:1-6)*

<sup>7</sup>Jesus called the twelve followers together. Jesus sent them out in groups of two. Jesus gave them power over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup>This is what Jesus told his followers: “Take nothing for your trip. Take only a stick for walking. Take no bread, no bag, and no money in your pockets. <sup>9</sup>Wear shoes, and take only the clothes you are wearing. <sup>10</sup>When you enter a house, stay in that house until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup>If any town refuses to accept you or refuses to listen to you, then leave that town. Shake their dust off your feet.\* This will be a warning to them.”

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

**Herod Thinks Jesus Is John the Baptizer**

*(Mt. 14:1-12; Lk. 9:7-9)*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod\* heard about Jesus, because Jesus was now famous. Some people said, “*He (Jesus) is* John the Baptizer. He is risen from death. That is why he can do these miracles.\*”

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

Other people said, “Jesus is a prophet.\* He is like the prophets that lived long ago.”

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

**How John the Baptizer Was Killed**

<sup>17</sup>Herod\* himself had ordered his soldiers to arrest John. So John was put into prison. Herod did this to please his wife, Herodias. Herodias was the wife of Philip, Herod’s brother. But then Herod married Herodias. <sup>18</sup>John told Herod that it was not right for him to be married to his brother’s wife. <sup>19</sup>So Herodias hated John. She wanted to kill him. But Herodias was not able to persuade Herod to kill John. <sup>20</sup>Herod was afraid to kill John. Herod knew that all the people thought John was a good and holy man. So Herod protected John. Herod enjoyed listening to John preach. But John’s message always bothered Herod.

<sup>21</sup>Then the right time came for Herodias to cause John’s death. It happened on Herod’s\* birthday. Herod gave a dinner party for the most important government leaders, the commanders of his army, and the most important people in Galilee. <sup>22</sup>The daughter of Herodias came to the party and danced. When she danced, Herod and the people eating with him were very pleased.

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

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

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

<sup>25</sup>Quickly the girl went back in to the king. The girl said to the king, “Please give me the head of John the Baptizer. Bring it to me now on a plate.”

<sup>26</sup>King Herod\* was very sad. But he had promised to give the girl anything she wanted. And the people eating there with Herod heard his promise. So Herod did not want to refuse the thing she asked for. <sup>27</sup>So the king sent a soldier to cut off John’s head and bring it. So the soldier went and cut off John’s head in the prison. <sup>28</sup>Then the soldier brought John’s head back on a plate. He gave the head to the girl. Then the girl gave the head to her mother.

<sup>29</sup>John’s followers heard about what happened.

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

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

**put olive oil on** Olive oil was used like a medicine.

**Herod** Herod Antipas, tetrarch (ruler) of Galilee and Perea, son of Herod the Great.

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

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

**prophet** A person that spoke for God.

So they came and got John's body. They put it in a tomb\* (*grave*).

### Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People

(Mt. 14:13-21; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-14)

<sup>30</sup>The apostles\* [that Jesus sent out] came back to Jesus. They gathered around Jesus and told him about all the things they did and taught. <sup>31</sup>Jesus and his followers were in a very busy place. There were many, many people. Jesus and his followers did not even have time to eat. Jesus said to his followers, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest."

<sup>32</sup>So Jesus and his followers went away alone. They went in a boat to a place where there were no people. <sup>33</sup>But many people saw them leave. The people knew it was Jesus. So people from all the towns ran to the place where Jesus was going. The people were there before Jesus arrived. <sup>34</sup>When Jesus arrived there, he saw many people waiting. Jesus felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd [to care for them]. So Jesus taught the people many things.

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

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

The followers said to Jesus, "We can't buy enough bread to feed all these people! We would all have to work a month to earn enough money to buy that much bread!"

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

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

<sup>39</sup>Then Jesus said to the followers, "Tell all the people to sit in groups on the green grass."

<sup>40</sup>So all the people sat in groups. There were about 50 or 100 people in each group. <sup>41</sup>Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He looked

up to the sky and thanked God for the bread. Then Jesus divided the bread and gave it to his followers. Jesus told his followers to give the bread to the people. Then Jesus divided the two fish and gave the fish to the people. <sup>42</sup>All the people ate and were full. <sup>43</sup>After the people finished eating, the followers filled twelve baskets with the pieces of bread and fish that were not eaten. <sup>44</sup>There were about 5,000 men there that ate.

### Jesus Walks on the Water

(Mt. 14:22-33; Jn. 6:15-21)

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

<sup>47</sup>That night, the boat was still in the middle of the lake. Jesus was alone on the land.

<sup>48</sup>Jesus saw the boat far away on the lake. He saw the followers working hard to row the boat. The wind was blowing against them.

Sometime between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus went to the boat. Jesus was walking on the water. Jesus continued walking until he was almost past the boat. <sup>49</sup>But the followers saw Jesus walking on the water.

They thought he was a ghost. The followers shouted with fear. <sup>50</sup>All the followers saw Jesus and were very afraid. But Jesus spoke to the followers and said, "Don't worry! It's me! Don't be afraid."

<sup>51</sup>Then Jesus got into the boat with the followers. And the wind became calm. The followers were completely amazed.

<sup>52</sup>They still didn't understand [his power]. It was like the miracle he did with the bread.

They still didn't understand what that meant.

### Jesus Heals Many People

(Mt. 14:34-36)

<sup>53</sup>Jesus and his followers went across the lake. They came to shore at Gennesaret. They tied the boat there. <sup>54</sup>When they were out of the boat, the people saw Jesus. They knew who he was.

<sup>55</sup>The people ran [to tell other people] everywhere in that area [that Jesus was there]. The people brought sick people on beds to

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

apostles The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

every place Jesus went. <sup>56</sup>Jesus went into towns and cities and farms around that area. And every place Jesus went, the people brought sick people to the market places. They begged Jesus to let them touch any part of his coat. And all the people that touched him were healed.

**God’s Law and Rules that People Make**

*(Mt. 15:1–20)*

**7** Some Pharisees\* and some teachers of the law came from Jerusalem. They gathered around Jesus. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees and teachers of the law saw that some of Jesus’ followers ate food with hands that were not clean. (“Not clean” means that they did not wash their hands in the way the Pharisees said people must.) <sup>3</sup>The Pharisees and all the Jews never eat before washing their hands in this special way. They do this to follow the teaching given to them by their great people that lived before them. <sup>4</sup>And when the Jews buy something in the market, they never eat it until they wash it in a special way. They also follow other rules from their people that lived before them. They follow rules like the washing of cups, pitchers, and pots.\*

<sup>5</sup>The Pharisees\* and teachers of the law said to Jesus, “Your followers don’t follow the rules given to us by our great people that lived before us. Your followers eat their food with hands that are not clean. Why do they do this?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “You are all hypocrites.\* Isaiah was right when he spoke about you. Isaiah wrote,

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

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

<sup>8</sup>You have stopped following the commands of God. Now you follow the rules you got from other people.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them: “You think you are smart! You ignore the commands of God

so that you can follow your own teachings!

<sup>10</sup>Moses said, ‘You must honor (*respect*) your father and mother.’\* Then Moses also said, ‘Any person that says bad things to his father or mother must be killed.’\* <sup>11</sup>But 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.’ <sup>12</sup>You are telling that person that he does not have to do anything for his father or mother. <sup>13</sup>So you are teaching that it is not important to do what God said. You think that it is more important to follow those rules you teach people. And you do many things like that.”

<sup>14</sup>Jesus called the people to him again. He said, “Every person should listen to me and understand what I am saying. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing a person puts into his body that makes him wrong.\* A person is made wrong by the things that come from him.” <sup>16</sup>\*

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus left the people and went into the house. The followers asked Jesus about this story. <sup>18</sup>Jesus said, “You still have trouble understanding? Surely you know that nothing that enters a person from the outside can make him wrong. <sup>19</sup>Food does not go into a person’s mind. Food goes into the stomach. Then that food goes out of the body.” (When Jesus said this, he meant that there is no food that is wrong for people to eat.)

<sup>20</sup>And Jesus said, “The things that come from a person are the things that make that person wrong. <sup>21</sup>All these bad things begin inside a person, in the mind: bad thoughts, sexual sins, stealing, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery,\* greed, doing bad things to people, lying, doing things that are morally wrong, jealousy, saying bad things about people, proud boasting, and foolish living. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from inside a person. These things make a person wrong.\*”

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

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

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

Verse 16 Some Greek copies add verse 16: “You people that hear me, listen!”

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

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

**pots** Some Greek copies add “and couches.”

**hypocrites** Bad people that act like they are good.

### Jesus Helps a Non-Jewish Woman

(Mt. 15:21–28)

<sup>24</sup>Jesus left that place and went to the area around Tyre. Jesus went into a house there. Jesus did not want the people in that area to know he was there. But Jesus could not stay hidden. <sup>25</sup>A woman heard that Jesus was there. Her little daughter had an evil spirit [from the devil] inside her. So the woman came to Jesus and bowed down near his feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was not a Jew. She was Greek, born in Phoenicia, an area in Syria. The woman begged Jesus to force the demon\* out of her daughter.

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

<sup>28</sup>The woman answered, “That is true, Lord. But the dogs under the table can eat the pieces of food that the children don’t eat.”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told the woman, “That is a very good answer. You may go. The demon\* has left your daughter.”

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

### Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

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

<sup>33</sup>Jesus led the man away from the people to be alone with him. Jesus put his fingers in the man’s ears. Then Jesus spit and touched the man’s tongue. <sup>34</sup>Jesus looked up to the sky and made a breathing sound. Jesus said to the man, “*Ephphatha!*” (This means, “Open!”) <sup>35</sup>When Jesus did this, the man was able to hear. The man was able to use his tongue and spoke clearly.

<sup>36</sup>Jesus commanded the people not to tell any person about what happened. Jesus always commanded people not to tell other people about him. But this only caused the people to

tell about him more and more. <sup>37</sup>The people were really amazed. The people said, “Jesus does everything in a good way. Jesus makes deaf people able to hear. And people that can’t talk—Jesus makes them able to talk.”

### Jesus Feeds More than 4,000 People

(Mt. 15:32–39)

**8** Another time there were many people [with Jesus]. The people had nothing to eat. So Jesus called his followers to him. Jesus said, <sup>2</sup>“I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days. And now they have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>I should not send them home hungry. If they leave without eating, they will faint while going home. Some of these people live a long way from here.”

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

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

The followers answered, “We have seven loaves of bread.”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus told the people to sit on the ground. Then Jesus took the seven loaves and gave thanks to God. Jesus divided the bread and gave the pieces to his followers. Jesus told the followers to give the bread to the people. The followers obeyed him. <sup>7</sup>The followers also had a few small fish. Jesus gave thanks for the fish and told the followers to give the fish to the people.

<sup>8</sup>All the people ate and were full. Then the followers filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. <sup>9</sup>There were about 4,000 men that ate. After they ate, Jesus told them to go home. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus went in a boat with his followers to the area of Dalmanutha.

### The Pharisees Try to Test Jesus

(Mt. 16:1–4)

<sup>11</sup>The Pharisees\* came to Jesus and asked him questions. They wanted to test Jesus. So they asked Jesus to do a miracle\* to show that he was from God. <sup>12</sup>Jesus made a sad sound like he was troubled. He said, “Why do you

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

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

**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.

people ask to see a miracle as proof? I tell you the truth. No proof like that will be given to you.” <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus left the Pharisees. Jesus went in the boat to the other side of the lake.

**Jesus’ Followers Misunderstand Him**

*(Mt. 16:5–12)*

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

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

<sup>17</sup>Jesus knew that the followers were talking about this. So Jesus asked them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? You still don’t see or understand? Are you not able to understand? <sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes that can’t see? Do you have ears that can’t hear? Remember what I did before, when we did not have enough bread? <sup>19</sup>I divided five loaves of bread for 5,000 people. Remember how many baskets you filled with pieces of food that were not eaten?”

The followers answered, “We filled twelve baskets.”

<sup>20</sup>“And remember that I divided seven loaves of bread for 4,000 people. Remember how many baskets you filled with pieces of food that were not eaten?”

The followers answered, “We filled seven baskets.”

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

**Jesus Heals a Blind Man In Bethsaida**

<sup>22</sup>Jesus and his followers came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus. They begged Jesus to touch the man. <sup>23</sup>So Jesus held the blind man’s hand and led him out of the village. Then Jesus spit on the man’s

eyes. Jesus put his hands on the blind man and asked him, “Can you see now?”

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

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

**Peter Says that Jesus Is the Christ**

*(Mt. 16:13–20; Lk. 9:18–21)*

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

<sup>28</sup>The followers answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Other people say you are Elijah.\* And other people say that you are one of the prophets.\*”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.\*”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus told the followers, “Don’t tell any person who I am.”

**Jesus Says He Must Die**

*(Mt. 16:21–28; Lk. 9:22–27)*

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus began to teach his followers that the Son of Man\* must suffer many things. Jesus taught that the Son of Man would not be accepted by the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law. Jesus taught that the Son of Man must be killed and then rise from death after three days. <sup>32</sup>Jesus told them everything that would happen. He did not keep anything secret. Peter spoke to Jesus alone. Peter criticized Jesus for saying [those things]. <sup>33</sup>But Jesus turned and looked at his followers. Then he criticized Peter. Jesus said to Peter, “Go away from me, Satan\*! You don’t care about the things of

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

**prophets** People that spoke for God.

**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.

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

**yeast** Used here as a symbol of bad influence.

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

**Herod** Herod Antipas, tetrarch (ruler) of Galilee and Perea, son of Herod the Great.

God. You care only about things that people think are important.”

<sup>34</sup>Then Jesus called the people to him. His followers were also there. Then Jesus said, “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. <sup>35</sup>The person that wants to save his life will lose it. And every person that gives his life for me and for the Good News\* will save his life forever. <sup>36</sup>It is worth nothing for a person to have the whole world, if he loses his soul [in hell]. <sup>37</sup>A person could never pay enough to buy back his soul. <sup>38</sup>The people that live now are living in a sinful and evil time. If any person is ashamed of me and my teaching, then I\* will be ashamed of that person. I will be ashamed of that person at the time I come with the glory of my Father and the holy angels.”

**9** Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Some of you people standing here will see the kingdom of God come before you die. The kingdom of God will come with power.”

### Jesus with Moses and Elijah

(Mt. 17:1–13; Lk. 9:28–36)

<sup>2</sup>Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched him, Jesus was changed. <sup>3</sup>Jesus’ clothes became shining white. The clothes were whiter than any person could make them. <sup>4</sup>Then two men were there, talking with Jesus. The men were Elijah and Moses.\*

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

<sup>7</sup>Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud and said, “This (*Jesus*) is my Son and I love him. Obey him!”

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, James, and John looked, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

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

**I** Literally, “the Son of Man.”

**Elijah and Moses** Two important Jewish leaders during the time of the Old Testament.

<sup>9</sup>Jesus and the followers were walking back down the mountain. Jesus commanded the followers, “Don’t tell any person about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait until after the Son of Man\* rises from death. Then you can tell people what you saw.”

<sup>10</sup>So the followers obeyed Jesus and said nothing about what they saw. But they discussed what Jesus meant about rising from death. <sup>11</sup>The followers asked Jesus, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah\* must come\* first?”

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, “They are right to say that Elijah\* must come first. Elijah makes all things the way they should be. But why does the Scripture\* say that the Son of Man\* will suffer much and that people will think he is worth nothing? <sup>13</sup>I tell you that Elijah has already come. And people did to him all the [bad] things they wanted to do. The Scriptures said this would happen to him.”

### Jesus Heals a Sick Boy

(Mt. 17:14–20; Lk. 9:37–43a)

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

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

<sup>17</sup>A man answered, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. My son has a spirit [from the devil] inside him. This spirit stops my son from talking. <sup>18</sup>The spirit attacks my son and throws him on the ground. My son foams from his mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes very stiff. I asked your followers to force the evil spirit out, but they could not.”

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

**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.

**Elijah must come** See Mal. 4:5–6.

**Scripture** Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

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

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

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

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to the father, “You said, ‘Help him if you can.’ All things are possible for the person that believes.”

<sup>24</sup>The father became very excited. He said, “I do believe. Help me to believe more!”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus saw that all the people were running there to see what was happening. So Jesus spoke to the evil spirit. Jesus said, “You evil spirit that makes this boy deaf and stops him from talking—I command you to come out of this boy and never enter him again!”

<sup>26</sup>The [evil] spirit screamed. The spirit caused the boy to fall on the ground again, and then the spirit came out. The boy looked like he was dead. Many people said, “He is dead!”

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus held the boy’s hand and helped him stand.

<sup>28</sup>Jesus went into the house. His followers were alone with him there. They said, “We could not force that evil spirit out. Why?”

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

### Jesus Talks About His Death

(Mt. 17:22–23; Lk. 9:43b–45)

<sup>30</sup>Then Jesus and his followers left that place. They went through Galilee. Jesus did not want the people to know where they were. <sup>31</sup>Jesus wanted to teach his followers alone. Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man\* will be given to people that will kill him. After three days, he will rise from death.” <sup>32</sup>But the followers did not understand what Jesus meant. And they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

**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.

### Jesus Tells Who Is the Greatest

(Mt. 18:1–5; Lk. 9:46–48)

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

<sup>35</sup>Jesus sat down and called the twelve apostles\* to him. Jesus said, “If any person wants to be the most important, then he must make all other people more important than himself. That person must serve all other people.”

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus took a small child. Jesus stood the child before the followers. Jesus held the child in his arms and said, <sup>37</sup>“If a person accepts children like these in my name, then that person is also accepting me. And if a person accepts me, then that person is also accepting the One (God) that sent me.”

### Any Person Not Against Us Is for Us

(Lk. 9:49–50)

<sup>38</sup>Then John said, “Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons\* out of a person. He is not one of us. So we told him to stop, because he does not belong to our group.”

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Don’t stop him. Any person that uses my name to do powerful things will not soon say bad things about me. <sup>40</sup>The person that is not against us is with us. <sup>41</sup>I tell you the truth. If a person helps you by giving you a drink of water because you belong to the Christ,\* then that person will truly get his reward.

### Jesus Warns About Causes of Sin

(Mt. 18:6–9; Lk. 17:1–2)

<sup>42</sup>“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 sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand makes you

**Capernaum** A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

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

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

**millstone** A large, round stone used for grinding grain.

sin, cut it off. 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 go to hell. In that place the fire never stops. <sup>44\*</sup> <sup>45</sup>If your foot makes you sin, cut it off. It is better for you to lose part of your body but have life forever. That is much better than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>46\*</sup> <sup>47</sup>If your eye makes you sin, take it out. It is better for you to have only one eye but have life forever. That is much better than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. <sup>48</sup>The worms that eat the people in hell never die. In hell the fire is never stopped. <sup>49</sup>Every person will be punished\* with fire.

<sup>50</sup>“Salt is good. But if the salt loses its salty taste, then you can’t make it salty again. So, be full of goodness. And have peace with each other.”

### Jesus Teaches About Divorce

(Mt. 19:1–12)

**10** Then Jesus left that place. He went into the area of Judea and across the Jordan River. Again, many people came to him. And Jesus taught the people like he always did.

<sup>2</sup>Some 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?”

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

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

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

become one.’\* So the people are not two, but one. <sup>9</sup>God has joined those two people together. So no person should separate them.”

<sup>10</sup>Later, the followers and Jesus were in the house. The followers asked Jesus again about the question of divorce. <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered, “Any person that divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of sin against his wife. He is guilty of the sin of adultery.\* <sup>12</sup>And the woman that divorces her husband and marries another man is also guilty of adultery.”

### Jesus Accepts Children

(Mt. 19:13–15; Lk. 18:15–17)

<sup>13</sup>People brought their small children to Jesus, so that Jesus could touch them. But the followers told the people to stop bringing their children to Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Jesus saw what happened. He did not like his followers telling the children not to come. Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people that are like these little children. <sup>15</sup>I tell you the truth. You must accept the kingdom of God like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>Then Jesus held the children in his arms. Jesus put his hands on them and blessed them.

### A Rich Man Refuses to Follow Jesus

(Mt. 19:16–30; Lk. 18:18–30)

<sup>17</sup>Jesus started to leave, but a man ran to him and bowed on his knees before Jesus. The man asked, “Good teacher, what must I do to get the life that never ends?”

<sup>18</sup>Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? No person is good. Only God is good. <sup>19</sup>But I will answer your question. You know the commands: ‘You must not murder anyone, you must not do the sin of adultery,\* you must not steal, you must not lie, you must not cheat, you must honor (*respect*) your father and mother....’\*”

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

**Verse 44** Some Greek copies of Mark add verse 44, which is the same as verse 48.

**Verse 46** Some Greek copies of Mark add verse 46, which is the same as verse 48.

**punished** Literally, “salted.”

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

**Moses ... certificate of divorce** See Deut. 24.1

**‘he made ... female’** Quote from Gen. 1:27.

**‘That is why ... one’** Quote from Gen. 2:24.

**adultery** Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

**‘You must not ... mother’** Quote from Ex. 20:12–16; Deut. 5:16–20.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at the man. Jesus felt love for him. Jesus said, “There is still one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to the poor people. You will have a reward in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

<sup>22</sup>The man was very sorry to hear Jesus say this, and he left. The man was sad because he was very rich and wanted to keep his money.

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

<sup>24</sup>The followers were amazed at what Jesus said. But Jesus said again, “My children, it is very hard to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>And it will be very hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God! It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle!”

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

<sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at the followers and said, “This is something that people cannot do themselves. It must come from God. God can do all things.”

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

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Every person that has left his home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farm for me and for the Good News\* <sup>30</sup>will get a hundred times more than he left. Here in this world that person will get more homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms. And with those things, that person will have persecutions.\* But he will also have a reward in the world that is coming. That reward is life forever. <sup>31</sup>Many people that have the highest place now will have the lowest place in the future. And the people that have the lowest place now will have the highest place in the future.”

### Jesus Talks Again About His Death

(Mt. 20:17–19; Lk. 18:31–34)

<sup>32</sup>Jesus and the people with him were going to Jerusalem. Jesus was leading the people. Jesus’ followers were amazed. But those people that followed behind them were afraid.

**Good News** The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.  
**persecution(s)** Being hurt or bothered by Christ’s enemies.

Jesus gathered the twelve apostles\* again and talked with them alone. Jesus told them what would happen in Jerusalem. <sup>33</sup>Jesus said, “We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man\* will be given to the leading priests and teachers of the law. The priests and the teachers of the law will say that the Son of Man must die. They will give the Son of Man to the non-Jewish people. <sup>34</sup>Those people will laugh at him and spit on him. They will beat him with whips and kill him. But on the third day after his death, he will rise to life again.”

### James and John Ask a Favor

(Mt. 20:20–28)

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

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

<sup>37</sup>The sons answered, “You will have glory in your kingdom. Let one of us sit at your right, and let one of us sit at your left.”

<sup>38</sup>Jesus said, “You don’t understand what you are asking. Can you accept the kind of suffering that I must have\*? Can you be baptized with the same kind of baptism\* that I must have?”

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

Jesus said to the sons, “You will suffer the same things that I will suffer. And you will be baptized with the same baptism that I must have. <sup>40</sup>But I cannot choose the person that will sit at my right or my left. There are some people that will have those places. Those places are prepared for them.”

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

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

**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 the kind of suffering that I must have** Literally, “drink the cup that I must drink.”

**baptized with the same kind of baptism** Has a special meaning here—being “baptized” or “buried” in troubles.

with you. If one of you wants to become great, then he must serve you like a servant. <sup>44</sup>If one of you wants to become the most important, then he must serve all of you like a slave. <sup>45</sup>In the same way, the Son of Man\* did not come for other people to serve him. But the Son of Man came to serve other people. The Son of Man came to give his life to save many people.”

### Jesus Heals a Blind Man

(Mt. 20:29–34; Lk. 18:35–43)

<sup>46</sup>Then they came to the town of Jericho. Jesus was leaving that town with his followers and many other people. A blind man named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. This man was always begging for money. <sup>47</sup>The blind man heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David,\* please help me!”

<sup>48</sup>Many people criticized the blind man. They told him not to speak. But the blind man shouted more and more, “Son of David,\* please help me!”

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

So they called the blind man. They said, “Be happy! Stand up! Jesus is calling you.”

<sup>50</sup>The blind man stood quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

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

The blind man answered, “Teacher, I want to see again.”

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

### Jesus Enters Jerusalem like a King

(Mt. 21:1–11; Lk. 19:28–40; Jn. 12:12–19)

**11** Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. They came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives.\* There Jesus sent two of his followers to do something. <sup>2</sup>Jesus said to the

followers, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a young donkey tied there. No person has ever ridden this donkey. Untie the donkey and bring it here to me. <sup>3</sup>If any person asks you why you are taking the donkey, tell that person, ‘The Master needs this donkey. He will send it back soon.’”

<sup>4</sup>The followers went into the town. They found a young donkey tied in the street near the door of a house. The followers untied the donkey. <sup>5</sup>Some people were standing there and saw this. The people asked, “What are you doing? Why are you untying that donkey?” <sup>6</sup>The followers answered the way Jesus told them to answer. The people let the followers take the donkey. <sup>7</sup>The followers brought the donkey to Jesus. The followers put their coats on the donkey, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their coats on the road for Jesus. Other people cut branches in the fields and spread the branches on the road. <sup>9</sup>Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Other people were walking behind him. All the people shouted,

“‘Praise\* Him!’

‘Welcome! God bless the One that comes in the name of the Lord!’

*Psalm 118:25–26*

<sup>10</sup> God bless the kingdom of our father David.\*  
That kingdom is coming!  
Praise\* to God in heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus went into Jerusalem and went to the temple.\* Jesus looked at everything in the temple area. But it was already late. So Jesus went to Bethany with the twelve apostles.\*

### Jesus Says a Fig Tree will Die

(Mt. 21:18–19)

<sup>12</sup>The next day, Jesus was leaving Bethany. He was hungry. <sup>13</sup>Jesus saw a fig tree with leaves. So Jesus went to the tree to see if it had any figs growing on it. But Jesus found no figs on the tree. There were only leaves. It was not

**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.

**Son of David** Name for the Christ, who was from the family of David, king of Israel.

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

**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.

**David** King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

the right time for figs to grow. <sup>14</sup>So Jesus said to the tree, “People will never eat fruit from you again.” Jesus’ followers heard him say this.

**Jesus Goes to the Temple**

*(Mt. 21:12–17; Lk. 19:45–48; Jn. 2:13–22)*

<sup>15</sup>Jesus went to Jerusalem. He went into the temple\* area. Jesus began to throw out the people that were buying and selling things there. Jesus turned over the tables that belonged to the people that were exchanging different kinds of money. And Jesus turned over the benches of those people that were selling doves. <sup>16</sup>Jesus refused to allow any person to carry things through the temple area. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus taught the people. He said, “It is written in the Scriptures, \* ‘My house will be called a house for prayer for all people.’\* But you are changing God’s house into a ‘hiding place for thieves.’\*”

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

**Jesus Shows the Power of Faith**

*(Mt. 21:20–22)*

<sup>20</sup>The next morning, Jesus was walking with his followers. They saw the fig tree [that Jesus spoke to the day before]. The fig tree was dry and dead, even the roots. <sup>21</sup>Peter remembered the tree and said to Jesus, “Teacher, look! Yesterday, you told that fig tree to die. Now it is dry and dead!”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup>I tell you the truth. You can say to this mountain, ‘Go, mountain, fall into the sea.’ And if you have no doubts in your mind and believe that the thing you say will happen, then God will do it for you. <sup>24</sup>So I tell you to ask for things in prayer. And if you believe that you have received those things, then they will be yours. <sup>25</sup>When you are praying, and you remember that you are angry with another

person about something, then forgive that person. Forgive them so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins.” <sup>26</sup>\*

**Jewish Leaders Doubt Jesus’ Authority**

*(Mt. 21:23–27; Lk. 20:1–8)*

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

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

<sup>31</sup>These 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?’ <sup>32</sup>But we can’t say that John’s baptism was from someone else.” (These leaders were afraid of the people, because the people believed that John was a prophet.\*)

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

Jesus said, “Then I will not tell you what authority I use to do these things.”

**God Sends His Son**

*(Mt. 21:33–46; Lk. 20:9–19)*

**12** Jesus used stories to teach the people. Jesus said, “A man planted 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. <sup>2</sup>Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the man sent a servant to the farmers to get his share of the grapes. <sup>3</sup>But the

**Verse 26** Some early Greek copies add verse 26: “But if you don’t forgive other people, then your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.”

**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.

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

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**‘My house ... people’** Quote from Isa. 56:7.

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

farmers grabbed the servant and beat him. They sent the servant away with nothing. <sup>4</sup>Then the man sent another servant to the farmers. The farmers hit this servant on the head. They showed no respect for him. <sup>5</sup>So the man sent another servant. The farmers killed this servant. The man sent many other servants to the farmers. The farmers beat some of the servants and killed the others.

<sup>6</sup>“The man had one person left to send to the farmers. This person was his son. The man loved his son. But he decided to send the son to the farmers. The son was the last person he could send. The man said, ‘The farmers will respect my son.’

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

<sup>9</sup>“So what will the man that owns the vineyard do? He will go to the vineyard and kill those farmers. Then he will lease the land to other farmers. <sup>10</sup>Surely you have read this Scripture\*:

‘The stone that the builders did not want became the cornerstone.\*

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

*Psalm 118:22–23*

<sup>12</sup>These Jewish leaders heard this story that Jesus told. They knew that this story was about them. So they wanted to find a way to arrest Jesus. But they were afraid of the people. So the Jewish leaders left Jesus and went away.

### The Jewish Leaders Try to Trick Jesus

*(Mt. 22:15–22; Lk. 20:20–26)*

<sup>13</sup>Later, the Jewish leaders sent some Pharisees\* and some men from the group called Herodians\* to Jesus. They wanted to catch Jesus saying something wrong. <sup>14</sup>The Pharisees and Herodians went to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we know that you are an

honest man. You are not afraid of what other people think about you. All men are the same to you. And you teach the truth about God’s way. Tell us: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar\*? Yes or no? Should we pay taxes, or should we not pay taxes?”

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

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar\* the things that are Caesar’s. And give to God the things that are God’s.” The men were amazed at what Jesus said.

### Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus

*(Mt. 22:23–33; Lk. 20:27–40)*

<sup>18</sup>Then some Sadducees\* came to Jesus. (Sadducees believe that no person will rise from death.) The Sadducees asked Jesus a question. <sup>19</sup>They said, “Teacher, Moses wrote 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.\* <sup>20</sup>There were seven brothers. The first brother married but died. He had no children. <sup>21</sup>So the second brother married the woman. But he also died and had no children. The same thing happened with the third brother. <sup>22</sup>All seven brothers married the woman and died. None of the brothers had any children with the woman. The woman was last to die. <sup>23</sup>But all seven brothers had married her. So at the time when people rise from death, whose wife will the woman be?”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus answered, “Why did you make this mistake? Is it because you don’t know what the Scriptures\* say? Or because you don’t know about God’s power? <sup>25</sup>When people rise from death, there will be no marriage. People

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

**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. 25:5–6.

**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**Scripture** Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**cornerstone** The first and most important rock of a building.

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

**Herodians** A Jewish political group.

will not be married to each other. All people will be like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup>Surely you have read what God said about people rising from death. In the book where Moses wrote about the burning bush,\* it says that God told Moses this: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.\*' <sup>27</sup>If God said he is their God, then these men are not really dead. He is the God only of living people. You Sadducees\* are wrong!"

**Which Command Is Most Important?**

(Mt. 22:34-40; Lk. 10:25-28)

<sup>28</sup>One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees\* and the Pharisees.\* He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked Jesus, "Which of the commands is most important?"

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

<sup>32</sup>The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You were right when you said these things. God is the only Lord, and there is no other God. <sup>33</sup>And a person must love God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his strength. And a person must love other people the same as he loves himself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God."

<sup>34</sup>Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So Jesus said to the man, "You are close to the kingdom of God." And after that

**burning bush** Read Ex. 3:1-12.

**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.

**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.

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

**'People ... strength'** Quote from Deut. 6:4-5.

**'You must ... yourself'** Quote from Lev. 19:18.

time, no person was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

**Is the Christ David's Son or David's Lord?**

(Mt. 22:41-46; Lk. 20:41-44)

<sup>35</sup>Jesus was teaching in the temple\* area. Jesus asked, "Why do the teachers of the law say that the Christ\* is the son of David\*? <sup>36</sup>With the help of the Holy Spirit,\* David himself says:

*'The Lord (God) said to my Lord (Christ):*

*Sit by me at my right side,*

*and I will put your enemies under*

*your control.\*' Psalm 110:1*

<sup>37</sup>David himself calls the Christ 'Lord.' So how can the Christ be David's son?" Many people listened to Jesus and were very pleased.

**Jesus Criticizes the Teachers of the Law**

(Mt. 23:1-36; Lk. 20:45-47)

<sup>38</sup>Jesus continued teaching. Jesus said, "Be careful of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around wearing clothes that look important. And they love for people to show respect to them in the market places. <sup>39</sup>They love to get the most important seats in the synagogues.\* And they love to get the most important seats at the feasts. <sup>40</sup>They are mean to widows\* and steal their homes. Then they try to make themselves look good by saying long prayers. God will punish them very much."

**A Widow Shows the Meaning of Giving**

(Lk. 21:1-4)

<sup>41</sup>Jesus sat near the temple money box\* where people put their gifts. He watched the people put money in the box. Many rich people gave much money. <sup>42</sup>Then a poor widow\*

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

**Christ** The "anointed one" (Messiah) or chosen one of God.

**David** King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

**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."

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

**widow(s)** A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

**money box** A special box in the Jewish place for worship where people put their gifts to God.

came and gave two very small copper coins. These coins were not even worth a penny.

<sup>43</sup>Jesus called his followers to him. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. This poor widow gave only two small coins. But she really gave more than all the rich people. <sup>44</sup>Those people have plenty; they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor. But she gave all she had. And she needed that money to help her live.”

### Future Destruction of the Temple

(Mt. 24:1–44; Lk. 21:5–33)

**13** Jesus was leaving the temple\* area. One of his followers said to him, “Look, Teacher! This temple has very beautiful buildings with very big stones.”

<sup>2</sup>Jesus said, “Are you looking at these great buildings? They will all be destroyed. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground. Not one stone will be left on another.”

<sup>3</sup>Later, Jesus was sitting at a place on the Mount of Olives.\* He was alone with Peter, James, John, and Andrew. They could all see the temple. Those followers asked Jesus, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will show us it is time for these things to happen?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus said to the followers: “Be careful! Don’t let any person fool you. <sup>6</sup>Many people will come and use my name. They will say, ‘I am the One.’ And they will fool many people. <sup>7</sup>You will hear about wars that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other wars beginning. But don’t be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. <sup>8</sup>Nations will fight against other nations. 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. These things are like the first pains when something new is born.

<sup>9</sup>“You must be careful. People will arrest you and take you to be judged. They will beat you in their synagogues.\* You will be forced to stand before kings and governors. You will tell them about me. This will happen to you

because you follow me. <sup>10</sup>Before these things happen, the Good News\* must be told to all people. <sup>11</sup>You will be arrested and judged. But don’t worry about what you should say. Say the things God gives you to say at that time. It will not really be you speaking. It will be the Holy Spirit\* speaking.

<sup>12</sup>“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 find ways for their parents to be killed. <sup>13</sup>All people will hate you because you follow me. But the person that continues strong until the end will be saved.

<sup>14</sup>“You will see ‘the terrible thing that causes destruction.’\* You will see this thing standing in the place where it should not be.” (You that read this should understand what it means.) “At that time, the people in Judea should run away to the mountains. <sup>15</sup>People should run away without wasting time to stop for anything. If a person is on the roof of his house, he must not go down to take things out of his house. <sup>16</sup>If a person is in the field, he must not go back to get his coat. <sup>17</sup>At that time, it will be bad for women that are pregnant or have small babies. <sup>18</sup>Pray that these things will not happen in winter. <sup>19</sup>Why? Because those days will be full of much trouble. There will be more trouble than has ever happened since the beginning, when God made the world. And nothing as bad as that will ever happen again. <sup>20</sup>But God has decided to make that terrible time short. If that time were not made short, then no person could continue living. But God will make that time short to help his special people that he has chosen. <sup>21</sup>At 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 them. <sup>22</sup>False Christs and

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

**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.

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

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

**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.

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

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. <sup>23</sup>So be careful. Now I have warned you about all this before it happens.

<sup>24</sup>“During the days after this trouble happens,

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

<sup>25</sup> The stars will fall from the sky,  
and everything in the sky will  
be changed.’ *Isaiah 13:10; 34:4*

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

<sup>28</sup>“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. <sup>29</sup>It is the same with these things that I told you would happen. When you see all these things happening, then you will know that the time\* is near, ready to come. <sup>30</sup>I tell you the truth. All these things will happen while people of this time are still living. <sup>31</sup>The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed. But the words I have said will never be destroyed.

<sup>32</sup>“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. <sup>33</sup>Be careful! Always be ready! You don’t know when that time will be. <sup>34</sup>This is like a man that goes on a trip and leaves his house. The man lets his servants take care of the house. He gives each servant a special job to do. One servant has the work of guarding the door. The man tells this servant to always be ready. This is the same as I am now telling you. <sup>35</sup>So you must always be ready. You don’t know when the owner of the house will come

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

**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.

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

back. He might come in the afternoon, or at midnight, or in the early morning, or when the sun rises. <sup>36</sup>The owner might come back quickly. If you are always ready, then he will not find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>I tell you this, and I say this to every person: ‘Be ready!’”

### The Jewish Leaders Plan to Kill Jesus

(Mt. 26:1–5; Lk. 22:1–2; Jn. 11:45–53)

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

### A Woman Does Something Special

(Mt. 26:6–13; Jn. 12:1–8)

<sup>3</sup>Jesus was in Bethany. He was eating in the house of Simon the leper.\* While Jesus was there a woman came to him. The woman had an alabaster\* jar filled with very expensive perfume. This perfume was made of pure nard.\* The woman opened the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head.

<sup>4</sup>Some of the followers there saw this. They became upset and complained to each other. They said, “Why waste that perfume? <sup>5</sup>That perfume was worth a full year’s work. It could be sold and the money could be given to poor people.” And they criticized the woman strongly.

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said, “Don’t bother the woman. Why are you troubling her? She did a very good thing for me. <sup>7</sup>You will always have poor people with you. You can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>This woman did the only thing she could do for me. She poured perfume on my body. She did this before I die to prepare me for burial. <sup>9</sup>I tell you the truth.

**Passover** An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

**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.

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

**alabaster** A beautiful kind of stone that can be carved.

**nard** Very expensive oil from the root of the nard plant.

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. The thing she has done will be told and people will remember her.”

### Judas Agrees to Help Jesus' Enemies

(Mt. 26:14–16; Lk. 22:3–6)

<sup>10</sup>Then one of the twelve apostles\* went to talk to the leading priests. This was the follower named Judas Iscariot. Judas wanted to give Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>The leading priests were very happy about this. They promised to pay Judas for doing this. So Judas waited for the best time to give Jesus to them.

### The Passover Meal

(Mt. 26:17–25; Lk. 22:7–14, 21–23; Jn. 13:21–30)

<sup>12</sup>It was now the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread.\* This was the day when the Jews killed the lambs for the Passover.\* Jesus' followers came to him. They said, “We will go and prepare everything for you to eat the Passover meal. Where do you want us to have the meal?”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus sent two of his followers into the city. Jesus said to them, “Go into the city. You will see a man carrying a jar of water. The man will come to you. Follow that man. <sup>14</sup>That man will walk into a house. Tell the person who owns the house, ‘The Teacher asks that you show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover\* meal.’ <sup>15</sup>The owner will show you a large room upstairs. This room is ready for you. Prepare the food for us there.”

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

<sup>17</sup>In the evening, Jesus went to that house with the twelve apostles.\* <sup>18</sup>While they were all at the table eating, Jesus said, “I tell you the

truth. One of you will be against me—one of you eating with me now.”

<sup>19</sup>The followers were very sad to hear this. Each follower said to Jesus, “Surely I will not be against you!”

<sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, “The man who is against me is one of you twelve. He is the one who dips his bread into the same bowl with me.

<sup>21</sup>The Son of Man\* will go [and die]. The Scriptures\* say this will happen. But it will be very bad for the person who gives the Son of Man [to be killed]. It would be better for that person if he were never born.”

### The Lord's Supper

(Mt. 26:26–30; Lk. 22:15–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25)

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. Jesus thanked God for the bread and divided it. He gave the bread to his followers. Jesus said, “Take this bread [and eat it]. This bread is my body.”

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He thanked God for it and gave it to the followers. All the followers drank from the cup.

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said, “This wine is my blood. My blood (*death*) begins the new agreement [from God to his people]. This blood is given for many people. <sup>25</sup>I tell you the truth. I will not drink this wine again until that day when I drink it in the kingdom of God and the wine is new.”

<sup>26</sup>All the followers sang a song. Then they went out to the Mount of Olives.\*

### Jesus' Followers Will All Leave Him

(Mt. 26:31–35; Lk. 22:31–34; Jn. 13:36–38)

<sup>27</sup>Then Jesus told the followers, “You will all lose your faith. It is written [in the Scriptures\*]:

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

*Zechariah 13:7*

<sup>28</sup>But [after I die], I will rise from death. Then I will go to Galilee. I will be there before you go there.”

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

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

**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.

**Passover** An important Jewish holy day. The Jews 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.

**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

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

<sup>29</sup>Peter said, “All the other followers may lose their faith. But I will never lose my faith.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus 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 twice.”

<sup>31</sup>But Peter answered strongly, “I will never say I don’t know you! I will even die with you!” And all the other followers said the same thing.

### Jesus Prays Alone

(Mt. 26:36–46; Lk. 22:39–46)

<sup>32</sup>Jesus and his followers went to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus said to the followers, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup>Jesus told Peter, James, and John to come with him. Then Jesus began to be very troubled and full of sorrow. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to Peter, James, and John, “My soul is full of sorrow. My heart is breaking with sadness. Wait here and stay awake.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus walked a little more away from them. Then Jesus fell to the ground and prayed. Jesus prayed that, if possible, he would not have this time of suffering. <sup>36</sup>Jesus prayed, “*Abba*,\* Father! You can do all things. Let me not have this cup\* of suffering. But do what you want, not what I want.”

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

<sup>39</sup>Again Jesus went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>Then Jesus went back to the followers. Again Jesus found them sleeping. Their eyes were very tired. The followers did not know what they should say to Jesus.

<sup>41</sup>After Jesus prayed a third time, he went back to his followers. Jesus said to them, “You are still sleeping and resting? That’s enough! The time has come for the Son of Man\* to be given to sinful people. <sup>42</sup>Stand up!

We must go. Here comes the man who is giving me to those people.”

### Jesus Is Arrested

(Mt. 26:47–56; Lk. 22:47–53; Jn. 18:3–12)

<sup>43</sup>While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came there. He was one of the twelve apostles.\* Judas had many people with him. These people were sent from the leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the older Jewish leaders. These people with Judas had swords and clubs.

<sup>44</sup>Judas\* planned to do something to show the people which man was Jesus. Judas said, “The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest him and guard him while you lead him away.” <sup>45</sup>So Judas went to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” Then Judas kissed Jesus. <sup>46</sup>Then the men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>One of the followers standing near 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.

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said, “You came to get me with swords and clubs like I am a criminal. <sup>49</sup>Every day I was with you teaching in the temple\* area. You did not arrest me there. But all these things have happened so that it will be like the Scriptures\* said.” <sup>50</sup>Then all of Jesus’ followers left him and ran away.

<sup>51</sup>There was a young man following Jesus. He was wearing only a linen cloth. The people also grabbed this man. <sup>52</sup>The cloth he was wearing came off, and he ran away wearing nothing.

### Jesus Before the Jewish Leaders

(Mt. 26:57–68; Lk. 22:54–55, 63–71; Jn. 18:13–14, 19–24)

<sup>53</sup>The people who arrested Jesus led him to the house of the high priest.\* All the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, and the teachers of the law were gathered there. <sup>54</sup>Peter followed Jesus, but he did not come near Jesus. Peter followed Jesus to the yard of the high priest’s house. Peter went into the

**Abba** An Aramaic word. Jewish children called their fathers “*Abba*.”

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

**apostles** The men Jesus chose to be his special helpers.

**Judas** Literally, “the one who betrayed him.”

**high priest** The most important Jewish priest and leader.

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

yard. Peter was sitting there with the guards. He was warming himself by their fire.

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

<sup>57</sup>Then some people stood and said something false against Jesus. They said, <sup>58</sup>“We heard this man (*Jesus*) say, ‘I will destroy this temple\* that men made. And three days later, I will build another temple—a temple not made by men.’” <sup>59</sup>But also the things these people said did not agree.

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest\* stood before all the people and said to Jesus, “These people said things against you. Do you have something to say about these charges against you? Are these people telling the truth?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus said nothing. He did not answer.

The high priest\* asked Jesus another question: “Are you the Christ,\* the Son of the blessed [God,]?”

<sup>62</sup>Jesus answered, “Yes, I am the Son of God. And in the future you will see the Son of Man\* sitting at the right side of the Great One (*God*). And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>63</sup>When the high priest\* heard this, he was very angry. He tore his clothes and said, “We don’t need any more witnesses! <sup>64</sup>You all heard him say these things against God. What do you think?”

All the people said that Jesus was wrong. They said he was guilty and must be killed. <sup>65</sup>Some of the people there spit at Jesus. They covered Jesus’ eyes and hit him with their fists. They said, “Be a prophet\* and tell us who hit you!” Then the guards led Jesus away and beat him.

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

**high priest** The most important Jewish priest and leader.

**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** Prophets could tell things that most people could not know.

### Peter Is Afraid to Say He Knows Jesus

(Mt. 26:69–75; Lk. 22:56–62; Jn. 18:15–18, 25–27)

<sup>66</sup>At that time, Peter was still in the yard. A servant girl of the high priest\* came to Peter.

<sup>67</sup>The girl saw Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked closely at Peter.

Then the girl said, “You were with Jesus, that man from Nazareth.”

<sup>68</sup>But Peter said that he was never with Jesus. He said, “I don’t know or understand what you are talking about.” Then Peter left and went to the entrance of the yard.\*

<sup>69</sup>The servant girl saw Peter there. Again the girl said to the people who were standing there, “This man is one of those people [that followed Jesus,].” <sup>70</sup>Again Peter said that it was not true.

A short time later, some people were standing near Peter. The people said, “We know you are one of those people [that followed Jesus,]. You are from Galilee, [the same as Jesus,].”

<sup>71</sup>Then Peter began to curse. He said strongly, “I promise to God that I don’t know this man you are talking about!”

<sup>72</sup>After Peter said this, the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus told him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don’t know me.” Then Peter was very sad and began to cry.

### Governor Pilate Questions Jesus

(Mt. 27:1–2, 11–14; Lk. 23:1–5; Jn. 18:28–38)

**15** Very early in the morning, the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, the teachers of the law, and all the Jewish council decided what to do with Jesus. They tied Jesus and led him to Pilate, [the governor,]. They gave Jesus to Pilate.

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

Jesus answered, “Yes, that is right.”

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

**Verse 68** Many Greek copies add: “and the rooster crowed.”

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus still did not answer. Pilate was very surprised at this.

**Pilate Tries but Fails to Free Jesus**

*(Mt. 27:15–31; Lk. 23:13–25; Jn. 18:39–19.16)*

<sup>6</sup>Every year at the Passover\* time the governor would free one person from the prison. He would free any person the people wanted him to free. <sup>7</sup>At that time, there was a man named Barabbas in prison. He was in prison with the rebels. These rebels were guilty of murder during a riot. <sup>8</sup>The people came to Pilate and asked him to free a prisoner like he always did.

<sup>9</sup>Pilate asked the people, “Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup>Pilate knew that the leading priests had given Jesus to him because they were jealous of Jesus. <sup>11</sup>But the leading priests persuaded the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas, not Jesus.

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

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup>Pilate wanted to please the people. So Pilate freed Barabbas for them. And Pilate told the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

<sup>16</sup>Pilate’s soldiers brought Jesus into the governor’s palace (called the Praetorium). They called all the other soldiers together. <sup>17</sup>The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. Then they used thorny weeds to make a crown. They put the crown of thorns on Jesus’ head. <sup>18</sup>Then they called to Jesus. They said, “Hello, king of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>The soldiers hit Jesus on the head many times with a stick. They also spit on him. Then [they teased Jesus by] bowing on their knees and worshipping him. <sup>20</sup>After they finished teasing Jesus, the soldiers took off the purple

robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led Jesus out of the palace to be killed on a cross.

**Jesus Is Killed on a Cross**

*(Mt. 27:32–44; Lk. 23:26–43; Jn. 19:17–27)*

<sup>21</sup>There was a man from Cyrene walking into the city. The man was Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Simon was walking into the city from the fields. The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus. <sup>22</sup>They led Jesus to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull.”) <sup>23</sup>At Golgotha the soldiers tried to give Jesus wine to drink. This wine was mixed with myrrh.\* But Jesus refused to drink it. <sup>24</sup>The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then the soldiers divided Jesus’ clothes among themselves. They gambled with dice to decide which clothes each soldier would get.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o’clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to the cross. <sup>26</sup>There was a sign with the charge against Jesus written on it. The sign said: “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

<sup>27</sup>They also put two robbers on crosses beside Jesus. They put one robber beside Jesus on the right, and they put the other robber beside Jesus on the left. <sup>28\*</sup> <sup>29</sup>People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. They shook their heads and said, “You said you could destroy the temple\* and build it again in three days. <sup>30</sup>So save yourself! Come down from that cross!”

<sup>31</sup>The leading priests and the teachers of the law were also there. They teased Jesus the same as the other people did. They said to themselves, “He saved other people. But he can’t save himself. <sup>32</sup>If he is really the Christ,\* the king of Israel (*the Jews*), then he should [save himself by] coming down from the cross now. We will see this, and then we will believe in him.” The robbers that were being killed on the crosses beside Jesus also said bad things to him.

**myrrh** Myrrh was mixed with wine, and this was used as a drug to help a person feel less pain.

**Verse 28** Some Greek copies add verse 28: “And the Scripture happened that says, ‘They put him with criminals.’”

**temple** The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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

**Passover** An important Jewish holy day. The Jews ate a special meal on this day every year to remember that God freed them from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

### Jesus Dies

(Mt. 27:45–56; Lk. 23:44–49; Jn. 19:28–30)

<sup>33</sup>At noon the whole country became dark. This darkness continued until three o'clock.

<sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani.*" This means, "My God, my God, why have you left me alone?"\*

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

<sup>36</sup>One man there ran and got a sponge. The man filled the sponge with vinegar and tied the sponge to a stick. Then he used the stick to give the sponge to Jesus to drink from it. The man said, "We should wait now and see if Elijah will come to take him down from the cross."

<sup>37</sup>Then Jesus cried with a loud voice and died.

<sup>38</sup>When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple\* was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. <sup>39</sup>The army officer\* that was standing there before the cross saw what happened when Jesus died. The officer said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup>Some women were standing away from the cross, watching. Some of these women were Mary from the town of Magdala, Salome, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph. (James was her youngest son.) <sup>41</sup>These were the women that followed Jesus in Galilee and cared for him. Many other women were also there. These women had come with Jesus to Jerusalem.

### Jesus Is Buried

(Mt. 27:57–61; Lk. 23:50–56; Jn. 19:38–42)

<sup>42</sup>This day was called Preparation day. (That means the day before the Sabbath day.\*)

"My God ... alone" Quote from Ps. 22:1.

"He is calling Elijah" The word for "My God" (*Eloi* in Aramaic or *Eli* in Hebrew) sounded to the people like the name of Elijah, a famous man that spoke for God about 850 B.C.

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 who had authority over 100 soldiers.

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

It was becoming dark. <sup>43</sup>A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to go to Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. Joseph was an important member of the Jewish council. He was one of the people that wanted the kingdom of God to come. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. Pilate called the army officer\* that guarded Jesus. Pilate asked the officer if Jesus was already dead. <sup>45</sup>The officer told Pilate that Jesus was dead. So Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. <sup>46</sup>Joseph bought some linen cloth. Joseph took the body from the cross, and wrapped the body in the linen. Then Joseph put the body in a tomb (*grave*) that was dug in a wall of rock. Then Joseph closed the tomb by rolling a large stone to cover the entrance. <sup>47</sup>Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of Joseph saw the place where Jesus was put.

### News that Jesus Has Risen from Death

(Mt. 28:1–8; Lk. 24:1–12; Jn. 20:1–10)

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

<sup>4</sup>Then the women looked and saw that the stone was moved. The stone was very large, but it was moved away from the entrance.

<sup>5</sup>The women walked into the tomb.\* They saw a young man there wearing a white robe. The man was sitting on the right side of the tomb. The women were afraid.

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

tomb A grave dug in a wall of rock.

be there before you. You will see him there like he told you before.”

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

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*[Some of the oldest Greek copies of Mark end the book here.]*

**Some Followers See Jesus**

*(Mt. 28:9–10; Jn. 20:11–18; Lk. 24:13–35)*

<sup>9</sup>Jesus rose from death early on the first day of the week. Jesus showed himself first to Mary from Magdala. One time in the past, Jesus had forced seven demons\* to leave Mary. <sup>10</sup>After Mary saw Jesus, she went and told his followers. His followers were very sad and were crying. <sup>11</sup>But Mary told them that Jesus was alive. Mary said that she had seen Jesus. But the followers did not believe her.

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

**Jesus Talks to the Apostles**

*(Mt. 28:16–20; Lk. 24:36–49; Jn. 20:19–23; Ac. 1:6–8)*

<sup>14</sup>Later Jesus showed himself to the eleven followers while they were eating. Jesus criticized the followers because they had little faith. They were stubborn and refused to believe the people that said Jesus had risen from death.

<sup>15</sup>Jesus said to the followers, “Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News\* to every person. <sup>16</sup>Any person that believes and is baptized\* will be saved. But the person that does not believe will be judged guilty. <sup>17</sup>And the people that believe will be able to do these things as proof: They will use my name to force demons\* out of people. They will speak in languages they never learned. <sup>18</sup>Those people will hold snakes without being hurt. And those people will drink poison without being hurt. Those people will touch sick people, and the sick people will be healed.”

**Jesus Goes Back to Heaven**

*(Lk. 24:50–53; Ac. 1:9–11)*

<sup>19</sup>After the Lord Jesus said these things to the followers, he was carried up into heaven. There, Jesus sat at the right side of God. <sup>20</sup>The followers went everywhere in the world and told the Good News\* to people. And the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told people was true. He proved this by giving the followers power to do miracles.\*

**tomb** A grave dug in a wall of rock.

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

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

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

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