

License Agreement for Bible Texts

July 27, 2001

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

These Scriptures:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luke

Luke Writes About the Life of Jesus

1 Dear Theophilus, Many people have tried to give a history of the things that happened among us. **2**They have written the same things that we learned from some other people—the people that saw those things from the beginning and served God by telling people his message. **3**I myself studied everything carefully from the beginning, your Excellency.* Then I thought I should write it for you. So I put it in order in a book. **4**I write these things so that you can know that what you have been taught is true.

Zechariah and Elizabeth

5During the time when Herod* ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. Zechariah belonged to Abijah's group.* Zechariah's wife came from the family of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. **6**Zechariah and Elizabeth were truly good people before God. They did everything the Lord (*God*) commanded and told people to do. They were without fault. **7**But Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby; and both of them were very old.

8Zechariah was serving as a priest before God for his group. It was his group's time to serve. **9**The priests always chose one priest to offer the incense.* Zechariah was chosen to do this. So Zechariah went into the temple* of the

Lord (*God*) to offer the incense. **10**There were many, many people outside. They were praying at the time the incense was offered. **11**Then, on the right side of the incense table, an angel of the Lord (*God*) came and stood before Zechariah. **12**When he saw the angel, Zechariah was upset and very afraid. **13**But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. Your prayer has been heard by God. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a baby boy. You must name him John. **14**You will be very, very happy. Many people will be happy because of his birth. **15**John will be a great man for the Lord (*God*). He will never drink wine or liquor. Even at the time when John is being born, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.* **16**John will help many Jews return to the Lord their God. **17**John himself will go first before the Lord. John will be powerful like Elijah.* He will have the same spirit Elijah had. He will make peace between fathers and their children. Many people are not obeying God. John will bring those people back to the right way that people should think. He will make people ready for the [coming of] the Lord."

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

19The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I always stand ready before God. God sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. **20**Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day when these things happen. You will lose your speech. Why? Because you did

Excellency This word was used in speaking or writing to an important person like a king or ruler to show respect.

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

Abijah's group Jewish priests were divided into 24 groups. See 1 Chron. 24.

incense Special dried tree sap used for a sacrifice. It was burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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.

Elijah A prophet that lived about 850 B.C.

not believe what I told you. But these things will really happen.”

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

²⁴Later, Zechariah’s wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. So she did not go out of her house for five months. Elizabeth said, ²⁵“Look what the Lord (*God*) has done for me! He decided to help me have a baby. Now people will stop thinking there is something wrong with me.”

The Virgin Mary

^{26–27}During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin* girl that lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. The girl was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David.* Her name was Mary. ²⁸The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord (*God*) is with you. You are very special to him.”

²⁹But Mary was very confused about what the angel said. Mary wondered, “What does this mean?”

³⁰The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. ³¹Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a baby boy. And you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great (*important*). People will call him the Son of the Most High (*God*). The Lord God will make him king like his ancestor David.* ³³Jesus will rule over the people of Jacob* forever. Jesus’ kingdom will never end.”

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am still a virgin*!”

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

vision(s) Something like dreams that God used to speak to people.

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

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

Jacob Father of twelve sons from whom the twelve family groups of Israel descended.

³⁵The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit* will come to you and the power of the Most High (*God*) will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Also, your relative Elizabeth is pregnant. She is very old, but she is going to have a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant now for six months! ³⁷God can do anything!”

³⁸Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord (*God*). Let this thing you have said happen to me!” Then the angel went away.

Mary Visits Zechariah and Elizabeth

³⁹Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the hill country of Judea. ⁴⁰She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth jumped. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* ⁴²Elizabeth said with a loud voice, “God has blessed you (*Mary*) more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. ⁴³You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? ⁴⁴When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. ⁴⁵What a blessing is yours because you believed what the Lord (*God*) said to you! You believed this would happen.”

Mary Praises God

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

⁴⁷ “I praise the Lord (*God*) with all my heart.

I am very happy because

God is my Savior.

⁴⁸ I am not important.

But God has shown his care for me,

his servant girl.

From now on, all people will say

that I am blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Powerful One (*God*)

has done great things for me.

His name is very holy.

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.

- 50 God always gives mercy to those people that worship him.
- 51 God reached out his arm and showed his power:
He scattered those people that are proud and think great things about themselves.
- 52 God brought down rulers from their thrones, and he raised up the humble people.
- 53 God filled the hungry people with good things,
but he sent the [selfishly] rich people away with nothing.
- 54 God has helped Israel—the people he chose to serve him.
He did not forget his promise to give us his mercy.
- 55 God has done what he promised to our ancestors,* to Abraham,* and to his children forever.”

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months. Then Mary went home.

The Birth of John

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord (*God*) was very good to her. They were happy for her.

59 When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise* him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name. 60 But his mother said, “No! He will be named John.”

61 The people said to Elizabeth, “But no one in your family has this name (*John*)!” 62 Then they made signs to his father, “What would you like to name him?”

63 Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then Zechariah wrote, “His name is John.” All the people were surprised. 64 Then Zechariah could talk again. He began to praise God. 65 And all their neighbors became afraid. In all the hill country of Judea people continued talking about all these things. 66 All

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

circumcise To cut off the foreskin. This was done to every Jewish baby boy. It was a mark of the agreement that God made with Abraham. Read Gen. 17:9–14.

the people that heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, “What will this child (*John*) be?” They said this because the Lord (*God*) was with this child.

Zechariah Praises God

67 Then Zechariah, John's father, was filled with the Holy Spirit.* He told the people what would happen:

- 68 “Praise to the Lord God of Israel (*the Jews*).
God has come to help his people and has given them freedom.
- 69 God has given us a powerful Savior from the family of God's servant, David.*
- 70 God said that he would do this.
He said it through his holy prophets* that lived long ago.
- 71 God will save us from our enemies and from the power of all those that hate us.
- 72 God said he would give mercy to our fathers.*
And he remembered his holy promise.
- 73 God made a promise to Abraham,* our father.
God promised to free us from the power of our enemies,
so that we could serve him without fear.
- 75 We will be holy and good before God as long as we live.
- 76 “Now you, little boy, will be called a prophet* of the Most High (*God*).
You will go first before the Lord to make the people ready for the Lord's coming.
- 77 You will make his people know that they will be saved.
They will be saved by having their sins forgiven.

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.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

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

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

prophet A person that spoke for God.

78 “With the loving mercy of our God,
a new Day from heaven
will shine on us.

79 God will help the people
that live in darkness,
in the fear of death.
He will lead us in the way
that goes toward peace.”

80 And so the little boy (*John*) was growing up and becoming stronger in spirit. John lived in a place away from other people, until the time when he came out [to tell God’s message, to Israel (*the Jews*).

The Birth of Jesus

(Mt. 1:18–25)

2 At that time, Augustus Caesar* sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that all people must write their name in a book (*register*). 2 This was the first registration.* It happened while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All people traveled to their own towns to be registered.

4 So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David.* Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. 5 Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) 6 While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby. 7 She gave birth to her first son (*Jesus*). There was not enough room for them in the house. So Mary wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid the baby in a box where cattle are fed.

Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

8 That night, some shepherds were in the fields there watching their sheep. 9 An angel of the Lord (*God*) stood before the shepherds. The glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds became very afraid. 10 The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. I

have some very good news for you. It will make all the people very happy. 11 Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ,* the Lord. 12 This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

13 Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

14 “Praise God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace
to the people that please God.”

15 The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “We will go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord (*God*) told us about.”

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

21 When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised,* and he was named Jesus. This name was given by the angel before the baby began to grow inside Mary.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

22 The time came for Mary and Joseph to do the things the law of Moses taught about being made pure.* Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem so they could present him to the Lord (*God*). 23 It is written in the law of the Lord (*God*): “When a mother’s first baby is a boy, he shall be called ‘special for the Lord.’”*

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

circumcised To have the foreskin cut off. This was done to every Jewish baby boy. It was a mark of the agreement that God made with Abraham. Read Gen. 17:9–14.

pure The law of Moses said that 40 days after a Jewish woman gave birth to a baby, she must be cleansed by a ceremony at the temple. Read Lev. 12:2–8.

“When ... the Lord” See Ex. 13:2, 12.

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

registration Census. A counting of all the people and the things they own.

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

²⁴The law of the Lord also says that the people must give a sacrifice*: “You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons.”* So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to do this.

Simeon Sees Jesus

²⁵A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man that truly worshiped God. Simeon was waiting for the time when God would come to help Israel (*the Jews*). The Holy Spirit* was in him. ²⁶The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ* from the Lord (*God*). ²⁷The Spirit led Simeon to the temple.* Mary and Joseph went to the temple to do what the Jewish law said they must do. They brought the baby Jesus to the temple. ²⁸Simeon held the baby in his arms and thanked God:

²⁹ “Now, Lord (*God*), you can let me,
your servant, die in peace like you said.
³⁰ I have seen with my own eyes
how you will save your people.
³¹ Now all people can see your plan.
³² He (*Jesus*) is a light to show your way to
the non-Jewish people.
He will bring honor to your people,
Israel (*the Jews*).”

³³Jesus’ father and mother were amazed at what Simeon said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, “Many Jews will fall and many will rise because of this boy. He will be a sign (*proof*) from God that some people will not accept. ³⁵The things that people think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart very sad.”

Anna Sees Jesus

³⁶Anna, a prophetess,* was there at the temple.* She was from the family of Phanuel in the Asher family group. Anna was very old.

sacrifice An offering or gift to God.

“You must ... pigeons” Quote from Lev. 12:8.

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.

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

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

prophetess A woman who spoke for God.

She had been married for seven years. ³⁷Then her husband died and she lived alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna was always at the temple; she never left. She worshiped God by fasting* and praying day and night.

³⁸Anna was there when Joseph and Mary came to the temple. She praised God and talked about Jesus to all the people who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary Return Home

³⁹Joseph and Mary finished doing all the things that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. ⁴⁰The little boy (*Jesus*) was growing. He became stronger and wiser. God’s blessings were with him.

Jesus As a Boy

⁴¹Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover* festival. ⁴²When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the feast like they always did. ⁴³When the feast days were finished, they went home. But the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know about it. ⁴⁴Joseph and Mary traveled for a whole day. They thought that Jesus was with them in the group. They began to look for him among their family and close friends. ⁴⁵But Joseph and Mary did not find Jesus in the group. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. ⁴⁶After three days they found him. Jesus was sitting in the temple* area with the religious teachers, listening and asking them questions. ⁴⁷Everyone heard him. They were amazed at his understanding and wise answers. ⁴⁸When Jesus’ parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you.”

⁴⁹Jesus said to them, “Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father’s (*God’s*) work is!” ⁵⁰But they did not understand the meaning of what he said to them.

fasting Living without food for a time of prayer or mourning.

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.

⁵¹Jesus went with them to Nazareth. He obeyed everything his parents said. His mother was still thinking about all these things. ⁵²Jesus continued to learn more and more. He grew taller. People liked Jesus, and he pleased God.

The Work of John the Baptizer

(Mt. 3:1–12; Mk. 1:1–8; Jn 1:19–28)

3 It was the 15th year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar.* These men were under Caesar: Pontius Pilate, the ruler of Judea; Herod,* the ruler of Galilee; Philip, Herod’s brother, the ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias, the ruler of Abilene.

²Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests.* At that time, a command from God came to John, the son of Zechariah. John was living in the desert. ³John went through the whole area around the Jordan River. He told the people [God’s message]. John told them to be baptized* to show that they wanted to change their hearts and lives. Then their sins would be forgiven. ⁴This is like the words written in the book of Isaiah the prophet*:

“There is a person shouting in the desert:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley will be filled.

And every mountain and hill
will be made flat.

Roads with turns will be made straight.

And rough roads will be made smooth.

⁶ Every person will know about
the salvation of God!” *Isaiah 40:3–5*

⁷People came to be baptized* by John. John said to them, “You are like poisonous snakes! Who warned you to run away from God’s anger that is coming? ⁸You must do the things that will show that you have really changed your hearts and lives. And don’t think that

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

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

high priests The most important Jewish priests.

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. Sometimes a prophet told things that would happen in the future.

saying, ‘Abraham* is our father’ will help you. I tell you that God can make children for Abraham from these rocks here! ⁹The ax is now ready to cut down the trees.* Every tree that does not make good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The people asked John, “What should we do?”

¹¹John answered, “If you have two shirts, share with the person that does not have one. If you have food, share that too.”

¹²Even the tax collectors* came to John. They wanted to be baptized.* They said to John, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³John said to them, “Don’t take more taxes from people than you have been ordered to take.”

¹⁴The soldiers asked John, “What about us? What should we do?”

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

¹⁵All the people were hoping [for the Christ* to come], and they wondered about John. They thought, “Maybe he is the Christ.”

¹⁶John answered everyone, “I baptize* you in water, but there is a person coming later who can do more than I can. I am not good enough to untie his shoes for him. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit* and with fire. ¹⁷He will come ready to clean the grain.* He will separate the good grain from the straw. He will put the good part of the grain into his barn. Then he will burn the part that is not good. He will burn it with a fire that cannot be stopped.” ¹⁸And John continued to tell the Good News,* saying many other things to help the people.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

trees The people that do not obey God. They are like “trees” that will be cut down.

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

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

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

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

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

How John's Work Later Ended

¹⁹(John criticized Governor Herod.* John criticized Herod for the bad thing he did with Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother. John also criticized Herod for the many other bad things Herod did. ²⁰So Herod did another bad thing: He put John in jail. This was added to all the other bad things Herod did.)

Jesus Is Baptized by John

(Mt. 3:13–17; Mk. 1:9–11)

²¹Before John was put into prison, all the people were being baptized* by him. Then Jesus came and was baptized too. While Jesus was praying, the sky opened. ²²The Holy Spirit* came down on him. The Spirit looked like a real dove. Then a voice came from heaven and said, "You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

The Family History of Joseph

(Mt. 1:1–17)

²³When Jesus began to teach, he was about 30 years old. People thought that Jesus was Joseph's son. Joseph was the son of Eli. ²⁴Eli was the son of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi. Levi was the son of Melchi. Melchi was the son of Jannai. Jannai was the son of Joseph. ²⁵Joseph was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was the son of Amos. Amos was the son of Nahum. Nahum was the son of Esli. Esli was the son of Naggai. ²⁶Naggai was the son of Maath. Maath was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was the son of Semein. Semein was the son of Josech. Josech was the son of Joda.

²⁷Joda was the son of Joanan. Joanan was the son of Rhesa. Rhesa was the son of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the son of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the son of Neri. ²⁸Neri was the son of Melchi. Melchi was the son of Addi. Addi was the son of Cosam. Cosam was the son of Elmadam. Elmadam was the son of Er. ²⁹Er was the son of Joshua. Joshua

was the son of Eliezer. Eliezer was the son of Jorim. Jorim was the son of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi.

³⁰Levi was the son of Simeon. Simeon was the son of Judah. Judah was the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Jonam. Jonam was the son of Eliakim. ³¹Eliakim was the son of Melea. Melea was the son of Menna. Menna was the son of Mattatha. Mattatha was the son of Nathan. Nathan was the son of David. ³²David was the son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed. Obed was the son of Boaz. Boaz was the son of Salmon. Salmon was the son of Nahshon.

³³Nahshon was the son of Amminadab. Amminadab was the son of Admin. Admin was the son of Arni. Arni was the son of Hezron. Hezron was the son of Perez. Perez was the son of Judah. ³⁴Judah was the son of Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham. Abraham was the son of Terah. Terah was the son of Nahor. ³⁵Nahor was the son of Serug. Serug was the son of Reu. Reu was the son of Peleg. Peleg was the son of Eber. Eber was the son of Shelah.

³⁶Shelah was the son of Cainan. Cainan was the son of Arphaxad. Arphaxad was the son of Shem. Shem was the son of Noah. Noah was the son of Lamech. ³⁷Lamech was the son of Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. Enoch was the son of Jared. Jared was the son of Mahalaleel. Mahalaleel was the son of Cainan. ³⁸Cainan was the son of Enos. Enos was the son of Seth. Seth was the son of Adam. Adam was the son of God.

Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil

(Mt. 4:1–11; Mk. 1:12–13)

4 Jesus returned from the Jordan River. He was full of the Holy Spirit.* The Spirit led Jesus into the desert. ²There the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. Jesus ate nothing during that time. When those days were finished, Jesus was very hungry.

³The devil said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this rock to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written [in the Scriptures*]:

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

baptize(d) A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

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.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

‘It is not just food that keeps people alive.’”

Deuteronomy 8:3

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

⁸Jesus answered, “It is written \lrcorner in the Scriptures^{*}”:

‘You must worship the Lord your God.

Serve only him!’” *Deuteronomy 6:13*

⁹Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. The devil put Jesus on a very high place of the temple.* He said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! ¹⁰It is written \lrcorner in the Scriptures^{*}”:

‘God will command his angels

to take care of you.’ *Psalm 91:11*

¹¹It is also written:

‘Their hands will catch you

so that you will not hit your foot
on a rock.’” *Psalm 91:12*

¹²Jesus answered, “But it also says \lrcorner in the Scriptures^{*}”:

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

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

Jesus Teaches the People

(Mt. 4:12–17; Mk. 1:14–15)

¹⁴Jesus went back to Galilee with the power of the Holy Spirit.* Stories about Jesus spread all over the area around Galilee.

¹⁵Jesus began to teach in the synagogues.* All the people praised him.

Jesus Goes to His Home Town

(Mt. 13:53–58; Mk. 6:1–6)

¹⁶Jesus traveled to Nazareth, the town where he grew up. On the Sabbath day* he went to the synagogue* like he always did. Jesus stood up to read. ¹⁷The book of Isaiah the prophet* was given to him. Jesus opened the book and found the place where this is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord (*God*) has come to me.

God chose me to tell good news to people that are poor.

God sent me to tell people who are prisoners that they are free,
and to tell the blind people
that they can see again.

God sent me to free the weak people
from their suffering

¹⁹ and to announce that the time has come
for the Lord to show his kindness.”

Isaiah 61:1–2

²⁰Jesus closed the book. He gave the book back to the helper and sat down. Every person in the synagogue* watched Jesus closely. ²¹Jesus began to speak to them. He said, “While you heard me reading these words just now, the words were coming true!”

²²All the people said good things about Jesus. They were amazed at the beautiful words Jesus spoke. The people said, “ \lrcorner How can he speak like this? \lrcorner He is only Joseph’s son, isn’t he?”

²³Jesus said to them, “I know that you will tell me the old saying: ‘Doctor, heal yourself.’ You want to say, ‘We heard about some things that you did in Capernaum. Do those same things here in your own home town!’” ²⁴Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. A prophet* is not accepted in his own home town. ²⁵What I say is true. During the time of Elijah* it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years. There was no food anywhere in the whole country. There were many widows* in Israel during that

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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.

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

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

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

prophet A person that spoke for God.

Elijah A prophet that lived about 850 B.C.

widows Women whose husbands have died.

time. ²⁶But Elijah was sent to none of those widows [in Israel]. Elijah was sent only to a widow in Zarephath, a town in Sidon. ²⁷And there were many people with leprosy* living in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha.* But none of those people were healed; the only one was Naaman. And Naaman was from the country of Syria, [not from Israel].”

²⁸All the people in the synagogue* heard these things. They became very, very angry. ²⁹The people got up and forced Jesus to go out of town. Their town was built on a hill. They brought Jesus to the edge of the hill. The people wanted to throw him off. ³⁰But Jesus walked through the middle of them and went away.

Jesus Heals a Man That Has an Evil Spirit

(Mk. 1:21–28)

³¹Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee. On the Sabbath day* Jesus taught the people. ³²They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching, because he spoke with authority (*power*). ³³In the synagogue* there was a man that had an evil spirit from the devil inside him. The man shouted with a loud voice, ³⁴“Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!” ³⁵But Jesus warned the evil spirit to stop. Jesus said, “Be quiet! Come out of the man!” The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground before all the people. Then the evil spirit left the man and did not hurt him.

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

Jesus Heals the Mother of Peter’s Wife

(Mt. 8:14–17; Mk. 1:29–34)

³⁸Jesus left the synagogue.* He went to Simon’s* house. Simon’s mother-in-law was very sick. She had a high fever. They asked

Jesus to do something to help her. ³⁹Jesus stood very close to her and commanded the sickness to leave her. The sickness left her. Then she got up and began serving them.

Jesus Heals Many Other People

⁴⁰When the sun went down, the people brought their sick friends to Jesus. They had many different kinds of sickness. Jesus put his hands on each sick person and healed them.

⁴¹Demons* came out of many people. The demons shouted, “You are the Son of God.” But Jesus gave a strong command for the demons not to speak, because they knew Jesus was the Christ.*

Jesus Goes to Other Towns

(Mk. 1:35–39)

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

⁴⁴Then Jesus told [the Good News] in the synagogues* in Judea.

Peter, James, and John Follow Jesus

(Mt. 4:18–22; Mk. 1:16–20)

5 Jesus stood beside Lake Gennesaret (*Galilee*). Many people pushed to get all around him. They wanted to hear the teachings of God. ²Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen were washing their nets. ³Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon.* Jesus asked Simon to push off a little from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people on the shore.

⁴Jesus finished speaking. He said to Simon,* “Take the boat into the deep water. If all of you will put your nets into the water, you will catch some fish.”

⁵Simon* answered, “Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say I should put the nets into the water; so I will.” ⁶The fishermen put their nets into the water. Their nets became

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

Elisha A prophet that lived after Elijah’s time.

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

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

Simon Simon’s other name was Peter.

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

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

so full of fish that the nets began to break. ⁷They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full of fish that they were almost sinking.

⁸⁻⁹The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw this, he bowed down before Jesus and said, “Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!” ¹⁰James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John worked together with Simon.)*

Jesus said to Simon,* “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will work to gather people, _{not fish!}”

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

Jesus Heals a Sick Man

(Mt. 8:1-4; Mk. 1:40-45)

¹²One time Jesus was in a town where a very sick man lived. This man was covered with leprosy.* When the man saw Jesus, he bowed before Jesus and begged him, “Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want.”

¹³Jesus said, “I want to heal you. Be healed!” Then Jesus touched the man. Immediately the leprosy* disappeared. ¹⁴Then Jesus said, “Don’t tell anyone about what happened. But go show yourself to the priest.* And offer a gift _{to God} for your healing like Moses commanded. This will show people that you are healed.”

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

Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

(Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:1-12)

¹⁷One day Jesus was teaching the people. The Pharisees* and teachers of the law were sitting there too. They had come from every town in Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem.

Simon Simon’s other name was Peter.

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

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

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

The Lord (*God*) was giving Jesus the power to heal people. ¹⁸There was a man that was paralyzed (*crippled*). Some men carried him on a mat. The men tried to bring him and put him down before Jesus. ¹⁹But there were so many people that the men could not find a way to Jesus. So the men went up on the roof and lowered the crippled man down through a hole in the ceiling. They lowered the mat _{into the room} so that the crippled man was lying before Jesus. ²⁰Jesus saw that these men believed. Jesus said to the sick man, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹The Jewish teachers of the law and the Pharisees* thought to themselves, “Who is this man (*Jesus*)? He is saying things that are against God! Only God can forgive sins.”

²²But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, “Why do you have these questions in your minds? ²³⁻²⁴The Son of Man* has power on earth to forgive sins. But how can I prove this to you? Maybe you are thinking it was easy for me to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ _{No one could see if it really happened.} But what if I say to the man, ‘Stand up and walk’? Then you will be able to see that I really have this power.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, stand up! Take your mat and go home!”

²⁵Then the man stood up before the people there. He picked up his mat and walked home, praising God. ²⁶All the people were fully amazed. They began to praise God. The people were filled with much respect _{for God’s power}. They said, “Today we saw amazing things!”

Levi (Matthew) Follows Jesus

(Mt. 9:9-13; Mk. 2:13-17)

²⁷After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector* sitting at his place for collecting taxes. His name was Levi. Jesus said to him, “Follow me!” ²⁸Levi got up, left everything, and followed Jesus.

²⁹Then Levi gave a big dinner for Jesus. The dinner was at Levi’s house. At the table there were many tax collectors* and some

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

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

other people too. ³⁰But the Pharisees* and those men that taught the law for the Pharisees began to complain to the followers of Jesus, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other bad people?”

³¹Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. It is the sick people that need a doctor. ³²I have not come to ask good people to change. I have come to ask bad people to change their hearts and lives!”

Jesus Is Not like Other Religious Leaders

(Mt. 9:14–17; Mk. 2:18–22)

³³They said to Jesus, “John’s followers often fast* and pray, the same as the followers of the Pharisees.* But your followers eat and drink all the time.”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “When there is a wedding, you cannot make the friends of the bridegroom* fast* while he is still with them. ³⁵But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them. Then his friends will fast.”

³⁶Jesus told them this story: “No person takes cloth off a new coat to cover a hole on an old coat. Why? Because he ruins the new coat, and the cloth from the new coat will not be the same as the old cloth. ³⁷People never pour new wine into old wine bags.* Why? Because the new wine will break the bags, and the wine will spill out and the wine bags will be ruined. ³⁸People always put new wine into new wine bags. ³⁹No person that drinks old wine wants new wine. Why? Because he says, ‘The old wine is fine.’”

Jesus Is Lord over the Sabbath Day

(Mt. 12:1–8; Mk. 2:23–28)

6 One time on a Sabbath day,* Jesus was walking through some grain fields. His followers picked the grain, rubbed it in their hands, and ate it. ²Some Pharisees* said, “Why are you doing that? It is against the law [of Moses] to do that on the Sabbath day.”

³Jesus answered, “You have read about what David* did when he and the people with him were hungry. ⁴David went into God’s house. David took the bread that was offered to God and ate it. And David gave some of the bread to the people with him. This was against the law [of Moses]. The law says that only the priests can eat that bread.” ⁵Then Jesus said to the Pharisees,* “The Son of Man* is Lord (*Master*) over the Sabbath day.”

Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath Day

(Mt. 12:9–14; Mk. 3:1–6)

⁶On another Sabbath day* Jesus went into the synagogue.* Jesus taught the people. A man with a crippled right hand was there. ⁷The teachers of the law and the Pharisees* were watching Jesus closely. They were waiting to see if he would heal on the Sabbath day. They wanted to see Jesus do something wrong so that they could accuse him. ⁸But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said to the man with the crippled hand, “Get up and stand before these people.” The man got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, 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?” ¹⁰Jesus looked around at all of them. Jesus said to the man, “Let me see your hand.” The man put his hand out. His hand was healed. ¹¹The Pharisees and the teachers of the law became very, very angry. They talked to each other about what they could do to Jesus.

Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles

(Mt. 10:1–4; Mk. 3:13–19)

¹²At that time Jesus went out to a mountain to pray. He stayed there all night praying to God. ¹³The next morning, Jesus called his followers. He chose twelve of them. He named these men “apostles.”* They were: ¹⁴Simon (Jesus named him Peter) and Andrew, Peter’s

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

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

bridegroom A man that is getting married.

wine bags Animal skins used for holding wine.

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

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

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

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

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

brother; James and John, Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵Matthew, Thomas, James (the son of Alphaeus), and Simon (called the Zealot*), ¹⁶Judas (the son of James) and Judas Iscariot. This Judas was the one that gave Jesus to his enemies.

Jesus Teaches and Heals the People

(Mt. 4:23–25; 5:1–12)

¹⁷Jesus and the apostles* came down from the mountain. Jesus stood on a flat place. A large group of his followers were there. Also, there were many people from all around Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast cities of Tyre and Sidon.* ¹⁸They all came to hear Jesus teach and to be healed of their sicknesses. Jesus healed those people that were troubled by evil spirits [from the devil]. ¹⁹All the people were trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out from him. Jesus healed them all!

²⁰Jesus looked at his followers and said,

“What great blessings there are for you poor people!

God’s kingdom belongs to you.

²¹ What great blessings there are for you people that are hungry now!

You will be filled.

What great blessings there are for you people that are crying now!

You will be [happy and] laughing.

²²“People will hate you because you belong to the Son of Man.* They will make you leave their group. They will insult you. They will think it is wrong even to say your name. When these things happen, know that God will bless you. ²³At that time you can be happy and jump for joy, because you have a great reward in heaven. Their fathers* were mean to the prophets* in the same way that these people are mean to you.

Zealot The Zealots were a Jewish political group.

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

Tyre and Sidon Towns in Lebanon where bad people lived.

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.

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

prophets People that spoke for God in Old Testament times.

²⁴ “But it will be bad for you, you rich people, because you had your easy life.

²⁵ It will be bad for you people that are full now,

because you will be hungry.

It will be bad for you people that are laughing now,

because you will be sad and cry.

²⁶“It is bad when all people say good things about you. Their fathers* always said good things about the false prophets.*

Love Your Enemies

(Mt. 5:38–48; 7:12a)

²⁷“I say to you people that are listening to me, love your enemies. Do good to those people that hate you. ²⁸Ask God to bless those people that say bad things to you. Pray for those people that are mean to you. ²⁹If a person hits you on the side of your face, let him hit the other side too. If a person takes your coat, don’t stop him from taking your shirt too. ³⁰Give to every person that asks you. When a person takes something that is yours, don’t ask for it back. ³¹Do for other people what you want them to do for you.

³²“If you love only those people that love you, should you get some special praise for doing that? No! Even sinners love the people that love them! ³³If you do good only to those people that do good to you, should you get some special praise for doing that? No! Even sinners do that! ³⁴If you loan things to people, always expecting to get something back, should you get some special praise for that? No! Even sinners lend to other sinners so that they can get back the same amount!

³⁵“I’m telling you to love your enemies and do good to them. Lend to people without expecting to get anything back. If you do these things, you will have a great reward. You will be children of the Most High (*God*). Yes, because God is good even to the people that are full of sin and not thankful. ³⁶Give love and mercy the same as your Father gives love and mercy.

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

Look at Yourselves

(Mt. 7:1–5)

³⁷“Don’t judge other people, and you will not be judged. Don’t condemn (*find guilty*) other people, and you will not be condemned. Forgive other people, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give to other people, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to other people is the way God will give to you.”

³⁹Jesus told them this story: “Can a blind man lead another blind man? No! Both of them will fall into a hole. ⁴⁰A student is not better than his teacher. But when the student has fully learned, then he will be like his teacher.

⁴¹“Why do you notice the small piece of dust that is in your brother’s eye, but you don’t see the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? ⁴²You say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye.’ Why do you say this? You can’t see that big piece of wood in your own eye! You are a hypocrite.* First, take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your brother’s eye.

Two Kinds of Fruit

(Mt. 7:17–20; 12:34b–35)

⁴³“A good tree does not give bad fruit. Also, a bad tree does not give good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is known by the fruit it gives. People don’t gather figs from thorny weeds. And they don’t get grapes from bushes! ⁴⁵A good person has good things saved in his heart. And so he brings good things out of his heart. But an evil person has evil things saved in his heart. So he brings out bad things. A person speaks the things that are in his heart.

Two Kinds of People

(Mt. 7:24–27)

⁴⁶“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but you are not doing what I say? ⁴⁷Every person that comes to me and listens to my teachings and obeys—I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house. He digs

deep and builds his house on rock. The floods come, and the water tries to wash the house away. But the flood cannot move the house, because the house was built well (*strong*). ⁴⁹But the person that hears my words and does not obey is like a man that does not build his house on rock. When the floods come, the house falls down easily. And the house is completely destroyed.”

Jesus Heals a Servant

(Mt. 8:5–13; Jn 4:43–54)

7 Jesus finished saying all these things to the people. Then Jesus went into Capernaum.* ²In Capernaum there was an army officer.* The officer had a servant that was very sick; he was near death. The officer loved the servant very much. ³When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some older Jewish leaders to him. The officer wanted the men to ask Jesus to come and save the life of his servant. ⁴The men went to Jesus. They begged Jesus [to help the officer]. They said, “This officer is worthy to have your help. ⁵He loves our people and he built the synagogue* for us.”

⁶So Jesus went with the men. Jesus was coming near the officer’s house when the officer sent friends to say, “Lord, you don’t need to do anything special for me. I am not good enough for you to come into my house. ⁷That is why I did not come to you myself. You only need to give the order and my servant boy will be healed. ⁸I understand your authority.] I am a man under the authority (*power*) of other men. And I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes. And I tell another soldier, ‘Come,’ and he comes. And I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and my servant obeys me.”

⁹When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Jesus turned to the people that were following him. Jesus said, “I tell you, this is the most faith I have seen anywhere, even in Israel.*”

Capernaum A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

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

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

Israel The Jewish nation (people).

hypocrite A bad person that acts like he is good.

¹⁰The group that was sent to Jesus went back to the house. There they found that the servant was healed.

Jesus Brings a Man Back to Life

¹¹The next day Jesus went to a town called Nain. Jesus' followers and a large group of people were traveling with him. ¹²When Jesus came near the town gates, he saw a funeral. A mother, who was a widow,* had lost her only son. Many people from the town were there with the mother while her son was being carried out. ¹³When the Lord (*Jesus*) saw her, he felt very sorry for her. Jesus said to her, "Don't cry." ¹⁴Jesus walked to the coffin* and touched it. The men that were carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus said to the dead son, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" ¹⁵Then the son sat up and began to talk. Jesus gave him to his mother.

¹⁶All the people were filled with fear. They began praising God and said, "A great prophet* has come to us!" And they said, "God is taking care of his people."

¹⁷This news about Jesus spread into all Judea and into all the places around there.

John Asks a Question

(Mt. 11:2–19)

¹⁸John's followers told John about all these things. John called for two of his followers. ¹⁹John sent them to the Lord (*Jesus*) to ask, "Are you the One that is coming, or should we wait for another person?"

²⁰So the men came to Jesus. They said, "John the Baptizer sent us to you with this question: 'Are you the One that is coming, or should we wait for another person?'"

²¹At that time, Jesus healed many people of their sicknesses, diseases, and evil spirits [from the devil]. Jesus healed many blind people so that they could see again. ²²Then Jesus said to John's followers, "Go tell John the things that you saw and heard here. Blind people are healed and can see. Crippled people are healed and can walk. People with leprosy* are healed.

widow A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

coffin A wooden box used for burying dead bodies.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

Deaf people are healed and can hear. Dead people are given life. And the Good News [about God's kingdom] is given to the poor people. ²³What great blessings there are for the person that can accept* me!"

²⁴When John's followers left, Jesus began to tell the people about John: "What did you people go out into the desert to see? A weed* blown by the wind? ²⁵What did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No. Those people that have fine, nice clothes live in kings' houses. ²⁶Really, what did you go out to see? A prophet*? Yes, and I tell you, John is more than a prophet. ²⁷This was written about John:

'Listen! I (*God*) will send my helper* ahead of you.

He will prepare the way for you.'

Malachi 3:1

²⁸I tell you, John is greater than any man ever born. But even the least important person in the kingdom of God is greater than John."

²⁹(When the people heard this, they all agreed that God's teaching was good. Even the tax collectors* agreed. These were the people that were baptized* by John. ³⁰But the Pharisees* and teachers of the law refused to accept God's plan for themselves; they did not let John baptize them.)

³¹"What shall I say about the people of this time? What can I compare them to? What are they like? ³²The people of this time are like children sitting in the market place. One group of children calls to the other children and says,

'We played flute music for you,
but you did not dance;
we sang a sad song,
but you did not cry.'

can accept Literally, "is not offended by."

weed Literally, "reed." Jesus means that John was not weak like a reed that is easily blown by the wind.

helper Literally, "messenger."

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

baptize(d) A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

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

³³John the Baptizer came and did not eat [like other people] or drink wine. And you say, ‘He has a demon* inside him.’ ³⁴The Son of Man* came eating [like other people] and drinking wine. And you say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine! He is a friend of the tax collectors* and other bad people!’ ³⁵But wisdom is shown to be right by the things it does.”

Simon the Pharisee

³⁶One of the Pharisees* asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus went into the Pharisee’s house and took a place at the table. ³⁷There was a sinful woman in that town. She knew that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house. So the woman brought some perfume in an alabaster* jar. ³⁸She stood at Jesus’ feet, crying. Then she began to wash his feet with her tears. She dried Jesus’ feet with her hair. She kissed his feet many times and rubbed them with perfume. ³⁹The Pharisee that asked Jesus to come to his house saw this. He thought to himself, “If this man (*Jesus*) were a prophet,* he would know that the woman who is touching him is a sinner!”

⁴⁰In response, Jesus said to the Pharisee,* “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

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

⁴¹Jesus said, “There were two men. Both men owed money to the same banker. One man owed the banker 500 silver coins.* The other man owed the banker 50 silver coins. ⁴²The men had no money, so they could not pay their debt. But the banker told the men that they did not have to pay him. Which one of those two men will love the banker more?”

⁴³Simon answered, “I think it would be the one that owed him the most money.”

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

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

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

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

alabaster A beautiful kind of stone that can be carved.

prophet A person that spoke for God.

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

Jesus said to Simon, “You are right.” ⁴⁴Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you gave me no water for my feet. But she washed my feet with her tears and dried my feet with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not greet me with a kiss, but she has been kissing my feet since I came in! ⁴⁶You did not honor me with oil for my head, but she rubbed my feet with her sweet-smelling oil. ⁴⁷I tell you that her many sins are forgiven. This is clear, because she showed great love. But the person that feels only a little need to be forgiven will feel only a little love when he is forgiven.”

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹The people sitting at the table began to think to themselves, “Who does this man (*Jesus*) think he is? How can he forgive sins?”

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, “Because you believed, you are saved [from your sins]. Go in peace.”

The Group with Jesus

8 The next day, Jesus traveled through some cities and small towns. Jesus told the people a message from God, the Good News about God’s kingdom. The twelve apostles* were with him. ²There were also some women with him. Jesus had healed these women of sicknesses and evil spirits [from the devil]. One of the women was named Mary Magdalene.* Seven demons had come out of her. ³Also with these women were: Joanna, the wife of Chuza (Herod’s* helper), Suzanna, and many other women. These women used their own money to help Jesus and his apostles.

Jesus Uses a Story About Planting Seed

(Mt. 13:1–17; Mk. 4:1–12)

⁴Many people came together. People came to Jesus from every town. Jesus told the people this story:

⁵“A farmer went out to plant his seed. While the farmer was planting, some seed fell

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

Magdalene Meaning “from Magdala,” a town by Lake Galilee.

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

beside the road. People walked on the seed, and the birds ate all this seed. ⁶Some seed fell on rock. This seed began to grow, but then died because the seed had no water. ⁷Some seed fell among thorny weeds. This seed grew, but later the weeds stopped the good plants from growing. ⁸And some seed fell on good ground. This seed grew and made 100 times more grain.”

Jesus finished the story. Then Jesus called out, “You people that hear me, listen!”

⁹Jesus’ followers asked him, “What does this story mean?”

¹⁰Jesus said, “You have been chosen to know the secrets of the kingdom of God. But I use stories to speak to other people. I do this so that:

‘They will look,
but they will not see;
and they will listen,
but they will not understand.’

Isaiah 6:9

Jesus Explains the Story About the Seed

(Mt. 13:18–23; Mk. 4:13–20)

¹¹“This is what the story means: The seed is God’s teaching. ¹²What is the seed that fell beside the path? That is like the people that hear God’s teaching, but then the devil comes and makes them stop thinking about that teaching. So those people cannot believe the teaching and be saved. ¹³What is the seed that fell on rock? That is like the people that hear God’s teaching and accept it gladly. But these people don’t have deep roots. They believe for a while. But when trouble comes, they turn away from God. ¹⁴What is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people that hear God’s teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life stop them from growing. So they never make good fruit.* ¹⁵And what is the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people that hear God’s teaching with a good, honest heart. They obey God’s teaching and patiently make good fruit.

make good fruit Do the things God wants his people to do.

Use the Understanding You Have

(Mk. 4:21–25)

¹⁶“No person lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. Instead, that person puts the lamp on a lamp table so that the people that come in will have enough light to see. ¹⁷Everything that is hidden will become clear. Every secret thing will be made known, and everyone will see it. ¹⁸So be careful how you listen. The person that has [some understanding] will receive more. But the person that does not have [understanding] will lose even [the understanding] that he thinks he has.”

Jesus’ Followers Are His True Family

(Mt. 12:46–50; Mk. 3:31–35)

¹⁹Jesus’ mother and brothers came to visit him. There were so many people that Jesus’ mother and brothers could not get close to him. ²⁰Someone said to Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside. They want to see you.”

²¹Jesus answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those people that listen to God’s teaching and obey it!”

The Followers See Jesus’ Power

(Mt. 8:23–27; Mk. 4:35–41)

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

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

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

A Man with Demons Inside Him

(Mt. 8:28–34; Mk. 5:1–20)

²⁶Jesus and his followers sailed on across the lake. They sailed to the area where the Gerasene people live, across from Galilee.

²⁷When Jesus got out of the boat, a man from that town came to Jesus. This man had demons* inside him. For a long time he had worn no clothes. He lived in the caves where dead people are buried, not in a house. ²⁸⁻²⁹The demon had often seized him. The man had been put in jail, and his hands and feet had been tied with chains. But the man would always break the chains, and the demon inside him would force him to go out to the places where no people lived. Then Jesus commanded the evil spirit (*the demon*) to come out of this man. The man fell down before Jesus and shouted with a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, don't punish me!"

³⁰Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

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

³⁴The men that were caring for the pigs ran away. The men told the story in the fields and in the town. ³⁵People went out to see what happened. The people came to Jesus and found the man sitting there at the feet of Jesus. The man had clothes on and was in his right mind again; the demons* were gone. The people became afraid. ³⁶The men that saw these things happen told the other people all about how Jesus made the man well. ³⁷All the people asked Jesus to go away. They were afraid.

So Jesus got into the boat to go back to Galilee. ³⁸The man that Jesus healed begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus sent the man away, saying, ³⁹"Go back home and tell people what God did for you."

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

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

eternal darkness Literally, "the abyss," something like a pit or a hole that has no end.

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

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

(Mt. 9:18-26; Mk. 5:21-43)

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

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

All the people said they had not touched Jesus. Peter said, "Master, the people are all around you and are pushing against you."

⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched me! I felt power go out from me." ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she could not hide, she came forward, shaking. She bowed down before Jesus. While all the people listened, she told why she touched Jesus. Then she said that she was healed immediately when she touched him. ⁴⁸Jesus said to her, "My daughter, you are made well because you believed. Go in peace."

⁴⁹While Jesus was still speaking, a person came from the house of the synagogue* leader (*Jairus*) and said, "Your daughter has died! Don't bother the teacher (*Jesus*) now."

⁵⁰Jesus heard this. He said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid! Just believe and your daughter will be well."

⁵¹Jesus went to the house. Jesus let only Peter, John, James, and the girl's father and mother go inside with him. Jesus did not let any other person go inside. ⁵²All the people were crying and feeling sad because the girl

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

was dead. But Jesus said, “Don’t cry. She is not dead; she is only sleeping.”

⁵³The people laughed at Jesus, because they knew that the girl was dead. ⁵⁴But Jesus held her hand and called to her, “Little girl, stand up!” ⁵⁵Her spirit came back into her and she stood up immediately. Jesus said, “Give her something to eat.” ⁵⁶The girl’s parents were amazed. Jesus told them not to tell any person about what happened.

Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission

(Mt. 10:5–15; Mk. 6:7–13)

9 Jesus called the twelve apostles* together. He gave the apostles power to heal sicknesses and power to force demons* out of people. ²Jesus sent the apostles to tell about God’s kingdom and to heal the sick. ³He said to the apostles, “When you travel, don’t take a walking stick. Also, don’t carry a bag, food, or money. Take for your trip only the clothes you are wearing. ⁴When you go into a house, stay there until it is time to leave. ⁵If the people in the town will not welcome you, go outside the town and shake their dust off of your feet.* This will be a warning to them.”

⁶So the apostles went out. They traveled through all the towns. They told the Good News* and healed people everywhere.

Herod Is Confused About Jesus

(Mt. 14:1–12; Mk. 6:14–29)

⁷Governor Herod* heard about all these things that were happening. He was confused because some people said, “John the Baptizer is risen from death.” ⁸Other people said, “Elijah* has come to us.” And some other people said, “One of the prophets* from long ago has risen from death.” ⁹Herod said, “I cut off John’s

head. So who is this man I hear these things about?” Herod continued trying to see Jesus.

Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People

(Mt. 14:13–21; Mk. 6:30–44; Jn 6:1–14)

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

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

¹³But Jesus said to the apostles,* “You give them something to eat.”

The apostles said, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish. Do you want us to go buy food for all these people?” [There are too many!] ¹⁴(There were about 5,000 men there.)

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

¹⁵So the followers did this and all the people sat down. ¹⁶Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus looked up into the sky and thanked God for the food. Then Jesus divided the food and gave it to the followers. Jesus told the followers to give the food to the people. ¹⁷All the people ate and were filled. And there was much food left. Twelve baskets were filled with the pieces of food that were not eaten.

Peter Says that Jesus Is the Christ

(Mt. 16:13–19; Mk. 8:27–29)

¹⁸One time Jesus was praying alone. His followers came together there. Jesus asked them, “Who do the people say I am?”

¹⁹The followers answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptizer. Other people say you are Elijah.* And some people say you are one of the prophets* from long ago that has come back to life.”

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

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

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

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

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

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

Elijah A prophet that lived about 850 B.C.

prophets People that spoke for God in Old Testament times.

Peter answered, “You are the Christ* from God.”

²¹Jesus warned them not to tell anyone.

Jesus Says that He Must Die

(Mt. 16:20–28; Mk. 8:30–9:1)

²²Then Jesus said, “The Son of Man* must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and teachers of the law. The Son of Man will be killed. But after three days he will be raised from death.”

²³Jesus continued to say to all of them, “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 every day, and he must follow me. ²⁴The person that wants to save his life will lose it. And every person that gives his life for me will save it. ²⁵It is worth nothing for a person to have the whole world, if he himself is destroyed or lost. ²⁶If any person is ashamed of me and my teaching, then I* will be ashamed of that person at the time I come with my glory and with the glory of the Father and the holy angels. ²⁷I tell you the truth. Some of you people standing here will see the kingdom of God before you die.”

Moses, Elijah, and Jesus

(Mt. 17:1–8; Mk. 9:2–8)

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, James, and John and went up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹While Jesus was praying, his face began to change. His clothes became shining white. ³⁰Then two men were talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah.* ³¹Moses and Elijah were shining bright too. They were talking with Jesus about his death that would happen in Jerusalem. ³²Peter and the others were asleep. But they woke up and saw the glory of Jesus. They also saw the two men that were standing with

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.

I Literally, “the Son of Man” (Jesus).

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

Jesus. ³³When Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said, “Master, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Peter did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴While Peter was saying these things, a cloud came all around them. Peter, James, and John became afraid when the cloud covered them. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, “This is my Son. He is the One I have chosen. Obey him.”

³⁶When the voice finished, only Jesus was there. Peter, James, and John said nothing. At that time they told no person about what they had seen.

Jesus Heals a Boy That Has an Evil Spirit

(Mt. 17:14–18; Mk. 9:14–27)

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

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

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

Jesus Talks About His Death

(Mt. 17:22–23; Mk. 9:30–32)

The people were still amazed about all the things Jesus did. Jesus said to his followers, ⁴⁴“Don’t forget the things I will tell you now: The Son of Man* will soon be given into the control of some men.” ⁴⁵But the followers did

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

not understand what Jesus meant. The meaning was hidden from them so that they could not understand it. But the followers were afraid to ask Jesus about what he said.

The Most Important Person

(Mt. 18:1–5; Mk. 9:33–37)

⁴⁶Jesus' followers began to have an argument about which one of them was the greatest (*most important*). ⁴⁷Jesus knew what they were thinking. So Jesus took a little child and stood the child beside him. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to the followers, "If a person accepts a little child like this in my name, then that person accepts me. And when a person accepts me, that person accepts the One (*God*) that sent me. The person among you that is the most humble—that person is a great (*important*) person."

Any Person Not Against You Is for You

(Mk. 9:38–40)

⁴⁹John answered, "Master, we saw a person using your name to force demons* out of people. We told him to stop because he does not belong to our group."

⁵⁰Jesus said to John, "Don't stop him. If a person is not against you, then he is for you."

A Samaritan Town

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

⁵⁵But Jesus turned and scolded them.*

⁵⁶Then Jesus and his followers went to another town.

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

Verse 54 Some Greek copies add: "... like Elijah did?"

Verse 55 Some Greek copies add: "And Jesus said, 'You don't know what kind of spirit you belong to. ⁵⁶The Son of Man did not come to destroy the souls of men but to save them.'"

Following Jesus

(Mt. 8:19–22)

⁵⁷They were all traveling along the road. Someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you any place you go."

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

⁵⁹Jesus said to another man, "Follow me!"

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

⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the people that are dead bury their own dead! You must go and tell about the kingdom of God."

⁶¹Another man said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to my family."

⁶²Jesus said, "If any person begins to plow a field, but looks back, he is not prepared for the kingdom of God."

Jesus Sends the 72 Men

10 After this, the Lord (*Jesus*) chose 72* more men. Jesus sent the men out in groups of two. He sent them ahead of him into every town and place where he planned to go. ²Jesus said to them, "There are many, many people to harvest (*save*). But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. God owns the harvest (*people*). Pray to God that he will send more workers to help gather his harvest. ³You can go now. But listen! I am sending you, and you will be like sheep among wolves. ⁴Don't carry any money, a bag, or shoes. Don't stop to talk with people on the road. ⁵Before you go into a house, say, 'Peace be with this home.' ⁶If a peaceful person lives there, your blessing of peace will stay with him. If the person is not peaceful, then your blessing of peace will come back to you. ⁷Stay in the peaceful house. Eat and drink what the people there give you. A worker should be given his pay. Don't leave that house to stay in another house. ⁸If you go into a town and the people welcome you, eat the food they give you. ⁹Heal

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.

72 Some Greek copies of Luke say 70.

the sick people that live there. Then tell them, 'The kingdom of God is soon coming to you!'
 10But if you go into a town, and the people don't welcome you, then go out into the streets of that town and say, 11'Even the dirt (*dust*) from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. But remember that the kingdom of God is coming soon.' 12I tell you, on the judgment day it will be worse for the people of that town than for the people of Sodom.*

Jesus Warns People That Don't Believe

(Mt. 11:20-24)

13'It will be bad for you, Chorazin*! It will be bad for you, Bethsaida*! I did many miracles* in you. If those same miracles had happened in Tyre and Sidon,* then the people in those cities would have changed their lives and stopped sinning a long time ago. They would have worn sackcloth* and put ashes on themselves to show that they were sorry for their sins. 14But on the judgment day it will be worse for you than for Tyre and Sidon. 15And you, Capernaum,* will you be lifted up to heaven? No! You will be thrown down to the place of death!

16'When a person listens to you, that person is really listening to me. But when a person refuses to accept you, that person is really refusing to accept me. And when a person refuses to accept me, he is refusing to accept the One (*God*) that sent me.'

Satan Falls

17When the 72* men came back from their trip, they were very happy. They said, 'Lord, even the demons* obeyed us when we used your name!'
 18Jesus said to the men, 'I saw Satan (*the devil*) falling like lightning from the sky. 19Listen! I gave you power to walk on

Sodom A town where very bad people lived. God punished them by destroying their city.

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

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

Tyre and Sidon Towns in Lebanon where bad people lived.

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

Capernaum A town in Galilee where Jesus taught.

72 Many Greek copies of Luke say 70.

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

snakes and scorpions.* I gave you more power than the Enemy (*the devil*) has. Nothing will hurt you. 20Yes, the spirits obey you. And be happy. Why? Not because you have this power, but be happy because your names are written in heaven.'

Jesus Prays to the Father

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

21Then the Holy Spirit* made Jesus feel very happy. Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. I praise you because you have hidden these things from the wise and smart people. But you have shown these things to people that are like little children. Yes, Father, you did this because this is what you really wanted to do.'

22'My Father has given me all things. No person knows who the Son is—only the Father knows. And only the Son knows who the Father is. The only people that will know about the Father are those people the Son chooses to tell.'

23Then Jesus turned to his followers. They were there alone with him. Jesus said, 'You are blessed to see the things you now see! 24I tell you, many prophets* and kings wanted to see the things that you now see. But they did not see these things. And many prophets and kings wanted to hear the things that you now hear. But they did not hear these things.'

Story About the Good Samaritan

25Then a teacher of the law stood up. He was trying to test Jesus. He said, 'Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?'

26Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you understand from it?'

27The man answered, '“You must love the Lord your God. You must love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.”* Also, ‘You must love other people the same as you love yourself.’*’

scorpions A scorpion is an insect with a poison sting.

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.

prophets People that spoke for God.

'You must ... mind' Quote from Deut. 6:5.

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

²⁸Jesus said to him, “Your answer is right. Do this and you will have life forever.”

²⁹But the man wanted to show that the way he was living was right. So he said to Jesus, “But who are these other people I must love?”

³⁰To answer this question, Jesus said, “A man was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some robbers surrounded him. They tore off his clothes and beat him. Then the robbers left the man lying there on the ground. He was almost dead. ³¹It happened that a Jewish priest was going down that road. When the priest saw the man, he did not stop to help him; he walked away. ³²Next, a Levite* came near. The Levite saw the hurt man, but he went around him. He would not stop to help him either; he just walked away. ³³Then a Samaritan* man traveled down that road. He came to the place where the hurt man was lying. The Samaritan saw the man. He felt very sorry for the hurt man. ³⁴The Samaritan went to him and poured olive oil and wine* on his wounds. Then he covered the man’s wounds with cloth. The Samaritan had a donkey. He put the hurt man on his donkey, and he took him to an inn. At the inn, the Samaritan cared for him. ³⁵The next day, the Samaritan brought out two silver coins* and gave them to the man that worked at the inn. The Samaritan said, ‘Take care of this hurt man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.’”

³⁶Then Jesus said, “Which one of these three men (*the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan*) do you think showed love to the man that was hurt by the robbers?”

³⁷The teacher of the law answered, “The one that helped him.”

Jesus said to him, “Then you go and do the same [for other people].”

Levite Levites were men from the family group of Levi who helped the Jewish priests in the temple.

Samaritan From Samaria. Samaritans were part Jewish, but some Jews did not accept them as pure Jews.

olive oil and wine Oil and wine were used like medicine to soften and clean wounds.

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

Mary and Martha

³⁸While Jesus and his followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house.

³⁹Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to him teach. ⁴⁰But her sister Martha was busy doing all the work that had to be done. Martha went in and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

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

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

(Mt. 6:9–15)

11 One time Jesus was praying in a place. When Jesus finished praying, one of his followers said to him, “John* taught his followers how to pray. Lord, teach us how to pray too.”

²Jesus said to the followers, “When you pray, pray like this:

‘Father, we pray that your name
will always be kept holy.
We pray that your kingdom will come.
³ Give us the food we need for each day.
⁴ Forgive us the sins we have done,
because we forgive every person
that has done wrong to us.
And don’t let us be tempted (tested).’”

Continue to Ask

(Mt. 7:7–11)

^{5–6}Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you went to your friend’s house very late at night and said to him, ‘A friend of mine has come into town to visit me. But I have nothing for him to eat. Please give me three loaves of bread.’ ⁷Your friend inside the house answers, ‘Go away! Don’t bother me! The door is already locked. My children and I are in bed. I cannot get up and give you the bread now.’ ⁸I

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

tell you, maybe friendship is not enough to make him get up to give you the bread. But he will surely get up to give you what you need if you continue to ask. ⁹So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you. ¹⁰Yes, if a person continues asking, that person will receive. If a person continues looking, that person will find. And if a person continues knocking, the door will open for that person. ¹¹Does any of you have a son? What would you do if your son asked you for a fish? Would any father give his son a snake? No! You would give him a fish. ¹²Or, if your son asks for an egg, would you give him a scorpion*? No! ¹³You are like all other people—you are evil. But you know how to give good things to your children. So surely your heavenly Father knows how to give the Holy Spirit* to those people that ask him.”

Jesus' Power Is from God

(Mt. 12:22-30; Mk. 3:20-27)

¹⁴One time Jesus was sending a demon* out of a man that could not talk. When the demon came out, the man was able to speak. The people were amazed. ¹⁵But some of the people said, “He uses the power of Beelzebul (*the devil*) to force demons out of people. Beelzebul is the ruler of demons.”

¹⁶Other people wanted to test Jesus. They asked Jesus to show them a sign (*proof*) from heaven. ¹⁷But Jesus knew the things they were thinking. So Jesus said to the people, “Every kingdom that is divided and fights against itself will be destroyed. And a family that fights against itself will break apart. ¹⁸So if Satan (*the devil*) is fighting against himself, then how will his kingdom continue? You say that I use the power of Beelzebul (*the devil*) to force out demons.* ¹⁹But if I use the power of Beelzebul to force out demons, then what power do your people use when they force out

demons? So your own people will prove that you are wrong. ²⁰But I use the power of God to force out demons. This shows that the kingdom of God has come to you!

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

²³“If a person is not with me, he is against me. The person that does not work with me is working against me.

The Empty Person

(Mt. 12:43-45)

²⁴“When an evil spirit [from the devil] comes out of a person, that spirit travels through dry places, looking for a place to rest. But that spirit finds no place to rest. So the spirit says, ‘I will go back to the home (*person*) I left.’

²⁵When the spirit comes back to that person, the spirit finds that home (*person*) swept clean and made neat. ²⁶Then the evil spirit goes out and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself. Then all the evil spirits go into that person and live there. And that person has even more trouble than he had before.”

The People That Are Truly Happy

²⁷When Jesus said these things, a woman with the people there began to speak. She said to Jesus, “What a great blessing God gave your mother, because she gave birth to you and fed you.”

²⁸But Jesus said, “The people that hear the teaching of God and obey it—they are the people that are truly happy!”

Give Us Proof!

(Mt. 12:38-42; Mk. 8:12)

²⁹The group of people grew larger and larger. Jesus said, “The people that live today are evil. They ask for a miracle* as a sign (*proof*) from God. But no miracle will be given as a sign to them. The only sign will be the

scorpion A scorpion is an insect that has a poison sting.

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.

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

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

miracle that happened to Jonah.* ³⁰Jonah was a sign for those people that lived in Nineveh. It is the same with the Son of Man.* The Son of Man will be a sign for the people of this time. ³¹On the judgment day, you people that live now will be compared with the Queen of the South,* and she will be a witness to show that you are wrong (*guilty*). Why? Because she traveled from far, far away to listen to Solomon’s wise teaching. And I tell you that someone greater than Solomon is right here, but you won’t listen to me! ³²On the judgment day, you people that live now will also be compared with the people from Nineveh,* and they will be witnesses to show that you are wrong (*guilty*). Why? Because when Jonah preached to those people, they changed their hearts and lives. And you are listening to someone greater than Jonah, but you refuse to change!

Be a Light for the World

(Mt. 5:15; 6:22–23)

³³“No person takes a light and puts it under a bowl or hides it. Instead, a person puts the light on a lamp table so that the people that come in can see. ³⁴Your eye is a light for the body. If your eyes are good, then your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, then your whole body will be full of darkness (*sin*). ³⁵So be careful! Don’t let the light in you become dark. ³⁶If your whole body is full of light, and none of it is dark, then it will be all bright. It will be like you have the light of a lamp shining on you.”

Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders

(Mt. 23:1–36; Mk. 12:38–40; Lk. 20:45–47)

³⁷After Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee* asked Jesus to eat with him. So Jesus came and took a place at the table. ³⁸But the

Pharisee was surprised when he saw that Jesus did not wash his hands* first before the meal. ³⁹The Lord (*Jesus*) said to him, “You Pharisees think that washing the outside of the body is so important. That’s like cleaning only the outside of a cup or a dish! The inside is more important. And what is inside you? You want only to cheat and hurt people. ⁴⁰You are foolish! The same One (*God*) that made what is outside also made what is inside. ⁴¹So pay attention to what is inside. Give to the people that need help. Then you will be fully clean. ⁴²But it will be bad for you Pharisees! You give God one-tenth of everything you own—even your mint, your rue, and every other little plant in your garden. But you forget to be fair to other people and to love God. These are the things you should do. And you should also continue to do those other things—like giving one-tenth. ⁴³It will be bad for you Pharisees because you love to get the most important seats in the synagogues.* And you love for people to show respect to you in the market places. ⁴⁴It will be bad for you, because you are like hidden graves. People walk on them without knowing it.”

⁴⁵One of the teachers of the law said to Jesus, “Teacher, when you say these things about the Pharisees,* you are criticizing our group too.”

⁴⁶Jesus answered, “It will be bad for you, you teachers of the law! You make strict rules that are very hard for people to obey.* You try to force other people to obey those rules. But you yourselves don’t even try to follow any of those rules. ⁴⁷It will be bad for you, because you build tombs* for the prophets.* But these are the same prophets that your fathers* killed! ⁴⁸And now you show all people that you agree

Jonah A prophet in the Old Testament. After three days in a big fish he came out alive, like Jesus would come out from the tomb on the third day.

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.

Queen of the South Queen of Sheba. She traveled 1000 miles to learn God’s wisdom from Solomon. Read 1 Kings 10:1–3.

Nineveh City where Jonah preached. Read Jonah 3.

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

wash his hands Washing the hands was a Jewish religious custom that the Pharisees thought was very important.

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

You make ... obey Literally, “You put heavy burdens on people that are hard for them to carry.”

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

prophets People that spoke for God in Old Testament times.

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

with what your fathers did. They killed the prophets, and you build tombs for the prophets! ⁴⁹This is why the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send prophets and apostles* to them. Some of my prophets and apostles will be killed by evil men. Others will be treated badly.’ ⁵⁰So you people that live now will be punished for the deaths of all the prophets that were killed since the beginning of the world. ⁵¹You will be punished for the killing of Abel.* And you will be punished for the killing of Zechariah.* Zechariah was killed between the altar and the temple.* Yes, I tell you that you people that live now will be punished for them all.

⁵²“It will be bad for you, you teachers of the law. You have taken away the key to learning about God. You yourselves would not learn, and you stopped others from learning, too.”

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

Don't Be Like the Pharisees

12 Many thousands of people came together. There were so many people that they were stepping on each other. Before Jesus spoke to the people, he said to his followers, “Be careful of the yeast* of the Pharisees.* I mean that they are hypocrites.* ²Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be made known. ³The things you say in the dark (*secretly*) will be told in the light (*openly*). The things you

prophets and apostles People chosen by God to tell his Good News to the world.

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

altar ... temple This altar was the place where sacrifices were offered to God outside the temple, the building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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

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

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

whisper in a private room will be shouted from the top of the house.”

Fear Only God

(Mt. 10:28–31)

⁴Then Jesus said to the people, “I tell you, my friends, don’t be afraid of people. People can kill the body, but after that they can do nothing more to hurt you. ⁵I will show you the One to fear. You should fear him (*God*) who has the power to kill you and also to throw you into hell. Yes, he is the One you should fear.

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

Don't Be Ashamed of Jesus

(Mt. 10:32–33; 12:32; 10:19–20)

⁸“I tell you, if any person stands before other people and is willing to say that he believes in me, then I* will say that person belongs to me. I will say this before the angels of God. ⁹But if any person stands before people and says he does not believe in me, then I will say that person does not belong to me. I will say this before the angels of God.

¹⁰“If a person says something against the Son of Man,* he can be forgiven. But a person that says bad things against (*refuses to accept*) the Holy Spirit* will not be forgiven.

¹¹“When men bring you into the synagogues* before the leaders and other important men, don’t worry about what you will say. ¹²At that time the Holy Spirit* will teach you what you must say.”

Jesus Warns Against Selfishness

¹³One of the men in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, [our father just died]. Tell my brother to share with me the things our father owned.”

I Literally, “the Son of Man” (Jesus).

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

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.

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

¹⁴But Jesus said to him, “Who said that I should be your judge or decide how to divide your father’s things between you two?” ¹⁵Then Jesus said to them. “Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. A person does not get life from the many things he owns.”

¹⁶Then Jesus used this story: “There was a rich man that had some land. His land grew a very good crop of food. ¹⁷The rich man thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.’ ¹⁸Then the rich man said, ‘I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger barns! I will put all my wheat and good things together in my new barns. ¹⁹Then I can say to myself, I have many good things stored. I have saved enough for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!’ ²⁰But God said to that man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So what about the things you prepared for yourself? Who will get those things now?’

²¹“This is how it will be for the person that saves things only for himself. To God that person is not rich.”

Putting God’s Kingdom First

(Mt. 6:25-34; 19-21)

²²Jesus said to his followers, “So I tell you, don’t worry about the food you need to live. Don’t worry about the clothes you need for your body. ²³Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes. ²⁴Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest. Birds don’t save food in houses or barns. But God takes care of them. And you are worth much more than birds. ²⁵None of you can add any time to your life by worrying about it. ²⁶If you cannot do the little things, then why worry about the big things? ²⁷Look at the wild flowers. See how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. ²⁸God clothes the grass in the field like that. That grass is living today, but tomorrow it will be thrown into the fire to be burned. So you know that God will clothe you much more. Don’t have so little faith! ²⁹So don’t always think about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don’t worry about it.

³⁰All the people that don’t know God try to get those things. Your Father (*God*) knows that you need those things. ³¹The thing you should want is God’s kingdom. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.

Don’t Trust in Money

³²“Don’t fear, little flock (*group*). Your Father (*God*) wants to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell the things you have and give that money to people that need it. The riches of this world don’t continue. So get the kind of riches that continue. Get the treasure of heaven. That treasure continues forever. Thieves can’t steal your treasure in heaven, and moths can’t destroy it. ³⁴Your heart will be where your treasure is.

Always Be Ready

(Mt. 24:45-51)

³⁵“Be ready! Be fully dressed and have your lights shining. ³⁶Be like servants that are waiting for their master to come home from a wedding party. The master comes and knocks. The servants open the door for the master. ³⁷Those servants will be blessed when their master comes home, because he sees that his servants are ready and waiting for him. I tell you the truth. The master will dress himself for work and tell the servants to sit at the table. Then the master will serve them. ³⁸Those servants might have to wait until midnight or later for their master. But they will be happy when their master comes in and finds them still waiting. ³⁹Remember this: If the owner of the house knew what time a thief was coming, then the owner would not allow the thief to enter his house. ⁴⁰So you also must be ready! The Son of Man* will come at a time when you don’t expect him!”

Who Is the Trusted Servant?

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

⁴²The Lord said, “Who is the wise and trusted servant? The master trusts one servant to give the other servants their food at the

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

right time. Who is the servant that the master trusts to do that work? ⁴³When the master comes and finds that servant doing the work he gave him, that servant will be very happy. ⁴⁴I tell you the truth. The master will choose that servant to take care of everything the master owns. ⁴⁵But what will happen if that servant is evil and thinks that his master will not come back soon? That servant will begin to beat the other servants, men and women. He will eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶Then the master of that servant will come when that servant is not ready. It will be a time when that servant is not expecting the master. Then the master will punish that servant. The master will send him away to be with the other people that don't obey.

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

People Will Not Agree About Jesus

(Mt. 10:34–36)

⁴⁹Jesus continued speaking: “I came to bring fire to the world. I wish it were already burning! ⁵⁰I must be baptized with a [different kind of] baptism.* I feel very troubled until it is finished. ⁵¹Do you think that I came to give peace to the world? No! I came to divide the world! ⁵²From now on, a family with five people will be divided, three against two, and two against three.

⁵³ **A father and son will be divided:**
The son will be against his father.
The father will be against his son.

A mother and her daughter will be divided:
The daughter will be against her mother.
The mother will be against her daughter.

baptized ... baptism These words have a special meaning here—being “baptized” or “buried” in troubles.

A mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law will be divided:

The daughter-in-law will be against her mother-in-law.

The mother-in-law will be against her daughter-in-law.”

Understanding the Times

(Mt. 16:2–3)

⁵⁴Then Jesus said to the people, “When you see clouds growing bigger in the west, you say, ‘A rainstorm is coming.’ And soon it begins to rain. ⁵⁵When you feel the wind begin to blow from the south, you say, ‘It will be a hot day.’ And you are right. ⁵⁶You hypocrites*! You can understand the weather. Why don't you understand what is happening now?”

Settle Your Problems

(Mt. 5:25–26)

⁵⁷“Why can't you decide for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸Suppose a person is suing you, and you are going with him to court. You should try hard to settle it on the way. If you don't settle it, he may take you to the judge. And the judge will throw you into jail. ⁵⁹You will not get out of there until you have paid every cent of what you owe.”

Change Your Hearts

13 At that time some people were there with Jesus. These people told Jesus about what happened to some people from Galilee. Pilate* killed those people while they were worshiping. Pilate mixed their blood with the blood of the animals they were sacrificing* [to God]. ²Jesus answered, “Do you think this happened to those people because they were more sinful than all other people from Galilee? ³No, they were not! But if all of you don't change your hearts and lives, then you will be destroyed like those people were! ⁴What about those 18 people that died when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think those people were more sinful than all the people that live in Jerusalem? ⁵They were not! But I

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

Pilate Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea from 26 A.D. to 36 A.D.

sacrificing Killing an animal as an offering to God.

tell you if you don't change your hearts and lives, then you will all be destroyed too!"

The Useless Tree

⁶Jesus told this story: "A man had a fig tree. He planted the tree in his garden. The man came looking for some fruit on the tree, but he found none. ⁷The man had a servant that took care of his garden. So the man said to his servant, 'I have been looking for fruit on this tree for three years, but I never find any. Cut it down! Why should it waste the ground?' ⁸But the servant answered, 'Master, let the tree have one more year to make fruit. Let me dig up the dirt around it and put on some plant food. ⁹Maybe the tree will make fruit next year. If the tree still does not make fruit, then you can cut it down.'"

Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath

¹⁰Jesus taught in one of the synagogues* on the Sabbath day.* ¹¹In that synagogue there was a woman that had a spirit [from the devil] inside her. This spirit had made the woman crippled for 18 years. Her back was always bent; she could not stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called to her, "Woman, your sickness has gone away from you!" ¹³Jesus put his hands on her. Then she was able to stand up straight. She praised God.

¹⁴The synagogue* leader was angry because Jesus healed on the Sabbath day.* The leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come to be healed on one of those days. Don't come for healing on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵The Lord (*Jesus*) answered, "You people are hypocrites*! All of you untie your work animals and lead them to drink water every day—even on the Sabbath day*! ¹⁶This woman that I healed is our Jewish sister.* But Satan (*the devil*) has held her for 18 years. Surely it is not wrong for her to be made free from her sickness on a Sabbath day!" ¹⁷When Jesus said this, all the men that were criticizing him felt ashamed of themselves. And all the

people were happy for the wonderful things Jesus was doing.

What Is God's Kingdom Like?

(Mt. 13:31-33; Mk. 4:30-32)

¹⁸Then Jesus said, "What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare it with? ¹⁹God's kingdom is like the seed of the mustard plant.* A person plants this seed in his garden. The seed grows and becomes a tree. The birds build nests on its branches."

²⁰Jesus said again, "What can I compare God's kingdom with? ²¹It is like yeast* that a woman mixes into a big bowl of flour to make bread. The yeast makes all the dough (*bread*) rise."

The Narrow Door

(Mt. 7:13-14, 21-23)

²²Jesus was teaching in every town and village. He continued to travel toward Jerusalem. ²³Someone said to Jesus, "Lord, how many people will be saved? Only a few?"

Jesus said, ²⁴"Try hard to enter through the narrow door [that opens the way to heaven]! Many people will try to enter there, but they will not be able to enter. ²⁵If a man locks the door of his house, then you can stand outside and knock on the door, but he won't open it. You can say, 'Sir, open the door for us!' But the man will answer, 'I don't know you! Where did you come from?' ²⁶Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you. You taught in the streets of our town.' ²⁷Then he will say to you, 'I don't know you! Where did you come from? Go away from me! You are all people that do wrong!' ²⁸You will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,* and all the prophets* in God's kingdom. But you will be left outside. Then you will cry with fear and anger. ²⁹People will come from the east, west, north, and south. They will sit down at the table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰People that have the lowest place in life now will have the highest

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

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

hypocrites Bad people that act like they are good.

Jewish sister Literally, "daughter of Abraham."

mustard plant A plant that grows taller than a man, but has a very, very small seed.

yeast Used here as a symbol of good influence.

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

prophets People that spoke for God.

place in God's kingdom. And people that have the highest place now will have the lowest place in God's kingdom."

Jesus Will Die in Jerusalem

(Mt. 23:37–39)

³¹At that time some Pharisees* came to Jesus and said, "Go away from here and hide! Herod* wants to kill you!"

³²Jesus said to them, "Go tell that fox* (*Herod*), 'Today and tomorrow I am forcing demons* out of people and finishing my work of healing. Then, the next day, the work will be finished.' ³³After that, I must go, because all prophets* should die in Jerusalem.

³⁴"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets.* You kill with rocks those men that God has sent you. Many, many times I wanted to help your people. I wanted to gather your people together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you did not let me. ³⁵Now your home will be left completely empty. I tell you, you will not see me again until that time when you will say, 'Welcome! God bless the One that comes in the name of the Lord (*God*).'*"

Is It Right to Heal on the Sabbath Day?

14 On a Sabbath day,* Jesus went to the home of a leading Pharisee* to eat with him. The people there were all watching Jesus very closely. ²A man with a bad disease* was put before Jesus. ³Jesus said to the Pharisees* and teachers of the law, "Is it right or wrong to heal on the Sabbath day?" ⁴But they would not answer his question. So Jesus took the man and healed him. Then Jesus sent the man away. ⁵Jesus said to the Pharisees and teachers

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.

fox Jesus means Herod is clever and sly like a fox.

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

prophets People that spoke for God.

'Welcome! ... Lord' Quote from Ps. 118:26.

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

disease The man had dropsy, a sickness that causes the body to swell larger and larger.

of the law, "If your son or work animal falls into a well on the Sabbath day, you know you would pull him out quickly." ⁶The Pharisees and teachers of the law could say nothing against what Jesus said.

Don't Make Yourself Important

⁷Then Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit. So Jesus told this story: ⁸"When a person invites you to a wedding, don't sit in the most important seat. The person may have invited someone more important than you. ⁹And if you are sitting in the most important seat, then the person that invited you will come to you and say, 'Give this man your seat!' Then you will begin to move down to the last place. And you will be very embarrassed. ¹⁰So when a person invites you, go sit in the seat that is not important. Then the person that invited you will come to you and say, 'Friend, move up here to this better place!' What an honor this will be for you in front of all the other guests! ¹¹Every person that makes himself important will be made humble. But the person that makes himself humble will be made important."

You Will Be Rewarded

¹²Then Jesus said to the Pharisee* that had invited him, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite only your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. At another time they will pay you back by inviting you to eat with them. ¹³Instead, when you give a feast, invite the poor people, the crippled, and the blind. ¹⁴Then you will have great blessings, because these people cannot pay you back. They have nothing. But God will reward you at the time when good people rise from death."

Story About a Big Dinner Party

(Mt. 22:1–10)

¹⁵One of the men sitting at the table with Jesus heard these things. The man said to Jesus, "What a great blessing it will be for a person to eat a meal in God's kingdom!"

¹⁶Jesus said to him, "A man gave a big dinner. The man invited many people. ¹⁷When it was time to eat, the man sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come! The food is ready!'

¹⁸But all the guests said they could not come. Each man made an excuse. The first man said, ‘I have just bought a field, so I must go look at it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹Another man said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of work animals; I must go and try them. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰A third man said, ‘I just got married; I can’t come.’ ²¹So the servant returned. He told his master what had happened. Then the master became angry and said, ‘Hurry! Go into the streets and alleys of the town. Bring me the poor people, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²²Later the servant said to him, ‘Master, I did what you told me to do, but we still have places for more people.’ ²³The master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and country roads. Tell the people there to come. I want my house to be full!’ ²⁴None of those people that I invited first will ever eat with me!’”

Decide If You Are Able to Follow Me

(Mt. 10:37–38)

²⁵Many people were traveling with Jesus. Jesus said to the people, ²⁶“If a person comes to me, but will not leave his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters, then that person cannot be my follower. A person must love me more than he loves anything—even his own life! ²⁷If a person will not carry the cross (*suffering*) that is given to him when he follows me, then that person cannot be my follower. ²⁸If you wanted to build a building, you would first sit down and decide how much it would cost. You must see if you have enough money to finish the job. ²⁹If you don’t do that, you might begin the work, but you would not be able to finish. And if you could not finish it, then all the people watching would laugh at you. ³⁰They would say, ‘This man began to build, but he was not able to finish!’

³¹“If a king is going to fight against another king, first he will sit down and plan. If the king has only 10,000 men, he will plan to see if he is able to defeat the other king that has 20,000 men. ³²If he cannot defeat the other king, then he will send some men to speak to the other king and ask for peace. ³³It is the same for each of you. You must decide if you can leave

everything you have to follow me. If not, you cannot be my follower!

Don't Lose Your Influence

(Mt. 5:13; Mk. 9:50)

³⁴“Salt is a good thing. But if the salt loses its salty taste, then you can’t make it salty again. ³⁵It is worth nothing. You can’t even use it for soil or for plant food. People throw it away.

“You people that hear me, listen!”

Joy in Heaven

(Mt. 18:12–14)

15 Many tax collectors* and bad people came to listen to Jesus. ²Then the Pharisees* and the teachers of the law began to complain, “Look! This man (*Jesus*) welcomes bad people and even eats with them!”

³Then Jesus told them this story: ⁴“Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses one of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will continue to search for the lost sheep until he finds it. ⁵And when he finds the sheep, the man is very happy. The man carries the sheep ⁶to his home. He goes to his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!’ ⁷In the same way, I tell you, heaven is a happy place when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that one sinner than there is for 99 good people that don’t need to change their hearts.

⁸“Suppose a woman has ten silver coins,* but she loses one of them. The woman will take a light and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. ⁹And when she finds the lost coin, she will call her friends and neighbors and say to them, ‘Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!’ ¹⁰In the same way, the angels of God are very happy when one sinner changes his heart.”

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.

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

The Son That Left Home

¹¹Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. ¹²The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my part of all the things we own!’ So the father divided the wealth with his two sons. ¹³Then the younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He traveled far away to another country. There the son wasted his money living like a fool. ¹⁴He spent everything that he had. Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in that country. The son was hungry and needed money. ¹⁵So he went and got a job with one of the people of that country. The man sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food that the pigs were eating. But no person gave him anything. ¹⁷The boy realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, ‘All of my father’s servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dead because I have nothing to eat. ¹⁸I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him: Father, I sinned against God and have done wrong to you. ¹⁹I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants.’ ²⁰So the son left and went to his father.

The Son Returns

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. The father felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him. He hugged and kissed his son. ²¹The son said, ‘Father, I sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am not good enough to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and dress him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good shoes on his feet. ²³Bring our fat calf. We will kill it and have plenty to eat. Then we can have a party! ²⁴My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!’ So they began to have a party.

The Older Son Comes

²⁵“The older son was in the field. He came closer to the house. He heard the sound of music and dancing. ²⁶So the older son called to one of the servant boys and asked, ‘What

does all this mean?’ ²⁷The servant said, ‘Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat. Your father is happy because your brother came home safely!’ ²⁸The older son was angry and would not go in to the party. So his father went out to ask him to come in. ²⁹The son said to his father, ‘I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never killed even a goat for me! You never gave a party for me and my friends. ³⁰But your other son has wasted all your money on prostitutes.* Then he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!’ ³¹But the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours too. ³²We must be happy and have a party; because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.’”

True Wealth

16 Jesus said to his followers, “Once there was a rich man. This rich man hired a manager to take care of his business. Later, the rich man learned that his manager was cheating him. ²So he called the manager in and said to him, ‘I have heard bad things about you. Give me a report of what you have done with my money. You can’t be my manager now!’ ³Later, the manager thought to himself, ‘What will I do? My master is taking my job away from me! I am not strong enough to dig ditches. I am too proud to beg. ⁴I know what I will do! I will do something so that when I lose my job, other people will welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So the manager called in each person that owed the master some money. He said to the first man, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶The man answered, ‘I owe him 8,000 pounds of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Here is your bill. Hurry! Sit down and make the bill less. Write 4,000 pounds.’ ⁷Then the manager said to another man, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ The man answered, ‘I owe him 60,000 pounds of wheat.’ Then the manager said to him, ‘Here is your bill; you can make it less. Write

prostitutes Women that are paid by men for sexual sin.

50,000 pounds.’⁸ Later, the master told the dishonest manager that he had done a smart thing. Yes, worldly people are smarter in their business with the people of their time than spiritual people are.

⁹“I tell you, use the things you have here in this world to make friends with God. Then, when those things are gone, you will be welcomed in that home that continues forever. ¹⁰If a person can be trusted with small things, then he can also be trusted with big things. If a person is dishonest in little things, then he will be dishonest in big things too. ¹¹If you cannot be trusted with worldly riches, then you will not be trusted with the true (*heavenly*) riches. ¹²And if you cannot be trusted with the things that belong to someone else, then you will not be given things of your own.

¹³“No servant can serve two masters at the same time. The servant will hate one master and love the other. Or he will be loyal to one and not care about the other. You cannot serve God and Money* at the same time.”

God’s Law Cannot Be Changed

(Mt. 11:12-13)

¹⁴The Pharisees* were listening to all these things. The Pharisees criticized Jesus because they all loved money. ¹⁵Jesus said to the Pharisees, “You make yourselves look good in front of people. But God knows what is really in your hearts. The things that people think are important are worth nothing to God.

¹⁶“Before John the Baptizer came, God wanted the people to live by the law of Moses and the writings of the prophets.* But since the time of John, the Good News about the kingdom of God is being told. Many people are trying hard to get into the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Even the smallest part of a letter in the law cannot be changed. It would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away.

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

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

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

Divorce and Remarriage

¹⁸“If a man divorces his wife and marries another woman, he is guilty of the sin of adultery.* And the man that marries a divorced woman is also guilty of adultery.”

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹Jesus said, “There was a rich man that always dressed in the finest clothes. He was so rich that he was able to enjoy all the best things every day. ²⁰There was also a very poor man named Lazarus. Lazarus’ body was covered with sores. Lazarus was often put at the rich man’s gate. ²¹Lazarus wanted only to eat the small pieces of food left from the rich man’s table. And the dogs came and licked his sores! ²²Later, Lazarus died. The angels took Lazarus and placed him in the arms of Abraham.* The rich man also died and was buried. ²³He was sent to the place of death* and had much pain. The rich man saw Abraham far away with Lazarus in his arms. ²⁴He called, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to me so that he can dip his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am suffering in this fire!’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember when you lived? You had all the good things in life. But all the bad things happened to Lazarus. Now he is comforted here, and you are suffering. ²⁶Also, there is a big pit (*hole*) between you and us. No person can cross over to help you. And no person can leave there and come here.’ ²⁷The rich man said, ‘Then please, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father’s house on earth! ²⁸I have five brothers. Lazarus could warn my brothers so that they will not come to this place of pain.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have the law of Moses and the writings of the prophets* to read; let them learn from that!’ ³⁰But the rich man said, ‘No, father Abraham! But if someone came to them from the dead, then they would change their hearts and lives.’ ³¹But Abraham said to him, ‘No! If your brothers won’t listen to Moses and the

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

place of death Literally, “Hades.”

prophets, then they won't listen to someone that comes back from death.”

Don't Cause Sin and Be Ready to Forgive

(Mt. 18:6–7, 21–22; Mk. 9:42)

17 Jesus said to his followers, “Things will surely happen that will make people sin. But it will be very bad for the person that makes this happen. **2**It will be very bad for a person if he makes one of these weak persons sin. It would be better for him to have a millstone* tied around his neck and be drowned in the sea. **3**So be careful!

“If your brother sins, tell him he is wrong. If he is sorry and stops sinning, forgive him. **4**If your brother does something wrong to you seven times in one day, but he says that he is sorry each time, then you should forgive him.”

How Big Is Your Faith?

5The apostles* said to the Lord (*Jesus*), “Give us more faith!”

6The Lord said, “If your faith is as big as a mustard seed,* then you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Dig yourself up and plant yourself in the ocean!’ And the tree will obey you.

Be Good Servants

7“Suppose one of you has a servant that has been working in the field. The servant has been plowing the ground or caring for the sheep. When he comes in from work, what would you say to him? Would you say, ‘Come in and sit down to eat’? **8**No! You would say to your servant, ‘Prepare something for me to eat. Then get dressed and serve me. When I finish eating and drinking, then you can eat.’ **9**The servant should not get any special thanks for doing his job. He is only doing what his master told him to do. **10**It is the same with you. When you do all the things you are told to do, you should say, ‘We are not worthy of any special thanks. We have only done the work we should do.’”

millstone A large, round stone used for grinding grain.

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

mustard seed The very small seed of the mustard plant.

Be Thankful

11Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. He went from Galilee to Samaria. **12**He came into a small town. Ten men met him there. These men did not come close to Jesus, because they all had leprosy.* **13**But the men yelled to Jesus, “Jesus! Master! Please help us!”

14When Jesus saw the men, he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.*”

While the ten men were going to the priests, they were healed. **15**When one of the men saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God loudly. **16**He bowed down at Jesus’ feet. The man thanked Jesus. (This man was a Samaritan.*) **17**Jesus said, “Ten men were healed; where are the other nine? **18**This man is not even a Jew! Is he the only one that came back to give praise to God?” **19**Then Jesus said to the man, “Stand up! You can go. You were healed because you believed.”

God's Kingdom Is Inside You

(Mt. 24:23–28, 37–41)

20Some of the Pharisees* asked Jesus, “When will the kingdom of God come?”

Jesus answered, “God’s kingdom is coming, but not in a way that you will be able to see with your eyes. **21**People will not say, ‘Look, God’s kingdom is here!’ Or, ‘There it is!’ No, God’s kingdom is inside you.”*

22Then Jesus said to his followers, “The time will come when you will want very much to see one of the days of the Son of Man,* but you will not be able. **23**People will say to you, ‘Look, there it is!’ or, ‘Look, here it is!’ Stay where you are; don’t go away and search.

When Jesus Comes Again

24“You will know it, when the Son of Man* comes again. On the day when he comes he

leprosy A very bad skin disease.

show yourselves to the priests The law of Moses said a priest must decide when a Jew with leprosy was well.

Samaritan From Samaria. Samaritans were part Jewish, but some Jews did not accept them. as pure Jews.

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

inside you Or, “here with you.”

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.

will shine like lightning flashes across the sky. ²⁵But first, the Son of Man must suffer many things and be killed by the people of this time. ²⁶It will be the same when the Son of Man comes again as it was when Noah lived. ²⁷In the time of Noah, people were eating, drinking, and getting married even on the day when Noah entered the boat. Then the flood came and killed all the people. ²⁸It will be the same as during the time of Lot when God destroyed Sodom.* Those people were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building houses for themselves. ²⁹The people were doing these things even on the day when Lot left town. Then fire and sulphur rained down from the sky and killed them all. ³⁰This is exactly how it will be when the Son of Man comes again.

³¹“On that day, if a man is on his roof, he will not have time to go inside and get his things. If a man is in the field, he cannot go back home. ³²Remember what happened to Lot’s wife*? ³³The person that tries to save his life will lose it. But the person that gives his life away will save it. ³⁴At the time when I come again, there may be two people sleeping in one room. One person will be taken and the other person will be left. ³⁵There may be two women working together. One woman will be taken and the other woman will be left.” ³⁶*

³⁷The followers asked Jesus, “Where will this be, Lord?”

Jesus answered, “People can always find a dead body by looking for the vultures.*”

God Will Answer His People

18 Then Jesus taught the followers that they should always pray and never lose hope. Jesus used this story to teach them: ²“Once there was a judge in a town. He did not care about God. The judge also did not care what people thought about him. ³In that same town there was a woman. Her husband was

dead. The woman came many times to this judge and said, ‘There is a man that is doing bad things to me. Give me my rights!’ ⁴But the judge did not want to help the woman. After a long time, the judge thought to himself, ‘I don’t care about God. And I don’t care about what people think. ⁵But this woman is bothering me. If I give her what she wants, then she will leave me alone. But if I don’t give her what she wants, she will bother me until I am sick!’”

⁶The Lord (*Jesus*) said, “Listen! ¹There is meaning_J in what the bad judge said. ⁷God’s people shout to him night and day. God will always give his people what is right. God will not be slow to answer his people. ⁸I tell you, God will help his people quickly! But when the Son of Man* comes again, will he find people on earth who believe in him?”

Being Right with God

⁹There were some people that thought that they were very good. These people acted like they were better than other people. Jesus used this story to teach them: ¹⁰“One time there was a Pharisee* and a tax collector.* One day they both went to the temple* to pray. ¹¹The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he said, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men that steal, cheat, or do the sin of adultery.* I thank you that I am better than this tax collector. ¹²_JI am good;_J I fast* twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I earn!’

¹³“The tax collector* stood alone too. But when he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. The tax collector felt very humble before God. He said, ‘O God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, when this man finished his prayer and went home, he was right with God. But the Pharisee,* who felt that he

Sodom A town where very bad people lived. God punished them by destroying their city.

Lot’s wife The story about what happened to Lot’s wife is found in Gen. 19:15–17, 26.

Verse 36 A few Greek copies of Luke add verse 36: “Two men will be in the same field. One man will be taken, but the other man will be left behind.”

vultures Or, “eagles”—birds that eat dead animals.

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.

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

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

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

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

was better than other people, was not right with God. Every person that makes himself important will be made humble. But the person that makes himself humble will be made important.”

Who Will Enter God's Kingdom?

(Mt. 19:13–15; Mk. 10:13–16)

¹⁵Some people brought their small children to Jesus so that Jesus could touch them. But when the followers saw this, they told the people not to do this. ¹⁶But Jesus called the little children to him and said to his followers, “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. ¹⁷I tell you the truth. You must accept God’s kingdom like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it!”

A Rich Man Asks Jesus a Question

(Mt. 19:16–30; Mk. 10:17–31)

¹⁸A [Jewish] leader asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do to get the life that continues forever?”

¹⁹Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. ²⁰But I will answer your question.] You know [God’s] commands: ‘You must not do the sin of adultery,* you must not murder anyone, you must not steal anything, you must not tell lies about other people, you must honor (*respect*) your father and mother....’*”

²¹But the leader said, “I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy!”

²²When Jesus heard this, he said to the leader, “But there is still one more thing you need to do. Sell everything you have and give the money to the poor people. You will have a reward in heaven. Then come and follow me!” ²³But when the man heard this, he was very sad. The man was very rich [and wanted to keep his money.]

²⁴When Jesus saw that the man was sad, he said, “It will be very hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!”

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

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

Who Can Be Saved?

²⁶When the people heard this, they said, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus answered, “God can do things that are not possible for people to do!”

²⁸Peter said, “Look, we left everything we had and followed you!”

²⁹Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Every person that has left his home, wife, brothers, parents, or children for God’s kingdom ³⁰will get much more than he left. That person will get many times more in this life. And after that person dies, he will live with God forever.”

Jesus Will Rise from Death

(Mt. 20:17–19; Mk. 10:32–34)

³¹Then Jesus talked to the twelve apostles* alone. Jesus said to them, “Listen! We are going to Jerusalem. Everything that God told the prophets* to write about the Son of Man* will happen! ³²His people will turn against him and give him to the non-Jewish people.* The non-Jews will laugh at him, insult him, and spit on him. ³³They will beat him with whips and then kill him! But on the third day after his death, he will rise to life again.” ³⁴The apostles tried to understand this, but they could not; the meaning was hidden from them.

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

(Mt. 20:29–34; Mk. 10:46–52)

³⁵Jesus came near the city of Jericho. There was a blind man sitting beside the road. The blind man was begging people for money.

³⁶When this man heard the people coming down the road, he asked, “What is happening?”

³⁷The people told him, “Jesus, the one from Nazareth, is coming here.”

³⁸The blind man was excited and said, “Jesus, Son of David*! Please help me!”

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

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

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.

non-Jewish people Literally, “nations” (Gentiles).

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

³⁹The people that were in front, leading the group, criticized the blind man. They told him not to speak. But the blind man shouted more and more, “Son of David, please help me!”

⁴⁰Jesus stopped there and said, “Bring that blind man to me!” When the blind man came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

⁴²Jesus said to him, “You can see now! You are healed because you believed.”

⁴³Then the man was able to see. The man followed Jesus, thanking God. All the people that saw this praised God for what happened.

Zacchaeus

19 Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. ²In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector.* ³He wanted to see who Jesus was. There were many other people that wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus was too short to see above the people. ⁴So he ran to a place where he knew Jesus would come. Then Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. ⁵When Jesus came to that place, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Jesus said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry! Come down! I must stay at your house today.”

⁶Then Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was happy to have Jesus in his house. ⁷All the people saw this. They began to complain, “Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!”

⁸Zacchaeus said to the Lord (*Jesus*), “I want to do good. I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated any person, I will pay that person back four times more!”

⁹Jesus said, “Today is the day for this family to be saved from sin. Yes, even this tax collector is one of God’s chosen people*! ¹⁰The Son of Man* came to find lost people and save them.”

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

one of God’s chosen people Literally, “a son of Abraham.”

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.

Use the Things God Gives You

(Mt. 25:14–30)

¹¹Jesus traveled closer to Jerusalem. Some of the people thought that God’s kingdom would come soon. ¹²Jesus knew the people thought this, so he told them this story: “A very important man was preparing to go to a country far away to be made a king. Then the man planned to return home and rule his people. ¹³So he called ten of his servants together. He gave a bag of money* to each servant. The man said, ‘Do business with this money until I come back.’ ¹⁴But the people in the kingdom hated the man. So the people sent a group to follow the man to the other country. In the other country, this group said, ‘We don’t want that man to be our king!’

¹⁵“But the man became king. When he came home, he said, ‘Call those servants that have my money. I want to know how much more money they earned with it.’ ¹⁶The first servant came and said, ‘Sir, I earned ten bags of money* with the one bag you gave me!’ ¹⁷The king said to the servant, ‘Fine! You are a good servant. I see that I can trust you with small things. So now I will let you rule over ten of my cities!’ ¹⁸The second servant said, ‘Sir, with your one bag of money I earned five bags!’ ¹⁹The king said to this servant, ‘You can rule over five cities!’ ²⁰Then another servant came in. The servant said to the king, ‘Sir, here is your bag of money. I wrapped it in a piece of cloth and hid it. ²¹I was afraid of you because you are a hard man. You even take money that you didn’t earn and gather food that you didn’t grow!’ ²²Then the king said to the servant, ‘You bad servant! I will use your own words to condemn you. You said that I am a hard man. You said that I even take money that I didn’t earn and gather food that I didn’t grow. ²³If that is true, you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came back, my money would have earned some interest.’ ²⁴Then the king said to the men that were watching, ‘Take the bag of money away from this servant and give it to the servant that earned ten bags of money.’ ²⁵The

bag(s) of money One bag of money was a Greek “mina,” enough to pay a person for working three months.

men said to the king, ‘But sir, that servant already has ten bags of money!’ ²⁶The king said, ‘The person that uses what he has will get more. But the person that does not use what he has will have everything taken away from him. ²⁷Now where are my enemies? Where are the people that did not want me to be king? Bring my enemies here and kill them. I will watch them die!’”

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

(Mt. 21:1–11; Mk. 11:1–11; Jn 12:12–19)

²⁸After Jesus said these things, he continued traveling toward Jerusalem. ²⁹Jesus came near Bethphage and Bethany, towns near the hill called the Mount of Olives.* Jesus sent out two of his followers. ³⁰He said, “Go into the town you can see there. When you enter the town, you will find a young donkey tied there. No person has ever ridden this donkey. Untie the donkey, and bring it here to me. ³¹If any person asks you why you are taking the donkey, you should say, ‘The Master needs this donkey.’”

³²The two followers went into town. They found the donkey exactly like Jesus told them. ³³The followers untied the donkey. But the owners of the donkey came out. They said to the followers, “Why are you untying our donkey?”

³⁴The followers answered, “The Master needs it.” ³⁵So the followers brought the donkey to Jesus. The followers put their coats on the donkey’s back. Then they put Jesus on the donkey. ³⁶Jesus rode along the road toward Jerusalem. The followers spread their coats on the road before Jesus.

³⁷Jesus was coming close to Jerusalem. He was already near the bottom of the Mount of Olives.* The whole group of followers were happy. They were very excited and praised God. They thanked God for all the powerful things they had seen. ³⁸They said,

“‘Welcome! God bless the king that comes in the name of the Lord.’ *Psalm 118:26*

Peace in heaven and glory to God!”

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

³⁹Some of the Pharisees* said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell your followers not to say these things!”

⁴⁰But Jesus answered, “I tell you, these things must be said. If my followers don’t say these things, then these rocks will say them.”

Jesus Cries for Jerusalem

⁴¹Jesus came near Jerusalem. He saw the city and began to cry for it. ⁴²Jesus spoke to Jerusalem. He said, “I wish you knew today what would bring you peace! But you can’t know it, because it is hidden from you. ⁴³A time is coming when your enemies will build a wall around you. Your enemies will hold you on all sides. ⁴⁴They will destroy you and all your people. Not one stone of your buildings will stay on top of another. All this will happen because you did not know the time when God came to save you.”

Jesus Goes to the Temple

(Mt. 21:12–17; Mk. 11:15–19; Jn 2:13–22)

⁴⁵Jesus went into the temple* area. He began to throw out the people that were selling things there. ⁴⁶Jesus said, “It is written in the Scriptures*, ‘My house will be a house of prayer.’* But you have changed it into a ‘hiding place for thieves.’*”

⁴⁷Jesus taught the people in the temple* area every day. The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and some of the leaders of the people wanted to kill Jesus. ⁴⁸But all the people were listening closely to Jesus. They were very interested in the things Jesus said. So the leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the leaders did not know how they could kill Jesus.

The Jewish Leaders Ask Jesus a Question

(Mt. 21:23–27; Mk. 11:27–33)

20 One day Jesus was in the temple* area. He was teaching the people. Jesus told the people the Good News about the kingdom of God. The leading priests, teachers of the

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

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

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

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

law, and older Jewish leaders came to talk to Jesus. ²They said, “Tell us! What authority do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?”

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

⁵The priests, the teachers of the law, and the Jewish leaders all talked about this. They said to each other, “If we answer, ‘John’s baptism was from God,’ then he will say, ‘Then why did you not believe John?’ ⁶But if we say that John’s baptism was from someone else, [not God,] then all the people will kill us with rocks. They will kill us because they believe that John was a prophet.*” ⁷So they answered, “We don’t know the answer.”

⁸So Jesus said to them, “Then I will not tell you what authority I use to do these things!”

God Sends His Son

(Mt 21:33–46; Mk. 12:1–12)

⁹Then Jesus told the people this story: “A man planted a vineyard. The man leased the land to some farmers. Then he went away for a long time. ¹⁰Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the man sent a servant to those farmers so that they would give him his share of the grapes. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away with nothing. ¹¹So the man sent another servant. The farmers beat this servant too. They showed no respect for him. The farmers sent the servant away with nothing. ¹²So the man sent a third servant to the farmers. The farmers hurt this servant badly and threw him out. ¹³The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What will I do now? I will send my son. I love my son very much. Maybe the farmers will respect my son!’ ¹⁴When the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the owner’s son. This vineyard will be his. If we kill him, then it will be ours!’ ¹⁵So

the farmers threw the son out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What will the owner of the vineyard do? ¹⁶He will come and kill those farmers! Then he will lease the land to some other farmers.”

The people heard this story. They said, “No! This should never happen!” ¹⁷But Jesus looked into their eyes and said, “Then what does this verse mean:

‘The stone that the builders did not want became the cornerstone*’?

Psalm 118:22

¹⁸Every person that falls on that stone will be broken. If that stone falls on you, it will crush you!”

¹⁹The teachers of the law and the leading priests heard this story that Jesus told. They knew this story was about them. So they wanted to arrest Jesus at that time. But they were afraid of what the people would do.

The Jewish Leaders Try to Trick Jesus

(Mt. 22:15–22; Mk. 12:13–17)

²⁰So the Jewish leaders waited for the right time to get Jesus. They sent some men to Jesus. They told these men to act like they were good men. They wanted to find something wrong with the things Jesus said. (If they found something wrong, then they could give Jesus to the governor, who had power and authority [over him,].) ²¹So the men asked Jesus, “Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is true. It doesn’t matter who is listening—you teach the same to all people. You always teach the truth about God’s way. ²²Tell us, is it right that we should pay taxes to Caesar*? Yes or No?”

²³But Jesus knew that these men were trying to trick him. Jesus said to them, ²⁴“Show me a coin. Whose name is on the coin? And whose picture is on it?”

They said, “Caesar’s.”

²⁵Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar* the things that are Caesar’s. And give to God the things that are God’s.”

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

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.

cornerstone The first and most important rock of a building.

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

²⁶The men were amazed at his wise answer. They could say nothing. The men were not able to trick Jesus before the people. Jesus said nothing they could use against him.

Some Sadducees Try to Trick Jesus

(Mt. 22:23–33; Mk. 12:18–27)

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

³⁴Jesus said to the Sadducees,* “On earth, people marry each other. ³⁵Some people will be worthy to be raised from death and live again after this life. In that life they will not marry. ³⁶In that life people are like angels and cannot die. They are children of God, because they have been raised from death. ³⁷Moses clearly showed that people are raised from death. When Moses wrote about the burning bush,* he said that the Lord is ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’* ³⁸If God said he is their God, then these men are not really dead. He is God only of living people. All people that belong to God are alive.”

³⁹Some of the teachers of the law said, “Teacher, your answer was very good.” ⁴⁰No person was brave enough to ask him another question.

Sadducees A leading Jewish religious group. They accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament.

if ... dead brother See Deut. 25:5,6.

burning bush Read Ex. 3:1–12.

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

‘the God of ... Jacob’ Words taken from Ex. 3:6.

Is the Christ the Son of David?

(Mt. 22:41–46; Mk. 12:35–37)

⁴¹Then Jesus said, “Why do people say that the Christ* is the Son of David*? ⁴²In the book of Psalms, David* himself says:

‘The Lord (God) said to my Lord (Christ):

⁴³ Sit by me at my right side,
and I will put your enemies
under your power.*’ Psalm 110:1

⁴⁴David calls the Christ ‘Lord.’ But the Christ is also the son of David. How can both these things be true?”

Warning Against the Teachers of the Law

(Mt. 23:1–36; Mk. 12:38–40; Lk. 11:37–54)

⁴⁵All the people listened to Jesus. Jesus said to his followers, ⁴⁶“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. They love to get the most important seats in the synagogues.* And they love to get the most important seats at the feasts. ⁴⁷But they are mean to widows* and steal their homes. Then they try to make themselves look good by saying long prayers. God will punish these people very much.”

True Giving

(Mk. 12:41–44)

21 Jesus saw some rich people putting their gifts for God into the temple money box.* ²Then Jesus saw a poor widow.* She put two small copper coins into the box. ³Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. This poor widow gave only two small coins. But she really gave more than all those rich people. ⁴The rich people have plenty; they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very

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

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

David King of Israel about 1000 years before Christ.

and I ... power Literally, “until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

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

widows Women whose husbands have died.

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

poor. But she gave all she had. And she needed that money to help her live.”

The Destruction of the Temple

(Mt. 24:1–14, Mk. 13:1–13)

⁵Some of the followers were talking about the temple.* They said, “This is a beautiful temple, built with the best stones. Look at the many good gifts that have been offered to God!”

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

⁷Some followers asked Jesus, “Teacher, when will these things happen? What will show us that it is time for these things to happen?”

⁸Jesus said, “Be careful! Don’t be fooled. Many people will come using my name. They will say, ‘I am [the Christ*]’ and, ‘The right time has come!’ But don’t follow them. ⁹When you hear about wars and riots, don’t be afraid. These things must happen first. Then the end will come later.”

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, sicknesses, and other bad things in many places. In some places there will be no food for the people to eat. Terrible things will happen, and amazing things will come from heaven to warn people.

¹²“But before all these things happen, people will arrest you and do bad things to you. People will judge you in their synagogues* and put you in jail. You will be forced to stand before kings and governors. People will do all these things to you because you follow me. ¹³But this will give you an opportunity to tell about me. ¹⁴Don’t worry about what you will say. ¹⁵I will give you the wisdom to say things that none of your enemies can answer. ¹⁶Even your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends will turn against you. They will kill some of you. ¹⁷All people will hate you because you follow me.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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

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

¹⁸But none of these things can really harm you. ¹⁹You will save yourselves by continuing strong in your faith through all these things.

The Destruction of Jerusalem

(Mt. 24:15–21; Mk. 13:14–19)

²⁰“You will see armies all around Jerusalem. Then you will know that the time for the destruction of Jerusalem has come. ²¹At that time, the people in Judea should run away to the mountains. The people in Jerusalem must leave quickly. If you are near the city, don’t go in! ²²The prophets* wrote many things about the time when God will punish his people. The time I am telling you about is the time when all these things must happen. ²³At that time, it will be bad for women that are pregnant or have small babies. Why? Because very bad times will come to this land. God will be angry with these people (*the Jews*). ²⁴Some of the people will be killed by soldiers. Other people will be made prisoners and taken to every country. The holy city of Jerusalem will be walked on by non-Jewish people until their time is finished.

Don’t Fear

(Mt. 24:29–31; Mk. 13:24–27)

²⁵“Amazing things will happen with the sun, moon, and stars. The people on earth will feel trapped. The oceans will be upset, and the people will not know why. ²⁶People will become afraid. They will be very worried about what will happen to the world. Everything in the sky will be changed. ²⁷Then people will see the Son of Man* coming on a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to happen, don’t fear. Look up and be happy! Don’t worry. Be happy, because you know that the time when God will free you is near!”

My Words Will Live Forever

(Mt. 24:32–35; Mk. 13:28–31)

²⁹Then Jesus told this story: “Look at all the trees. The fig tree is a good example. ³⁰When it becomes green (*grows buds*), you know that summer is near. ³¹It is the same with these

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

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.

things I told you would happen. When you see all these things happening, then you will know that God's kingdom is coming very soon.

³²"I tell you the truth. All these things will happen while people of this time are still living! ³³The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed; but the words I have said will never be destroyed!

Be Ready All the Time

³⁴"Be careful! Don't spend your time drinking and getting drunk. Or don't be too busy with worldly things. If you do that, you will not be able to think right. And then the end might come when you are not ready. ³⁵It will come like a surprise to all people on earth. ³⁶So be ready all the time. Pray that you will be strong enough to continue safely through all these things that will happen. And pray that you will be able to stand before the Son of Man."^{*}

³⁷During the day, Jesus taught the people in the temple* area. At night he went out of the city and stayed all night on the Mount of Olives.* ³⁸Every morning all the people got up early to go listen to Jesus at the temple.

The Jewish Leaders Want to Kill Jesus

(Mt. 26:1–5, 14–16; Mk. 14:1–2, 10–11; Jn 11:45–53)

22 It was almost time for the Jewish Festival of Unleavened Bread,* called the Passover.* ²The leading priests and teachers of the law were trying to find a quiet way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of what the people would do to them.

Judas Makes Plans Against Jesus

³One of Jesus' twelve apostles* was named Judas Iscariot. Satan (*the devil*) went into Judas

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.

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.

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.

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

and made him do a bad thing. ⁴Judas went and talked with the leading priests and some of the soldiers who guarded the temple.* Judas talked to them about a way to give Jesus to them. ⁵The priests were very happy about this. They promised to give Judas money [if he would give Jesus to them]. ⁶Judas agreed. Then Judas waited for the best time to give Jesus to them. Judas wanted to do it when there were no people around to see him do it.

Preparation of the Passover Meal

(Mt. 26:17–25; Mk. 14:12–21; Jn 13:21–30)

⁷The Day of Unleavened Bread* came. This was the day when the Jews always killed the lambs for the Passover.* ⁸Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us to eat."

⁹Peter and John said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare the meal?"

Jesus said to them, ¹⁰"Listen! After you go into the city (*Jerusalem*), you will see a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him. He will go into a house. You go with him. ¹¹Tell the person that owns that house, 'The Teacher asks that you please show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover* meal.' ¹²Then the man who owns the house will show you a large room upstairs. This room is ready for us. Prepare the Passover meal there."

¹³So Peter and John left. Everything happened the way Jesus said. So they prepared the Passover* meal.

The Lord's Supper

(Mt. 26:26–30; Mk. 14:22–26; 1 Cor. 11:23–25)

¹⁴The time came for them to eat the Passover* meal. Jesus and the apostles* were together at the table. ¹⁵Jesus said to them, "I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. ¹⁶I will never eat another Passover meal until it is given its true meaning in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this cup and give it to everyone here. ¹⁸I will never drink wine again until God's kingdom comes."

Day of Unleavened Bread Same as Passover.

¹⁹Then Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for the bread and divided it. He gave it to the apostles.* Then Jesus said, “This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Eat this to remember me.” ²⁰In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine and said, “This wine shows the new agreement [from God to his people]. This new agreement begins with my blood (*death*) that I am giving for you.”*

Who Will Turn Against Jesus?

²¹Jesus said, “One of you will soon be against me. His hand is by my hand on the table. ²²The Son of Man* will do what God has planned. But it will be very bad for that person who gives the Son of Man [to be killed].”

²³Then the apostles* asked each other, “Which one of us would do that to Jesus?”

Be Like a Servant

²⁴Later the apostles* began to argue about which one of them was the most important. ²⁵But Jesus said to them, “The kings of the world rule over their people. Men who have authority over other people make the people call them ‘great helpers [of the people].’ ²⁶But you must not be like that. The greatest person should become like the youngest person! Leaders should be like servants. ²⁷Who is more important: the person sitting at the table or the person serving him? You think the person sitting at the table is more important. But I am like a servant among you!

²⁸“You men have stayed with me through many struggles. ²⁹My Father has given me a kingdom. I also give you authority to rule with me. ³⁰You will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. You will sit on thrones and judge the twelve tribes (*family groups*) of Israel.*

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

Verses 19–20 A few Greek copies do not have Jesus’ words in the last part of verse 19 and all of verse 20.

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

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

Don’t Lose Your Faith!

(Mt. 26:31–35; Mk. 14:27–31; Jn 13:36–38)

³¹“Satan (*the devil*) has asked to test you men like a farmer tests his wheat. O Simon, Simon (*Peter*), ³²I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me.”

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

³⁴But Jesus said, “Peter, before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say you don’t know me. You will say this three times!”

Be Ready for Trouble

³⁵Then Jesus said to the apostles,* “I sent you [to tell people about God]. I sent you without money, a bag, or shoes. But did you need anything?”

The apostles said, “No.”

³⁶Jesus said to them, “But now if you have money or a bag, carry that with you. If you don’t have a sword, sell your coat and buy one. ³⁷The Scripture* says:

‘People said he was a criminal.’

Isaiah 53:12

This Scripture must happen. It was written about me, and it is happening now.”

³⁸The followers said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords!”

Jesus said to them, “That’s enough!”

Jesus Tells the Apostles to Pray

(Mt. 26:36–46; Mk. 14:32–42)

^{39–40}Jesus left the city (*Jerusalem*) and went to the Mount of Olives.* His followers went with him. (Jesus went there often.) Jesus said to his followers, “Pray for strength against temptation.”

⁴¹Then Jesus went about 50 steps away from them. He kneeled down and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if it is what you want, then let me not have this cup* [of suffering]. But do what you want, not what I want.” ⁴³Then an angel

Scripture Part of the 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.

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

from heaven appeared. The angel was sent to help Jesus. ⁴⁴Jesus was full of pain; he struggled hard in prayer. Sweat dripped from his face like he was bleeding.* ⁴⁵When Jesus finished praying, he went to his followers. They were asleep. (Their sadness had made them very tired.) ⁴⁶Jesus said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray for strength against temptation.”

Jesus Is Arrested

(Mt. 26:47–56; Mk. 14:43–50; Jn 18:3–11)

⁴⁷While Jesus was speaking, a group of people came. One of the twelve apostles* was leading the group. He was Judas. Judas came close to Jesus so that he could kiss Jesus.

⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you using the kiss [of friendship] to give the Son of Man* [to his enemies]?” ⁴⁹The followers of Jesus were standing there too. They saw what was happening. The followers said to Jesus, “Lord, should we use our swords?” ⁵⁰And one of the followers did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest.*

⁵¹Jesus said, “Stop!” Then Jesus touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

⁵²The group that came to arrest Jesus were the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, and the Jewish soldiers. Jesus said to them, “Why did you come out here with swords and sticks? Do you think I am a criminal? ⁵³I was with you every day in the temple* area. Why didn’t you try to arrest me there? But this is your time—the time when darkness (*sin*) rules.”

Peter Is Afraid to Say He Knows Jesus

(Mt. 26:57–58, 69–75; Mk. 14:53–54, 66–72; Jn 18:12–18, 25–27)

⁵⁴They arrested Jesus and took him away. They brought Jesus into the house of the high priest.* Peter followed them, but he did not come near Jesus. ⁵⁵The soldiers started a fire in the middle of the yard and sat together. Peter sat with them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw Peter

sitting there. She could see because of the light from the fire. The girl looked closely at Peter’s face. Then she said, “This man was also with him (*Jesus*)!”

⁵⁷But Peter said this was not true. He said, “Lady, I don’t know him.” ⁵⁸A short time later, another person saw Peter and said, “You are also one of those people that follow him (*Jesus*).”

But Peter said, “Man, I am not one of his followers!”

⁵⁹About an hour later, another man said, “It is true! This man was with him (*Jesus*). He is from Galilee!” The man said he was sure about this.

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

Immediately, while Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹Then the Lord (*Jesus*) turned and looked into Peter’s eyes. And Peter remembered what the Lord had said: “Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say three times that you don’t know me.” ⁶²Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

The People Laugh at Jesus

(Mt. 26:67–68; Mk. 14:65)

⁶³Some men were holding (*guarding*) Jesus. They made fun of Jesus and beat him. ⁶⁴They covered his eyes so that he could not see them. Then they hit him and said, “Be a prophet* and tell us who hit you!” ⁶⁵And they said many very bad things to Jesus.

Jesus Before the Jewish Leaders

(Mt. 26:59–66; Mk. 14:55–64; Jn 18:19–24)

⁶⁶The next morning, the older leaders of the people, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law came together. They led Jesus away to their highest court. ⁶⁷They said, “If you are the Christ,* then tell us that you are!”

Jesus said to them, “If I tell you I am the Christ, you will not believe me. ⁶⁸And if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But beginning now, the Son of Man* will sit at the right side of God’s throne.”

Verses 43–44 Some Greek copies do not have verses 43 and 44.
apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

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.

high priest The most important Jewish priest and leader.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

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

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

⁷⁰They all said, “Then are you the Son of God?” Jesus said to them, “Yes, you are right when you say that I am.”

⁷¹They said, “Why do we need witnesses now? We ourselves heard him say this!”

Governor Pilate Questions Jesus

(Mt. 27:1–2, 11–14; Mk. 15:1–5; Jn 18:28–38)

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

³Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Yes, that is right.”

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

⁵They said again and again, “But Jesus is making trouble with the people! He teaches all around Judea. He began in Galilee, and now he is here!”

Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

⁶Pilate heard this and asked if Jesus was from Galilee. ⁷Pilate learned that Jesus was under Herod’s* authority. Herod was in Jerusalem at that time, so Pilate sent Jesus to him. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very happy. Herod had heard all about Jesus. So he had wanted to meet Jesus for a long time. Herod wanted to see a miracle.* So he hoped that Jesus would do a miracle. ⁹Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing. ¹⁰The leading priests and teachers of the law were standing there. They were shouting things against Jesus. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers laughed at Jesus. They made fun of Jesus by dressing him in clothes like kings wear. Then Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. ¹²In the past, Pilate and Herod had always been enemies. But on that day Herod and Pilate became friends.

Pilate Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea from 26 A.D. to 36 A.D.

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

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

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

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

Jesus Must Die

(Mt. 27:15–26; Mk. 15:6–15; Jn 18:39–19.16)

¹³Pilate called all the people together with the leading priests and the Jewish leaders.

¹⁴Pilate said to them, “You brought this man (*Jesus*) to me. You said that he was trying to change the people. But I judged him before you all. I found no wrong that he had done. Jesus is not guilty of the things you say. ¹⁵Also, Herod* found nothing wrong with him; Herod sent Jesus back to us. Look, Jesus has done nothing wrong. He should not be killed. ¹⁶So, after I punish him a little, I will let him go free.” ¹⁷*

¹⁸But all the people shouted, “Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!” ¹⁹(Barabbas was a man that was in jail because he started a riot in the city. He had also killed some people.)

²⁰Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So again Pilate told them that he would let Jesus go. ²¹But they shouted again, “Kill him! Kill him on a cross!”

²²A third time Pilate said to the people, “Why? What wrong has he done? He is not guilty. I can find no reason to kill him. So I will let him go free after I punish him a little.”

²³But the people continued to shout. They demanded that Jesus be killed on the cross. Their shouting became so loud that ²⁴Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. ²⁵The people wanted Barabbas to go free. Barabbas was in jail for starting a riot and for killing people. Pilate let Barabbas go free. And Pilate gave Jesus to the people to be killed. This is what the people wanted.

Jesus Is Killed on a Cross

(Mt. 27:32–44; Mk. 15:21–32; Jn 19:17–27)

²⁶The soldiers led Jesus away [to be killed]. At that same time, there was a man coming into the city from the fields. His name was Simon. Simon was from the city of Cyrene. The soldiers forced Simon to carry Jesus’ cross and walk behind Jesus.

²⁷Many, many people followed Jesus. Some of the women were sad and crying. They felt

Verse 17 A few Greek copies of Luke add verse 17: “Every year at the Passover festival, Pilate had to release one prisoner to the people.”

sorry for Jesus. ²⁸But Jesus turned and said to the women, “Women of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children too! ²⁹The time is coming when people will say, ‘Happy are the women that cannot have babies! Happy are the women that have no children to care for.’ ³⁰Then the people will say to the mountain, ‘Fall on us!’ The people will say to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” ³¹If people act like this now when life is good, what will happen when bad times come?*

³²There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be killed. ³³Jesus and the two criminals were led to a place called “The Skull.” There the soldiers nailed Jesus to his cross. They also nailed the criminals to their crosses. They put one criminal beside Jesus on the right, and they put the other criminal beside Jesus on the left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people [that are killing me]. They don’t know what they are doing.*”

The soldiers gambled with dice to decide who would get Jesus’ clothes. ³⁵The people stood there watching [Jesus]. The Jewish leaders laughed at Jesus. They said, “If he is God’s Chosen One, the Christ,* then let him save himself. He saved other people, didn’t he?”

³⁶Even the soldiers laughed at Jesus and teased him. They came to Jesus and offered him some wine. ³⁷The soldiers said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸(At the top of the cross these words were written: “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”)

³⁹One of the criminals began to shout very bad things at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Christ*? Then save yourself! And save us too!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal stopped him. He said, “You should fear God! All of us will die soon! ⁴¹You and I are guilty; we should be killed because we did wrong. But this man (*Jesus*) has done nothing wrong!” ⁴²Then this criminal said to Jesus, “Jesus, remember me when you begin ruling as king!”

the people ... ‘Cover us!’ Quote from Hos. 10:8

If people act ... come Literally, “If they do these things in the green tree, what will happen in the dry?”

Jesus said, “Father ... doing” Some early copies of Luke do not have these words.

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

⁴³Then Jesus said to him, “Listen! What I say is true: Today you will be with me in Paradise*!”

Jesus Dies

(Mt. 27:45-56; Mk. 15:33-41; Jn 19:28-30)

⁴⁴It was about noon, but the whole area became dark until three o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁵There was no sun! The curtain in the temple* was torn into two pieces. ⁴⁶Jesus shouted, “Father, I give you my life.”* After Jesus said this, he died.

⁴⁷The army officer* there saw what happened. He praised God, saying, “I know this man was a good man!”

⁴⁸Many people had come out of the city to see this thing. When the people saw it, they felt very sorry and left. ⁴⁹The people who were close friends of Jesus were there. Also, there were some women that had followed Jesus from Galilee. They all stood far away from the cross and watched these things.

Joseph of Arimathea

(Mt. 27:57-61; Mk. 15:42-47; Jn 19:38-42)

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹A man was there from the Jewish town of Arimathea. His name was Joseph. He was a good man, who lived the way God wanted. He was waiting for God’s kingdom to come. Joseph was a member of the Jewish council. But he did not agree when the other Jewish leaders decided to kill Jesus. ⁵²Joseph went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. [Pilate let Joseph have the body.] ⁵³So Joseph took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in cloth. Then he put Jesus’ body in a tomb (*grave*) that was dug in a wall of rock. This tomb had never been used before. ⁵⁴This was late on Preparation day.* When the sun went down, the Sabbath day* would begin.

⁵⁵The women that had come from Galilee with Jesus followed Joseph. They saw the

Paradise Place where good people go when they die.

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.

“Father ... life” Literally, “I put my spirit in your hands.” Quote from Ps. 31:5.

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

Preparation day Friday, the day before the Sabbath.

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

tomb. Inside they saw where the body of Jesus was put. ⁵⁶Then the women left to prepare some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body.

On the Sabbath day* they rested. The law of Moses commanded all people to do this.

News That Jesus Has Risen from Death

(Mt. 28:1–10; Mk. 16:1–8; Jn 20:1–10)

24 Very early Sunday morning, the women came to the tomb (*grave*) where Jesus' body was laid. They brought the sweet-smelling spices they had prepared. ²A heavy stone had been put in the doorway to close the tomb. But the women found that the stone was rolled away. ³They went in, but they did not find the Lord Jesus' body. ⁴The women did not understand this. While they were wondering about it, two men (*angels*) in shining clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were very afraid; they bowed their heads down. The two men said to the women, "Why are you looking for a living person here? This is a place for dead people! ⁶Jesus is not here. He has risen from death! Do you remember what he said in Galilee? ⁷Jesus said that the Son of Man* must be given to evil men, be killed on a cross, and rise from death on the third day." ⁸Then the women remembered the things that Jesus said.

⁹The women left the tomb (*grave*) and went to the eleven apostles* and the other followers. The women told them everything that happened at the tomb. ¹⁰These women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and some other women. These women told the apostles everything that happened. ¹¹But the apostles did not believe what the women said. It sounded like crazy talk. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb to see. He looked in, but he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. The cloth was lying there alone. [Jesus was gone.] Peter went away to be alone, wondering what had happened.

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

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.

On The Road to Emmaus

(Mk. 16:12–13)

¹³That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus. It is about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. ¹⁶(But the two men were not allowed to recognize Jesus.) ¹⁷Then Jesus said, "What are these things you are talking about while you walk?"

The two men stopped. Their faces looked very sad. ¹⁸The one named Cleopas answered, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem that does not know what has just happened there."

¹⁹Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?"

The men said to him, "It's about Jesus, the one from Nazareth. To God and to all the people he was a great prophet.* He said and did many powerful things. ²⁰But our leaders and the leading priests gave him away to be judged and killed. They nailed Jesus to a cross. ²¹We were hoping that Jesus would be the one to free Israel (*the Jews*). But then all this happened. And now something else: It has been three days since [Jesus was killed], ²²but today some of our women told us an amazing thing. Early this morning the women went to the tomb (*grave*) where the body of Jesus was laid. ²³But they did not find his body there. They came and told us that they had seen some angels in a vision.* The angels said that Jesus was alive! ²⁴So some of our group went to the tomb, too. It was just like the women said—the tomb was empty. They saw the tomb, but they did not see him (*Jesus*)."

²⁵Then Jesus said to the two men, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true. You should believe everything the prophets* said. ²⁶The prophets said that the Christ* must suffer these things before he enters his glory." ²⁷Then Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.* Jesus started with the books of

prophet A person that spoke for God.

vision(s) Something like dreams that God used to speak to people.

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

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

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Moses and then he talked about what the prophets had said about him.

²⁸They came near the town of Emmaus and Jesus acted like he did not plan to stop there. ²⁹But they wanted him to stay. They begged him, “Stay with us. It is late; it is almost night.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰Jesus got ready to eat with them and took some bread. He gave thanks for the food and divided it. Then he gave it to them. ³¹At that time, the men were allowed to recognize Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. ³²The two men said to each other, “When Jesus talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. It was exciting when he explained to us the true meaning of the Scriptures.*”

³³So the two men got up then and went back to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem they found the followers of Jesus meeting together. The eleven apostles* and those people that were with them ³⁴said, “The Lord (*Jesus*) really has risen from death! He showed himself to Simon (*Peter*).”

³⁵Then the two men told the things that had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognized Jesus when he divided the bread.

Jesus Appears to His Followers

(Mt. 28:16–20; Mk. 16:14–18; Jn 20:19–23; Ac. 1:6–8)

³⁶While the two men were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among the group of followers. Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷This surprised the followers. They became afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸But Jesus said, “Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me. You can see that I have a living body; a ghost does not have a body like this.”

⁴⁰After Jesus told them this, he showed them [the holes in] his hands and feet. ⁴¹The followers were amazed and very, very happy to see that Jesus was alive. They still could not believe what they saw. Jesus said to them, “Do you have any food here?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of cooked fish. ⁴³While the followers watched, Jesus took the fish and ate it.

⁴⁴Jesus said to them, “Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen—everything written in the law of Moses, the books of the prophets,* and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then Jesus helped the followers understand these Scriptures* written [about him]. ⁴⁶Jesus said to them, “It is written that the Christ* would be killed and rise from death on the third day. ^{47–48}You saw these things happen—you are witnesses. You must go and tell people that their sins can be forgiven. Tell them that they must change their hearts and be sorry for their sins. If they will do this, then God will forgive them. You must start from Jerusalem and tell people these things in my name. This Good News* must be told to all people in the world. ⁴⁹Listen! My Father has promised you something; I will send it to you. But you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.”

Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

(Mk. 16:19–20; Ac. 1:9–11)

⁵⁰Jesus led his followers out of Jerusalem almost to Bethany. Jesus raised his hands and blessed his followers. ⁵¹While Jesus was blessing them, he was separated from them and carried into heaven. ⁵²The followers worshiped him there. Then they went back to the city. They were very happy. ⁵³They stayed at the temple* all the time, praising God.

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

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

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

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

apostles Men that Jesus chose to be his special helpers for telling his Good News to the world.