

Jesus in Chicago

A modern adaptation of the Gospel

By Jack Brackitt

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For my grandmother.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Their works are shown in the King James footnotes:

A: Matthew

B: Mark

C: Luke

D: John

Regarding the many people who helped me: Thanking them would almost be a book in itself. It would fill lots of pages, and excellent people would still be missed.

Therefore, if you have a question about who should be thanked for what, please e-mail brackitt@yahoo.com. You'll receive a response, and – depending on the circumstances – the answer will probably be posted on the book's Website: <http://www.geocities.com/jesusinchicago>. The Website is a timely source of important information about *Jesus in Chicago*.

Table of Contents

LEGAL NOTICE	2
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
LIST OF PARABLES	8
Part 1. Arrival	9
1. ZACHARIAS IS SPEECHLESS	9
2. ANGEL IN MILWAUKEE	11
3. COUSINS HAVE NEWS	12
4. NAMING THE BABY	13
6. JOSEPH	14
7. BIRTH IN PULLMAN	15
Part 2. Youth	16
1. KEEPING WATCH	16
2. THE FIRST BROADCAST	17
3. RIDE FROM CAPE KENNEDY	18
4. GIFT-GIVING	19
5. ESCAPE TO ALABAMA	20
6. A CHICAGO HOLIDAY	21
Part 3. Adulthood.....	22
1. JOHN THE BAPTIST	22
2. JESUS AT 30.....	24
3. GOING HUNGRY.....	25
4. JOHN IS INTERVIEWED	26
5. TALKING WITH STUDENTS	27
6. IMMEDIATE BELIEF.....	28
Part 4. Miracles	29
1. THE WEDDING GUESTS	29
2. JESUS IN CHICAGO.....	30
3. A CALL FROM NICODEMUS.....	31
4. THE BAPTISTS	32
5. STOPPING IN GURNEE.....	33
6. RETURN TO MILWAUKEE	36
7. HEALING THE SICK	37
8. ROUNDUP.....	38
9. HEALING IN NEENAH.....	39
10. WISCONSIN TRAVEL	40
11. THE PARKING LOT AUDIENCE	41
12. MATTHEW.....	42
Part 5. Sundays.....	43
1. IN GRANT PARK	43
2. NEVER ON A SUNDAY.....	45
3. IN THE PUBLIC EYE	46
4. SELECTING TEACHERS	47

5. SERMON FROM THE WATER SLIDE.....	49
6. COMMUNICATING WITH JOHN	51
7. FOR LOVE OF JOHN.....	52
8. CHASTISING THE CRITICS	53
9. TOWNS IN TROUBLE	54
Part 6. Connecting	55
1. THE SHOE SHINE.....	55
2. FRIENDS AND ATTACKERS	57
3. IN THE FAMILY	59
4. THE CORNFIELD	60
5. CONVERTING AN ARMY	64
6. A LISTENER IS HEALED	67
7. TEACHERS SPREAD THE WORD.....	68
8. HEROD’S BIRTHDAY	69
9. FAITH IN THE FARMLAND	70
10. ONE FOR 5,000.....	71
11. JESUS WALKS THE WHEAT	72
12. INTERVIEWED.....	75
13. RESPONDING TO POLITICIANS.....	78
14. TO THE TOP	80
15. PAYING THE FEE.....	82
16. THE MENTAL HOSPITAL	85
Part 7. Conflict	87
1. FOLLOWERS GET AN EARFUL.....	87
2. GETTING JESUS	90
3. MICHIGAN AVENUE BROADCAST	91
4. THE BLIND MAN	94
5. MORE CALLS	97
6. TALKING TO AN AUDIENCE.....	100
7. WINTER HEAT	111
8. LAZARUS.....	115
9. FOR MARTHA AND MARY	117
10. GETTING RID OF JESUS	119
11. CONNECTING WITH THE YOUNG	120
12. SEARCHING FOR JESUS	123
13. DINNER WITH LAZARUS	124
Part 8. Chicago.....	125
1. FINAL RIDE TO CHICAGO	125
2. CLEARING THE STUDIO.....	127
3. THE GREATEST MEDIUM	128
4. TENSE EXCHANGES	129
5. TRUE SPONSOR.....	133
6. THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL	136
7. MAKING RESERVATIONS	137
8. THURSDAY DINNER	138

9. SINGLED OUT	139
10. INSTRUCTIONS TO TEACHERS	140
11. EXTRA HELP TO PETER	141
12. IN NAVY PIER	142
Part 9. Arrest.....	143
1. FRIDAY ARREST.....	143
2. CAIAPHAS	145
3. PETER’S THREE EXCHANGES.....	146
4. INJUSTICE.....	147
5. JUDAS IS SORROWFUL.....	149
6. PILATE	150
7. HEROD	152
8. HOLIDAY PARDONS	153
9. ILLINOIS STEPS IN	155
10. PILATE GOES TO JESUS	156
12. FRIDAY MIDDAY.....	157
13. EXECUTION	158
Part 10. Resurrection.....	160
1. AFTER THE EXECUTION	160
2. SATURDAY	161
3. VISITOR TO THE GRAVE	162
4. SUNDAY	163
5. MEETING FOLLOWERS	164
6. REUNION IN CHICAGO	165
7. DOUBTING THOMAS	166
8. LEAVING HOME	167

List of Parables

In chronological order.

01: Answering machine	40	27: Film premiere.....	100
02: Cola.....	42	28: Eiffel Tower.....	101
03: Bachelor party.....	42	29: Hotel executive	101
04: Microwave oven	47	30: Megabytes.....	102
05: Mustard company	48	31: Photography studio	102
06: Rock on.....	49	32: The prodigal VP.....	102
07: World's flashlight	49	33: Carnival.....	104
08: Sloppy joes.....	49	34: Salon owner	105
09: Ski lodge	55	35: Office assistant.....	106
10: Jonah and the ship.....	57	36: Private investigator	106
11: Weight lifter	58	37: Two prayers	107
12: Model airplanes.....	60	38: Promoting rock bands	107
13: The Sun	60	39: Late dinner	109
14: ATM.....	60	40: Hair dye.....	110
15: Honus Wagner	60	41: Spaced in aerospace	111
16: Open audition.....	61	42: High school	113
17: Reporters.....	61	43: Movie set.....	121
18: Video distributor	61	44: Circus	126
19: Economics 101.....	66	45: Short sleeves	128
20: Machines	76	46: The dentist.....	129
21: Skydiving	82	47: Yachts	130
22: The good bus driver	95	48: Blown speakers	133
23: The good Lake Countian.....	97	49: Airline	133
24: Video game	98	50: Fitness instructors	134
25: Pay-per-view	100	51: Trucks and sports cars.....	134
26: Tailgate party	100	52: Phone lines.....	140

Part 1. Arrival

September, 1965

1. Zacharias is speechless

There was a disc jockey named Zacharias, and he was married to Elizabeth.¹ She was unable to conceive, and she was now well past the usual child bearing years.²

One time, while prepping for his show,³ Zacharias was arranging his carts (similar to 8-track tapes). This was the custom for radio broadcasters of that time.⁴ A radio audience was waiting for his program to begin.⁵

One of God's angels appeared in the studio and stood to the right of the turntables.⁶ Zacharias was frightened.⁷

"Don't worry," the angel said. "Your prayers are answered. Elizabeth is going to have a son, and you'll call him John.⁸ It will be a very happy day for everyone,⁹ and God will see that John is great. He'll never drink, but he'll be filled with the Holy Spirit.¹⁰ He will turn many Illinoisans toward God,¹¹ and he'll prepare everyone for the leader."¹²

"How am I supposed to believe all this?" Zacharias asked. "My wife and I are old."¹³

¹ C01:05 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

² C01:07 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

³ C01:08 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

⁴ C01:09 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

⁵ C01:10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

⁶ C01:11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

⁷ C01:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

⁸ C01:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

⁹ C01:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

¹⁰ C01:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

¹¹ C01:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

¹² C01:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

¹³ C01:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

“I’m Gabriel,” the angel replied. “God sent me to tell you this great news.¹⁴ But since you don’t believe me, you won’t be able to speak until everything I say happens.”¹⁵

Zacharias had to go on the air, but he couldn’t speak.¹⁶ He left the studio, and coworkers figured that he must have seen a vision.¹⁷

Zacharias went home.¹⁸ Soon thereafter, Elizabeth was pregnant. She hid herself five months. She also said,¹⁹ “God gave me this so I wouldn’t be so negative about men.”²⁰

¹⁴ C01:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

¹⁵ C01:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

¹⁶ C01:21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

¹⁷ C01:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

¹⁸ C01:23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

¹⁹ C01:24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

²⁰ C01:25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

January, 1966

2. Angel in Milwaukee

God then sent Gabriel into Milwaukee, Wisconsin.¹ In that city lived Mary, a young lady who was a virgin. She was going to marry a fellow named Joseph.² Gabriel saw Mary and said, “God is with you, and you’re very special.”³

This concerned Mary. Why was an angel telling her these things?⁴

Gabriel caught Mary’s look and said, “Don’t be afraid, because God loves you.⁵ And, prepare yourself for this: You’re going to have a baby, and you’ll call him Jesus.⁶ He’ll be the savior,⁷ and his authority will go on forever.”⁸

Mary replied, “I’ve never been with a man, so how can this happen?”⁹

“Don’t worry,” Gabriel said. “The Holy Spirit will take care of everything.¹⁰ Also, your cousin Elizabeth? I understand she can’t have babies. Well, she’s pregnant.¹¹ And God made this happen.”¹²

Mary said, “I’ll do anything God wants.”¹³

¹ C01:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

² C01:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.

³ C01:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee blessed art thou among women.

⁴ C01:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

⁵ C01:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary for thou hast found favour with God.

⁶ C01:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

⁷ C01:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David

⁸ C01:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

⁹ C01:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

¹⁰ C01:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

¹¹ C01:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

¹² C01:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

¹³ C01:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

3. Cousins have news

After meeting the angel, Mary quickly drove to Chicago's south side,¹ and she hugged Elizabeth.² Just then, the baby jumped inside Elizabeth, and she was filled with power from the Holy Spirit.³

"Mary, you're one special lady," Elizabeth said.⁴ "Why did you come here?"⁵ 'Cause I'll tell you, the moment you talked, my baby jumped for joy!"⁶

Mary talked about the recent events and said, "I'm really honored,⁷ because God took an ordinary person like me. And from now on, everyone will say I'm blessed."⁸

"Well," Elizabeth said, "we're two believers who are very fulfilled."⁹

Mary stayed with Elizabeth until April, 1966, and then she drove home.¹⁰

¹ C01:39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

² C01:40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

³ C01:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost

⁴ C01:42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

⁵ C01:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁶ C01:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

⁷ C01:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

⁸ C01:48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

⁹ C01:45 And blessed is she that believed for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

¹⁰ C01:56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

June, 1966

4. Naming the baby

Elizabeth gave birth to a son.¹ Her family and friends knew the Lord was responsible for this, and everyone was thrilled. They were going to inoculate the baby and name him Zacharias, after Dad.²

But Elizabeth said, “No, we’ll call him John.”³

They said, “Nobody in your family is named John.”⁴ And they asked Zacharias what he thought.⁵

Zack got a piece of paper and wrote, “His name is John.”⁶ Suddenly, Zacharias could talk! He thanked God, of course.⁷

Sadly, John’s birth brought fear into the entire south side.⁸ People asked, “What is this child going to be?” But naturally, the Lord was there with them, so everything was going to be fine.⁹

Zacharias became spirited and said,¹⁰ “Let’s bless the Lord, because we’re going to be free!”¹¹ He echoed messages from the forefathers, saying,¹² “They’ll call my son a leader, because he’ll make a path for the Lord.¹³ John will tell everyone about a man who saves people by forgiving their sins.¹⁴ This man will shine a light on people, and he will guide them toward peace.”¹⁵

¹ C01:57 Now Elisabeth’s full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

² C01:59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

³ C01:60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

⁴ C01:61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

⁵ C01:62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

⁶ C01:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

⁷ C01:64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

⁸ C01:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

⁹ C01:66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

¹⁰ C01:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

¹¹ C01:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

¹² C01:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began

¹³ C01:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

¹⁴ C01:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

¹⁵ C01:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

6. Joseph

Meanwhile, Mary was pregnant with Jesus, and she was going to marry a fellow named Joseph.¹ Not being the father, Joseph was going to quietly call off the marriage.² But an angel showed up in Joseph's dream.

"Joseph," said the angel, "marry your fiancée! She has the Holy Spirit inside her.³ Mary will have a son, and he will be named 'Jesus' -- because he'll end every sin."⁴

After Joseph woke up, he married Mary.⁵

During this time, President Augustus announced a new federal tax plan, and it required everyone to be counted.⁶ All citizens had to travel to their hometowns.⁷

¹ A01:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

² A01:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

³ A01:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

⁴ A01:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins.

⁵ A01:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife

⁶ C02:01 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

⁷ C02:03 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

October, 1966

7. Birth in Pullman

Joseph packed up his carpentry van and drove 106 miles south to Pullman, Illinois -- his hometown.¹ Of course, the pregnant Mary went as well.²

After they arrived in Pullman, Mary began having contractions.³ Because there were no motel rooms, they stayed in an animal shelter. Mary gave birth, wrapped the baby in a clean blanket, and placed him in a large dog food bowl.⁴

¹ C02:04 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David

² C02:05 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

³ C02:06 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁴ C02:07 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Part 2. Youth

1. Keeping watch

That night, the Pullman animal control officers were out on patrol.¹ Suddenly, an angel appeared, and the officers were shocked.²

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid – I have great news for you.”³ In Pullman, the savior was just born.⁴ Go to your animal shelter and see him.”⁵

The officers said, “Let’s get back there.”⁶ They arrived with sirens blazing, and they found Mary, Joseph and the baby.⁷

The officers announced this miracle birth everywhere.⁸ But Mary didn’t tell anyone about anything. Instead, she kept it all in her heart.⁹ She named the baby Jesus, and eight days later, he was inoculated.¹⁰

¹ C02:08 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

² C02:09 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid.

³ C02:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

⁴ C02:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

⁵ C02:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

⁶ C02:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

⁷ C02:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

⁸ C02:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

⁹ C02:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

¹⁰ C02:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

2. The first broadcast

December, 1966

The family of three drove to the major TV station in Chicago, and they sat in the studio audience. With cameras rolling, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to God.¹ As a gift, Mary and Joseph gave two frozen cornish game hens they bought at the supermarket.²

A man named Simeon was in the studio audience,³ and he became spirited.⁴ “I’m released!” declared Simeon.⁵ “Because I’ve seen salvation.”⁶ Joseph and Mary were amazed at this.⁷

Simeon blessed the parents. He said to Mary, “Many people will rise and fall in Illinois because of your child.⁸ Everyone will be seen for what they are, and it will be a knife in your soul.”⁹

¹ C02:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

² C02:24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

³ C02:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

⁴ C02:27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

⁵ C02:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word

⁶ C02:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

⁷ C02:33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

⁸ C02:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

⁹ C02:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

3. Ride from Cape Kennedy

Some astronauts rode their motorcycles up from Cape Kennedy. They pulled into Chicago and asked,¹ “Where is the new leader of Illinois? We tracked his star, and we’re here to worship him.”²

Herod was the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court, Illinois Northern District. When he heard about this he was troubled -- and so was all of Chicago.³ Judge Herod called a meeting of the broadcast station owners and reporters, and he asked where the new leader would be born.⁴

They replied, “One of forefathers said it would be in Pullman. He predicted,⁵ ‘Pullman is a small town, but a ruler will be born there.’”⁶

¹ A02:01 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² A02:02 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

³ A02:03 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ A02:04 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ A02:05 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ A02:06 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

4. Gift-giving

Herod secretly called in the astronauts, and he asked when the star appeared.¹ Then Herod sent the astronauts to Pullman, saying, “When you find this little boy, let me know. I want to come and meet him too.”²

The astronauts followed the star, and they stopped where it stopped -- right over the house Jesus was in.³ They were thrilled, of course.⁴

When they saw the new leader they worshipped him, and they offered him gifts: gold space mission coins, fragments from a spaceship heat shield, and resinous thermal cloth used on space flights.⁵

When the astronauts slept, they were warned in a dream to avoid Judge Herod. So, they rode their motorcycles another way back to Florida.⁶

¹ A02:07 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

² A02:08 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

³ A02:09 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

⁴ A02:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

⁵ A02:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

⁶ A02:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

5. Escape to Alabama

Joseph also had a dream. In it, an angel said, “Take Mary and the baby to Alabama and stay there, because Herod wants to kill Jesus.”¹ Joseph woke up suddenly, and the trio left for Alabama in the middle of the night.²

When Judge Herod discovered that the astronauts weren’t returning, he was furious. Herod conducted a secret campaign that caused widespread deaths among Pullman infants.³

March, 1968

An angel told Joseph in a dream,⁴ “Wake up, and you three go back to Illinois. The judge who wants to kill Jesus just died.”⁵ Joseph woke drove his family back to Illinois. Note that Jesus was one and a half years old.⁶

This means a forefather was correct when he said, “I called my son out of Alabama.”⁷

Joseph also learned in a dream that Herod’s son Archlaus was now running the federal court system in Illinois’ Northern District. So, Joseph drove his family on to Wisconsin.⁸ Joseph settled the family in Milwaukee.

That meant a forefather was right when he said, “The leader will be a Milwaukeean.”⁹

¹ A02:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

² A02:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt

³ A02:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

⁴ A02:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

⁵ A02:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel for they are dead which sought the young child’s life.

⁶ A02:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

⁷ A02:15 And was there until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

⁸ A02:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee

⁹ A02:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

April, 1979

6. A Chicago holiday

Every year, young Jesus went with his parents to Chicago.¹ When he was 12, they traveled to the Windy City for a major holiday.² After it was over, Joseph and Mary drove home.³ They thought Jesus was riding back with other relatives,⁴ but he wasn't with them.

His parents quickly drove back to Chicago,⁵ and they searched for three days. Suddenly, they heard Jesus on their car radio! They went to the AM radio station, and Jesus was broadcasting in the studio. He was talking with callers and religion experts.⁶ Jesus' listeners were astonished at his understanding.⁷

Mary asked Jesus, "Why did you do this? We were frantic looking for you."⁸

Jesus replied, "Why were you looking? You should know I'd be in my father's home."⁹

His parents didn't understand,¹⁰ and Jesus returned with them to Milwaukee.¹¹ As Jesus grew, he also grew in wisdom and stature.¹²

¹ C02:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

² C02:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

³ C02:43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

⁴ C02:44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

⁵ C02:45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

⁶ C02:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

⁷ C02:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

⁸ C02:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

⁹ C02:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

¹⁰ C02:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

¹¹ C02:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

¹² C02:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Part 3. Adulthood

September, 1996

1. John the Baptist

In 1999, the United States President was Tiberius, and the U.S. Supreme Court Justice with responsibility over the Seventh Federal Circuit (which includes Wisconsin and Illinois) was Pontius Pilate.¹

During this time, John the Baptist spread the word in Illinois. He taught from a public recreation center² at Oak Street Beach in Chicago, and he baptized people there.³

John wore a t-shirt and running shorts, and he had a whistle around his neck. He ate hot dogs and vending machine candy bars.⁴ His job was to tell everyone about a special light, and to attract everyone to it.⁵

John spoke about the son of God, declaring, “He’s coming after me, he’s better than me, and that’s because he was here before me.”⁶

People were attracted to John’s message. They drove from Chicago and all the surrounding suburbs to see him.⁷ He baptized them in Lake Michigan, and they confessed their sins to him.⁸ He saw many politicians coming to be baptized.

“You children of snakes,” John said. “Who told you to run from judgment day?⁹ Show me that you’ve turned your lives around.”¹⁰

Another time, John said, “I’m baptizing all of you in water now, but the man coming after me is the real deal. I tell you, I’m not fit to carry his shoes. He’ll baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”¹¹

¹ C03:01 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

² A03:01 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

³ D01:28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

⁴ A03:04 And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ D01:07 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

⁶ D01:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me for he was before me.

⁷ A03:05 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

⁸ A03:06 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁹ A03:07 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

¹⁰ A03:08 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance

¹¹ A03:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire

John was the voice of one, yelling in the recreation center. “Straighten up!” he declared. “Make way for the new leader.” Isaiah, one of the forefathers, predicted all this.¹²

Tax agents also came to be baptized, and they asked John, “What should we do?”¹³

John replied, “Collect no more than you’re supposed to.”¹⁴

¹² C03:04 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

¹³ C03:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

¹⁴ C03:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

1997. Year one ministry

2. Jesus at 30

During this time, the 30-year-old Jesus lived in Milwaukee, and he was known as Joseph's son.¹ Jesus drove his carpentry van 92 miles down to Oak Street Beach, because he wanted his cousin John to baptize him.² But after seeing Jesus, John suddenly stopped.

John said, "I need to be baptized by you, and you're coming to me?"³

Jesus replied, "Yes, because we have work to do." So, John baptized him.⁴

Just then, a voice came out from heaven, saying, "This is my son. I'm very proud of him."⁵

¹ C03:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

² A03:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

³ A03:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

⁴ A03:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

⁵ A03:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

3. Going hungry

Later, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the deep woods, and he was visited by a prince.¹ Jesus didn't eat for over a month, and of course he was hungry.²

The prince said, "If you're the son of God, turn these sticks into carrots."³

Jesus said, "No. As the old saying goes, 'We live on God's word first and food second.'"⁴

Then the prince took Jesus into a dream city. They went into the Loop and sat on top of the world's tallest building.⁵

The prince said, "If you're the son of God, jump!"⁶

Jesus replied, "We all know that you shouldn't test God."⁷

The prince pointed to all the surrounding suburbs,⁸ and he said, "If you worship me, I'll give you all this."⁹

Jesus replied, "Get to the back of the line, Satan. Worship and serve God."¹⁰ The prince left, and some angels flew in to help Jesus.¹¹

¹ A04:01 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² A04:02 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

³ A04:03 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴ A04:04 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ A04:05 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ A04:06 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷ A04:07 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸ A04:08 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

⁹ A04:09 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰ A04:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

¹¹ A04:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

4. John is interviewed

The broadcasters sent reporters from Chicago to ask John, “Who are you?”¹

He replied, “I’m not the leader.”²

They asked, “What, then? Are you like Elijah -- one of the forefathers?”

He said, “No.”³

“Then who are you?”⁴

He replied, “I’m the one saying, ‘Make way for the leader.’”⁵

The next day, John was standing with two of his students.⁶ Jesus dropped by. “Behold everyone!” John exclaimed. “Here is the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.⁷ I saw the spirit come down on him like a bird from heaven.”⁸

The two students listened as Jesus spoke, and they followed Jesus around.⁹

¹ D01:19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

² D01:20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

³ D01:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

⁴ D01:22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

⁵ D01:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

⁶ D01:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

⁷ D01:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

⁸ D01:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

⁹ D01:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

5. Talking with students

Jesus turned to the students and asked, “What are you looking for?”

One of them replied, “Professor, where are you staying?”¹

“Come and see,” Jesus said. They saw his motel room, and they all hung out together.²

One of the students was named Andrew.³ Later, he caught up with his brother Simon and said, “I found our liberator!”⁴

Simon met Jesus, and Jesus said, “Oh, you’re Jonah’s son. I’m going to call you Peter.” (“Peter” means “the rock.”)⁵

The next day, Jesus drove up to Wisconsin, and he found Philip. Jesus said, “Follow me.”⁶ Note: Philip, Andrew and Peter were all from Appleton, Wisconsin – on Lake Winnebago.⁷

¹ D01:38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

² D01:39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day for it was about the tenth hour.

³ D01:40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

⁴ D01:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

⁵ D01:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

⁶ D01:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

⁷ D01:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

6. Immediate belief

Philip met up with Nathanael and said, “We found the person Moses and the other forefathers wrote about. He’s called Jesus from Milwaukee.”¹

Nathanael asked, “Can anything good come from Milwaukee?”

Philip replied, “Come and see.”²

Jesus saw Nathanael walking to him. Jesus said, “Look, there’s a true Illinoisan!”³

Nathanael asked, “How do you know me?”

Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, I saw you in the Fig Tree restaurant.”⁴

Nathanael said, “Professor, you’re the son of God. You’re the leader of Illinois!”⁵

Jesus replied, “All I said was I saw you in a restaurant, and you believe in me already? You’ll see a lot better miracles than that.”⁶

¹ D01:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

² D01:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

³ D01:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

⁴ D01:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

⁵ D01:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

⁶ D01:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

Part 4. Miracles

1. The wedding guests

Some days later, Jesus took his mother to a wedding in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It's also on Lake Winnebago.¹

During the reception, Mary said, "Jesus, their caterer didn't bring enough wine."²

Jesus replied, "Mom, I can't do anything about that. It's not my time yet."³

Mary turned to the wait staff and asked, "Could you do whatever my son says?"⁴ There were six large bottles used for a water cooler.⁵

Jesus said, "Put one of those water bottles into the cooler, and pour everything into wine glasses."⁶

The host tasted the wine and said,⁷ "You kept the good wine until now! Usually people bring out their bad wine after the people are drunk."⁸

This was Jesus' first miracle.⁹

¹ D02:01 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there

² D02:03 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

³ D02:04 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

⁴ D02:05 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

⁵ D02:06 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

⁶ D02:08 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

⁷ D02:09 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

⁸ D02:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

⁹ D02:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

2. Jesus in Chicago

A major holiday was about to begin, and Jesus drove to Chicago.¹ In his van, Jesus heard an AM radio station broadcasting phony vitamin sales, self-help cassettes, and club memberships.² Jesus pulled up to the station and went in. He made a whip out of microphone cords and chased everyone out. He also destroyed the self-help tapes and poured out the vitamins.³

To those who sold memberships, Jesus said, “Cancel them! Don’t make my father’s house a marketplace!”⁴

The broadcasters asked, “What right do you have to throw us out? If you have this authority from God, show us a miracle to prove it.”⁵

“All right,” Jesus answered. “Destroy this station, and in three days I’ll raise it up.”⁶

They replied, “This station has been here 46 years, and you’ll rebuild it in three days?”⁷ But Jesus was actually referring to the signal in his body.⁸

¹ D02:13 And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² D02:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting

³ D02:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;

⁴ D02:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.

⁵ D02:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

⁶ D02:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

⁷ D02:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

⁸ D02:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

3. A call from Nicodemus

Jesus performed miracles in Chicago, and now, many people believed he was the leader.¹

One of the radio station owners was named Nicodemus.² He called Jesus and said, “We know you’re one of God’s teachers, because nobody else could perform these miracles.”³

Later in the conversation, Jesus said, “Unless people are reborn, they won’t enter God’s nation.”⁴

¹ D02:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

² D03:01 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews

³ D03:02 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

⁴ D03:03 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4. The Baptists

Some days after, Jesus drove with his students to Calumet City. They were filling in for John by baptizing people.¹ (Jesus didn't baptize, but his students did.)² John relocated to a larger site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, because he needed more space for his work.³

Some of John's students said to him,⁴ "Professor, the man who was with you at Oak Street Beach is now giving baptisms, and everyone is going to him."⁵

John replied, "You can't have anything unless it comes from heaven.⁶ Like I told those reporters: 'I'm not the leader. I was sent before the leader.'"⁷

In Wisconsin, a different Herod was Chief Judge of the US District Court in the state's eastern district. Judge Herod married his sister-in-law, Herodias. A few days later, Herod had John the Baptist arrested and imprisoned.⁸ The reason: John said in a TV interview, "It's unlawful for Herod to marry his sister-in-law."⁹

Herod would have killed John, but John was popular with the people. They thought John foretold the future.¹⁰ Herodias even tried to put a contract on John, but she backed off.¹¹

Jesus heard on the radio John was arrested in Wisconsin.¹² Also, the politicians had learned Jesus was giving more baptisms than John did.¹³ Jesus and his crew left for Wisconsin.¹⁴

¹ D03:22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

² D04:02 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

³ D03:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there and they came, and were baptized.

⁴ D03:25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

⁵ D03:26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

⁶ D03:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

⁷ D03:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

⁸ A14:03 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

⁹ A14:04 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

¹⁰ A14:05 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

¹¹ B06:19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not

¹² A04:12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

¹³ D04:01 When therefore the LORD knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

¹⁴ D04:02 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

5. Stopping in Gurnee

On the way to Wisconsin, Jesus and his friends filled their tanks in Lake County,¹ in the town of Gurnee.² They stopped at Jacob's Service Station, and a weary Jesus sat down by the store's front door.³

A local woman was walking in. Jesus gave her two dollars and asked, "Could you buy me a bottled water?"⁴

The woman said, "You're an Illinoisan, and I'm a Lake Countian. And you want me to get you something?" Traditionally, civilized Illinoisans didn't associate with Lake Countians.⁵

Jesus replied, "If you knew God and me, you would ask me for a drink of water – the water of life."⁶

"I don't see you with a water bottle," the woman said.⁷ She pointed inside the station and asked, "Are you greater than Jacob here?"⁸

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks at this station will be dry again.⁹ But if they drink the water I give them, they'll never be thirsty. They'll have a fountain that springs eternal life."¹⁰

"I need this water," the woman said.¹¹

"I'd want to meet with you and your husband," Jesus replied.¹²

"I don't have a husband," the woman said.¹³

¹ D04:04 And he must needs go through Samaria.

² D04:05 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

³ D04:06 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well and it was about the sixth hour.

⁴ D04:07 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

⁵ D04:09 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

⁶ D04:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

⁷ D04:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep from whence then hast thou that living water?

⁸ D04:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

⁹ D04:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again

¹⁰ D04:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹¹ D04:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

¹² D04:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

¹³ D04:17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband

“You’ve had five husbands,” Jesus said. “And you’re living with a man now.”¹⁴

“Sir,” the woman replied, “you know a lot.¹⁵ Our ancestors worshipped in this county, and you Illinoisans say we should worship in Chicago.”¹⁶

Jesus replied, “The time is coming when you it won’t matter where you’re worshipping.¹⁷ You worship an entity you don’t know. We worship an entity that we know. And guess what: We’re being rescued from these civilized Illinoisans.”¹⁸

The woman said, “I know that the rescuer is coming, and he will tell us everything.”¹⁹

Jesus responded, “I am the rescuer.”²⁰

His students were walking out with their snacks, and they were amazed Jesus was talking with the woman. But none of them said anything.²¹

The woman bought a sparkling water for Jesus, and then she drove to the local AM radio station and broadcast her testimony to the community.²²

“You need to see this Jesus,” she said. “He knows everything about me, and he might be our leader.”²³

Jesus and his crew set up in the parking lot, and his students said, “Professor, eat some jerky.”²⁴

Jesus said, “I have already have meat that you don’t know about.”²⁵

¹⁴ D04:18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband in that saidst thou truly.

¹⁵ D04:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

¹⁶ D04:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

¹⁷ D04:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

¹⁸ D04:22 Ye worship ye know not what we know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews.

¹⁹ D04:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ when he is come, he will tell us all things.

²⁰ D04:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

²¹ D04:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

²² D04:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

²³ D04:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did is not this the Christ?

²⁴ D04:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

²⁵ D04:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

People drove in from all over to see Jesus.²⁶ The Lake Countians asked Jesus to stay with them, and he did so for two days.²⁷

²⁶ D04:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

²⁷ D04:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them and he abode there two days.

6. Return to Milwaukee

Afterwards, Jesus drove up to Milwaukee, and news about him spread.¹ He went into the AM radio station and broadcast his message.² When he finished, all the listeners were transfixed.³

They started saying to each other, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph the carpenter?”⁴ And they became angry.⁵ They called Jesus on the air, and they said the police would drag him out of Milwaukee. They threatened to toss him over Atwater Park bluff into Lake Michigan.⁶

Jesus simply got into his van and drove away.⁷ And he was philosophical about all of it. Jesus said, “An expert has no honor in his own town.”⁸

¹ C04:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

² C04:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

³ C04:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

⁴ C04:22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph’s son?

⁵ C04:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

⁶ C04:29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

⁷ C04:30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

⁸ D04:44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

7. Healing the sick

Jesus pulled into Oshkosh, Wisconsin -- the town where he turned the water jugs into wine. There, he met the City Clerk -- and his son was sick.¹ The official had heard on the radio that Jesus was in Wisconsin, and he begged Jesus to heal his dying son.²

Jesus said, "I suppose you won't believe in me until you see proof."³

The official replied, "Sir, please see my son before he dies."⁴

Jesus said, "Go on home. Your son lives." The man believed Jesus, and he left.⁵

As the clerk was driving home, his assistant called him on the cell phone and said, "Your son is fine!"⁶ The father then determined that his son recovered at the very moment Jesus said, "Your son lives."⁷

¹ D04:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

² D04:47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son for he was at the point of death.

³ D04:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

⁴ D04:49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

⁵ D04:50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

⁶ D04:51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

⁷ D04:53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth and himself believed, and his whole house.

1998. Year two ministry

8. Roundup

Jesus arrived in Neenah, Wisconsin (on the shore of Lake Winnebago) and got a motel room.¹ This area was full of uncivilized people.² Jesus dropped into the local radio station and broadcast this message: “Turn yourself around, because you’re about to see the Nation of Heaven.”³

Later, Jesus walked into a seafood restaurant, and he saw brothers Peter and Andrew working.⁴ Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and we’ll serve food for the soul.”⁵ They immediately took off their nametags and walked out with him.⁶

Driving from there, Jesus saw two other brothers -- James and John -- repairing a chain link fence. He called out to them.⁷ They also left and followed Jesus in their pickup.⁸

¹ A04:13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim

² A04:15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

³ A04:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

⁴ A04:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishers.

⁵ A04:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

⁶ A04:20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

⁷ A04:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

⁸ A04:22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

9. Healing in Neenah

During one of Jesus' broadcasts, a caller yelled at him,¹ "You've come to destroy us, you Milwaukeean! I know you're the holy one of God!"²

Jesus replied, "Be quiet, and leave this man."³ Listeners heard a filthy spirit emerge from the caller.⁴

Soon, every Midwestern station was broadcasting news about this man Jesus.⁵

One evening, Jesus walked into Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and ibuprofen didn't work.⁶ Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left. She microwaved dinners for them.⁷

That night, many sick and demonized people knocked at Peter's door, and Jesus healed everyone.⁸ What a sight: All the area was gathered around this house.⁹ Devils emerged from many people. The evil spirits yelled, "You're the son of God!" Jesus shut them up.¹⁰

¹ B01:23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

² B01:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

³ B01:25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

⁴ B01:26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

⁵ C04:37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

⁶ A08:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

⁷ A08:15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her and she arose, and ministered unto them.

⁸ A08:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick

⁹ B01:33 And all the city was gathered together at the door.

¹⁰ C04:41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak for they knew that he was Christ.

10. Wisconsin travel

Later that evening, everything was finally quiet. In the middle of the night, Jesus got in his van and drove to an empty parking lot. He prayed there.¹

Peter and others woke up and followed Jesus.² When they met up with him they said, “You know, you’re dealing with popularity.”³

Jesus said, “I know. Now let’s drive to other towns, because I was brought here to teach.”⁴

Jesus spread the good news, but the crowds were so large he couldn’t drive into a city. But he stayed in the countryside, and people came from all around.⁵

Parable 01: Answering machine

“If you have an answering machine that eats tapes, you wouldn’t put a new cassette into it. You’ll end up with a bigger problem.”⁶

Jesus and his friends drove all over Wisconsin. He broadcast on their radio stations, taught the word of God, and healed every sickness.⁷ The news about Jesus traveled throughout the Great Lakes region. People drove, walked, rode and flew in to be healed by Jesus.⁸ Thousands came from Wisconsin, Chicago, Illinois and beyond Lake Michigan. They followed this miracle healer.⁹

¹ B01:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

² B01:36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

³ B01:37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

⁴ B01:38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also for therefore came I forth.

⁵ B01:45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places and they came to him from every quarter.

⁶ B02:21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

⁷ A04:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

⁸ A04:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

⁹ A04:25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

11. The parking lot audience

The friends were at Andrew and Peter's seafood restaurant, and a huge crowd formed. Jesus climbed on top of his carpentry van. He stood with his back to a field and talked to the people.¹ Jesus pointed out two frozen food delivery vans, and Peter was repairing one of them.² Jesus climbed to the top of the broken van, and he taught the crowd.³

When Jesus finished speaking, he said to Peter, "Open the door to this van and let's see your catch."⁴

Peter replied, "Professor, the van is empty. It won't freeze anything. Here, I'll show you."⁵ When he opened the side door, packages of frozen seafood poured out of the van.⁶ Peter asked the driver of the other seafood van for help. They began to load the other van, and both trucks were sagging on the tires.⁷ Peter said to Jesus, "Please, go away from me, because I'm a sinner."⁸

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. From now on you'll catch live people -- not frozen fish."⁹

Jesus told the people, "Know this: I have the authority to forgive sins." He then told a paralytic, "Get up, and wheel your gurney home."¹⁰ The paralytic did so.¹¹

Reporters were attracted to crowd in the parking lot. Some said to themselves, "This man has no respect for God."¹²

¹ C05:01 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

² C05:02 And saw two ships standing by the lake but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

³ C05:03 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

⁴ C05:04 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

⁵ C05:05 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

⁶ C05:06 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net brake.

⁷ C05:07 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

⁸ C05:08 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

⁹ C05:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

¹⁰ A09:06 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

¹¹ A09:07 And he arose, and departed to his house.

¹² A09:03 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

12. Matthew

As Jesus drove around, he saw the local revenue office. A man named Matthew was working inside. Jesus walked in and said to Matthew, "Follow me." And Matthew did.¹

There was a party at Matthew's house, and Jesus relaxed with new friends.² Some politicians were there. They asked Jesus' students, "Why does your professor associate with tax agents and sinners?"³

Jesus heard this and said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor -- sick people do.⁴ I'm not here to call on honorable people. I'm calling on sinners to reform."⁵

Parable 02: Cola

"You wouldn't pour new cola into an old bottle, because it will lose the fizz.⁶ New cola has to stay in its new bottle.⁷ Furthermore, nobody says, 'I want flat cola.'"⁸

Parable 03: Bachelor party

They asked Jesus, "Why do John the Baptist's students go without food, but your students are always eating?"⁹

Jesus replied, "Why should the groomsmen suffer during a bachelor party?¹⁰ Pretty soon this groom will be taken away, and believe me: My best men will starve."¹¹

¹ A09:09 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

² A09:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

³ A09:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

⁴ A09:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

⁵ C05:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

⁶ C05:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

⁷ C05:38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

⁸ C05:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new for he saith, The old is better.

⁹ C05:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

¹⁰ C05:34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

¹¹ C05:35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Part 5. Sundays

1. In Grant Park

In the days following, there was a holiday, and Jesus drove to Chicago.¹ He went to Grant Park. There, near the shore of Lake Michigan, is Buckingham Fountain.²

In the fountain laid many who were sick, blind, lame or paralyzed. They were waiting for the geyser at the center.³ It was believed that one of God's angels would swoop down and cause the geyser to shoot up. Then, whoever experienced the first spray would be healed.⁴

A man there had been disabled for 38 years.⁵ Jesus saw him sitting in a wheelchair, and Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"⁶

"Sir," the man replied, "nobody will put me into the fountain when the geyser comes. Everyone steps around me."⁷

Jesus said to him, "Stand up and push your wheelchair home."⁸ The man got up and walked. Notably, all this happened on a Sunday.⁹

Later, some civilized Illinoisans said to the cured fellow, "This is Sunday, so it's against the law for you to offer people rides."¹⁰

The fellow replied, "A man made me well, and he told me to push my wheelchair."¹¹

"Who is this man?" they asked.¹² The fellow didn't know, and Jesus was lost in the crowd.¹³

¹ D05:01 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² D05:02 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

³ D05:03 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

⁴ D05:04 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

⁵ D05:05 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

⁶ D05:06 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

⁷ D05:07 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

⁸ D05:08 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

⁹ D05:09 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked and on the same day was the sabbath.

¹⁰ D05:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

¹¹ D05:11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

¹² D05:12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

Later that day, Jesus stood in front of a radio station van doing a remote broadcast, and he saw the fellow. “Hey, you look great!” Jesus said to him. “Be good so nothing worse happens to you.”¹⁴

The fellow walked to the Illinoisans and pointed out Jesus.¹⁵ The Illinoisans confronted Jesus because he helped someone on a Sunday.¹⁶

Jesus said to them, “My father is working today, so I am too.”¹⁷

Oh! The Illinoisans really wanted Jesus dead now. He made himself equal to God by calling God his father.¹⁸

¹³ D05:13 And he that was healed wist not who it was for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

¹⁴ D05:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

¹⁵ D05:15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

¹⁶ D05:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

¹⁷ D05:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

¹⁸ D05:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

2. Never on a Sunday

The politicians got into the act and said to Jesus, “You and your students are doing things on Sunday, and that’s against the Blue Laws.”¹

Jesus replied, “Let’s remember what our forefather David did: He took food for his hungry people.² Furthermore, the broadcasters work on Sundays, and that isn’t against the law.³

“And I have news for you gentlemen: Someone is here now who’s greater than all the broadcasters and all the airwaves.⁴ I’m in charge of Sundays, because I am God’s son.”⁵

Jesus left them and drove on to the radio station.⁶ Out in front sat a fellow with a withered hand.

A politician there asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to heal on a Sunday?”⁷

Jesus replied, “If your pet fell into a sewer on a Sunday, wouldn’t you lift it out?”⁸ Well, people are more valuable than pets. Therefore, it’s legal to do good on a Sunday.”⁹ Jesus told the man, “Stretch out your hand,” and Jesus healed it.¹⁰

The politicians met, and they conspired with Judge Herod’s authorities to destroy Jesus.¹¹

¹ A12:02 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

² A12:03 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

³ A12:05 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

⁴ A12:06 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

⁵ A12:08 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

⁶ A12:09 And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue

⁷ A12:10 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

⁸ A12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

⁹ A12:12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

¹⁰ A12:13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

¹¹ B03:06 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

3. In the public eye

Jesus sensed he would be arrested in Chicago, so he drove away. Thousands followed him, and he healed all of them.¹

People traveled from Chicago, Joliet, beyond Lake Michigan, and around West Bend and Fond du Lac.² Jesus asked people to not reveal his whereabouts.³ During a healing session, Jesus told his students a car should be nearby in case the crowds press on him too much.⁴

Whenever the filthy spirits saw Jesus they fell before him and cried, “You’re the son of God!”⁵

¹ A12:15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

² B03:08 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

³ A12:16 And charged them that they should not make him known

⁴ B03:09 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

⁵ B03:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

4. Selecting teachers

One day, Jesus sat in Doyle Park, north of Lake Winnebago. He prayed. Continuing through the night,¹ Jesus appointed 12 students to be teachers with him. He wanted to send them out to instruct,² heal sicknesses and cast out demons.³

Here are the 12:

1. Peter⁴
2. James
3. John of Boanerges
4. James of Boanerges⁵
4. Andrew
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Matthew
8. Thomas
9. James, the son of Alphaeus
10. Thaddeus
11. Simon the Zealot⁶
12. Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him

They all drove to the water slide near Doyle Park.⁷

Parable 04: Microwave oven

“The Nation of God is like this: A fellow puts popcorn in the microwave oven.⁸ He doesn’t know how the corn pops, because everything is happening inside the bag.⁹ These invisible, high frequency radio waves move around the molecules in the food, and it cooks.¹⁰ When the popping is done, he tosses a handful of popcorn in his mouth – because it’s time to eat.”¹¹

¹ C06:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

² B03:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

³ B03:15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils

⁴ B03:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;

⁵ B03:17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder

⁶ B03:18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

⁷ B03:19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him and they went into an house.

⁸ B04:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

⁹ B04:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

¹⁰ B04:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

¹¹ B04:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Parable 05: Mustard company

“How are we like the Nation of God?¹² It’s like a tiny mustard company. It’s smaller than all the other businesses.¹³ But when it distributes the mustard, it grows and becomes larger than all the other companies. It forms great branch operations, and even the airlines carry the brand.”¹⁴

¹² B04:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

¹³ B04:31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth

¹⁴ B04:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

5. Sermon from the water slide

Seeing the crowds around the water slide, Jesus called the radio station and had them broadcast his voice. Drivers turned up their car radios so everyone could hear.¹

Jesus taught them, saying,² “People who are poor in spirit are actually blessed, because they’ll go to heaven.³ Those who mourn are blessed, because they’ll be comforted.⁴ Those who are gentle are blessed, because they’ll own the earth.”⁵

Parable 06: Rock on

“You are the rock and rollers of the world. But if your band stops getting hits, where will the world get their music? Not from you. You’ll be has-beens -- playing in basement clubs.”⁶

Parable 07: World’s flashlight

“The city of St. Louis is on hills, so it’s visible from all around. Likewise, you should be the flashlight for the world.⁷ You wouldn’t turn on a flashlight and put it into drawer. You would shine it so people can walk through a dark area.⁸ In the same way, you should let people see your good works. Light the path for them. This will honor your father in heaven.”⁹

Parable 08: Sloppy joes

“People who hear me are like the smart cafeteria worker who put sloppy joes onto buns.¹⁰ The children came, they were hungry, and they ate their delicious sloppy joes. The sauce didn’t get on them because of the buns.¹¹ People who hear me but don’t listen are like the cafeteria worker who put sloppy joes on cheese slices.”¹²

¹ A05:01 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain and when he was set, his disciples came unto him

² A05:02 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

³ A05:03 Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ A05:04 Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

⁵ A05:05 Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ A05:13 Ye are the salt of the earth but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

⁷ A05:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

⁸ A05:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

⁹ A05:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

¹⁰ A07:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock

¹¹ A07:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not for it was founded upon a rock.

¹² A07:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand

Jesus said, “You have heard, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’¹³ But I say: Don’t fight an evil person. If he cracks you on your right cheek, turn your head and let him crack your left.¹⁴

“You’ve also heard, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’¹⁵ But I say: Love your enemies. Bless people who curse you. Help people who hate you. Pray for people who use and torment you.¹⁶ This will make you one of God’s followers, because God makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and he lets it rain on the fair and the unfair.¹⁷ Besides: If you only love people who love you, what will you get out of that?”¹⁸

When Jesus finished his sermon from the slide, the crowds were astonished.¹⁹ He taught with authority -- not like the newspaper columnists.²⁰

¹³ A05:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth

¹⁴ A05:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

¹⁵ A05:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

¹⁶ A05:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

¹⁷ A05:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

¹⁸ A05:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

¹⁹ A07:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine

²⁰ A07:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

6. Communicating with John

Sitting in prison, John saw Jesus' work on the local news programs. Two of John's students called Jesus, and they passed on John's question:¹ "Are you the one, or should we look for someone else?"²

Jesus replied, "Tell John what you're seeing and hearing:³ the blind can see; the disabled can walk; those with lupus are cured; the deaf hear; the dead are rising up; and the poor have hope.⁴ People who don't doubt me are blessed."⁵

¹ A11:02 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

² A11:03 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

³ A11:04 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see

⁴ A11:05 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

⁵ C07:23 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

7. For love of John

Later, Jesus talked on the air about John. He asked his listeners, “What did you expect to see at Oak Street Beach?¹ What did you go to see? A man dressed like a president?² Why did you go to John? To see someone who tells the future? I agree with that. He can tell the future, and he can do a lot more.³

“The forefathers were talking about John when they said, ‘I’m sending you a messenger, and he’ll prepare the road for you.’⁴ I tell you: There’s nobody greater than John the Baptist, but the lowest person in heaven is better than John.”⁵

When the tax agents and others heard this, they were happy, because they had been baptized by John.⁶

Jesus continued: “And since the moment John has been baptizing, heaven has been in turmoil, and violent forces are attempting to take it.⁷ This is because all the predictions are coming true.⁸ If you have a radio, listen!”⁹

¹ A11:07 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

² A11:08 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

³ A11:09 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

⁴ A11:10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

⁵ A11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

⁶ C07:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

⁷ A11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

⁸ A11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

⁹ A11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

8. Chastising the critics

A little later Jesus said to his audience, “How can I describe the critics here? They’re like kids sitting in front of the mall,¹ and they say to passersby, ‘We’re playing music, but you’re not dancing. We’re being sad for you, but you’re not being sad in return.’² Likewise, John didn’t eat or drink, and the critics said, ‘He’s a demon.’³

“Then God’s son came eating and drinking, and the critics said, ‘Look at that glutton and drunk -- he’s a friend of tax agents and sinners!’ But, OK. Time will tell.”⁴

The politicians and lawyers rejected Jesus’ words, because they weren’t baptized.⁵

¹ A11:16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

² A11:17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

³ A11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

⁴ A11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

⁵ C07:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

9. Towns in trouble

In his broadcast, Jesus denounced the towns that experienced his strongest miracles, because they still hadn't reformed.¹

"Bad news, Greenville and Appleton!" Jesus declared. "If I'd have performed my miracles in West Bend and Fond du Lac instead of you, they would have reformed on the spot.² Now I'm saying: When the judgment day comes, it will be better for West Bend and Fond du Lac than you."³

"And you, Neenah, you're feeling pretty heavenly right now -- but you'll burn in Hell. Why? Look at all the work I did for you. If I had done it in Las Vegas instead, Sin City would be on my side now.⁴ I'm telling you, Neenah: On judgment day, it will be better for Vegas than for you."⁵

Jesus also said, "Father, thank you for hiding your wisdom from the smart people, and for making babies aware of it.⁶ My father has given me everything. Nobody knows me except my father. Nobody knows my father except me...and you – if you listen to me."⁷

"If you work a lot, let me give you some rest.⁸ Here's how: Work the same way I do. Learn from me. I'm meek and humble, and by acting this way, you'll find relaxation.⁹ Believe me: My job is easy, and I don't need to multitask."¹⁰

¹ A11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not

² A11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

³ A11:22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

⁴ A11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

⁵ A11:24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

⁶ A11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

⁷ A11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

⁸ A11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

⁹ A11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

¹⁰ A11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Part 6. Connecting

1. The shoe shine

Simon, one of the Illinois politicians, invited Jesus to a dinner party. Jesus drove to Simon's house and sat at his table.¹

The doorbell rang, and in walked a woman with a bad reputation in Simon's town. She heard Jesus would be at Simon's house, and she brought shoe polish.² After insisting with tears in her eyes, she shined Jesus' leather shoes. She applied the polish and buffed them with a fine hairbrush. Then she kissed Jesus' shoes.³

Simon thought, "If Jesus were all-knowing, he would understand the kind of woman she is."⁴

"Simon," Jesus said, "when I came in, you didn't shine my shoes, but this woman did.⁵ You didn't kiss me, but this woman keeps kissing my shoes.⁶ You didn't shampoo my head, but she shined my shoes with this polish.⁷ So, I forgive her sins, because she's full of love. But there isn't much reason to forgive someone like you, and that's why you're not spreading love."⁸

Jesus told the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."⁹

Others at the dinner thought, "Who is this Jesus? He thinks he can forgive sins."¹⁰

Parable 09: Ski lodge

"A ski lodge owner had two high roller customers. One owed her \$50,000, and another owed her \$5,000.¹¹ When they couldn't pay her, she erased both of their debts. Which of the two will be happiest with her?"¹²

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- 1 C07:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.
- 2 C07:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,
- 3 C07:38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.
- 4 C07:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him for she is a sinner.
- 5 C07:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.
- 6 C07:45 Thou gavest me no kiss but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
- 7 C07:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
- 8 C07:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.
- 9 C07:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.
- 10 C07:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

Simon replied, “The \$50,000 guy – because she forgave him the most.”

Jesus said, “You’re right.”¹³

¹¹ C07:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

¹² C07:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

¹³ C07:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

2. Friends and attackers

Jesus and his friends drove through the towns, and he told everyone about the nation of God. His 12 teachers were with him,¹ and so was a woman called Mary Magdalene. Jesus had removed bad spirits and weaknesses from her.² Also joining them was Joanna. She was the wife of Chuzas, Judge Herod's household manager. In addition, there was Susan. She lived off a large retirement account and helped the group financially.³

The Chicago reporters said, "Jesus is from the devil. Satan gives him the power to cast out demons."⁴ The politicians were in basic agreement.⁵

Jesus knew their thoughts, and he told them, "As Lincoln said, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.'⁶ If Satan made me Satan Part 2, he is divided against himself. How will his house stand?⁷ But if I'm eliminating demons by God's spirit, that means heaven is with you.⁸ Remember, if you're not with me you're against me. Let's work together and fill people with the Holy Spirit."⁹

Some of the reporters and politicians said, "Show us a sign."¹⁰

Parable 10: Jonah and the ship

Jesus replied, "Sure, you evildoers and adulterers look for signs, but there's only one: It's what the forefather Jonah gave us.¹¹ And just as Jonah was trapped three days in the belly of that sunken ship, I will be buried in the ground for three days."¹²

¹ C08:01 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God and the twelve were with him,

² C08:02 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

³ C08:03 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

⁴ B03:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

⁵ A12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

⁶ A12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand

⁷ A12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

⁸ A12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

⁹ A12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

¹⁰ A12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

¹¹ A12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas

¹² A12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Parable 11: Weight lifter

“How can someone steal a weight lifter’s gym bag? You would have to tie him up first.”¹³

¹³ A12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

3. In the family

Jesus' mom and brothers left him a cell phone message, but he was so swamped they couldn't reach him.¹ Someone said, "Your mom and brothers are trying to call you."²

Jesus asked, "Who is my mom? Who are my brothers?"³ He stretched out his hand toward his teachers and said, "Here are my mom and brothers!"⁴ This is because everyone doing heaven's work is my brother, sister and mother."⁵

¹ C08:19 Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.

² A12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

³ A12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

⁴ A12:49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

⁵ A12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

4. The cornfield

On a following day, Jesus left, and he drove to the edge of a cornfield.¹ Huge crowds gathered to see him, so he stood on top of his van with a microphone and loudspeaker, and he put his back to the field.²

Jesus only told his audience stories with morals to them.³

Parable 12: Model airplanes

“A person was landing model planes.⁴ One plane landed on the road, and it was run over.⁵ Another landed on the rocks. It bounced around,⁶ and it crashed.⁷ One landed in the thorn bushes, and it was lost.⁸ Finally, one landed one landed on good ground, and it flew 30 and 60 times again.”⁹

Parable 13: The Sun

“The Nation of Heaven is like fusion energy. Put a little energy into the Sun, and get back enough energy to light up the world.”¹⁰

Parable 14: ATM

“The Nation of Heaven is like a hidden ATM that keeps paying a man money. He is so happy about this he sells everything he has, and buys the bank.”¹¹

Parable 15: Honus Wagner

“The Nation of Heaven is like a fellow searching for a Honus Wagner baseball card.¹² When he saw the card was available, he sold everything he had and bought it.”¹³

¹ A13:01 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

² A13:02 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

³ A13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them

⁴ A13:03 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

⁵ A13:04 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up

⁶ A13:05 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth

⁷ A13:06 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

⁸ A13:07 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them

⁹ A13:08 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

¹⁰ A13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

¹¹ A13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

¹² A13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls

¹³ A13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Parable 16: Open audition

“The Nation of Heaven is like the open dance audition. Dancers came from all around.¹⁴ The director selected the good ones and said sorry to the others.¹⁵ This is how it will be when the world ends,¹⁶ except that the ‘others’ will roast in Hell.”¹⁷

Parable 17: Reporters

“Every reporter who embraces the Nation of Heaven is a real treasure, because she can express many new and old things.”¹⁸

Parable 18: Video distributor

“The Nation of Heaven is like a man who distributes great movies,¹⁹ but while he wasn’t paying attention, a competitor came and put turkeys into his stock.²⁰ So, when the retailers displayed the videos, the rotten movies were there too.²¹

“The distributor’s retailers asked him, ‘Do you want us to take down the bad movies?’²²

“He said, ‘No.’²³ Let them all sit together on the shelves, and the people will buy the good films. Then I will take the leftover and unload them at a flea market.”²⁴

After he finished talking, Jesus stepped down from the van.²⁵ His teachers asked him, “Could you explain the video distributor story?”²⁶

¹⁴ A13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind

¹⁵ A13:48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

¹⁶ A13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

¹⁷ A13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

¹⁸ A13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

¹⁹ A13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field

²⁰ A13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

²¹ A13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

²² A13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

²³ A13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

²⁴ A13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn.

²⁵ A13:53 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

²⁶ A13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Jesus replied, “I distribute the videos.²⁷ The retail store is the world. The good movies are the people of the Nation. The bad movies are the people of the devil.²⁸ The sale is the end of the world, and the purchasers are the angels.²⁹ When the leftovers are dumped at the flea market, it will be the end of time.³⁰

“I will send out my angels. They will gather everything that offends us³¹ and throw it all into the outdoor market. Many bad people will cry,³² but the good people will shine like the sun.”³³

His teachers asked, “Why do you use parables?”³⁴

Jesus replied, “You’re in a good position to understand heaven’s mysteries, but the people aren’t.³⁵ I use parables because people see, but they don’t see. And they hear, but they don’t hear. And they don’t understand.³⁶ The people’s heart has hardened. Their ears are stuffed from hearing, and their eyes are shut. This is their opportunity to see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart. I can heal them, and they will turn themselves around.”³⁷

He and his teachers left by driving onto a small path in the cornfield.³⁸ Evening was arriving, and Jesus said, “Let’s go to the other side of the field.”³⁹ So, they kept driving.⁴⁰

²⁷ A13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

²⁸ A13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

²⁹ A13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

³⁰ A13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

³¹ A13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

³² A13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

³³ A13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

³⁴ A13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

³⁵ A13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

³⁶ A13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

³⁷ A13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

³⁸ A08:18 Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

³⁹ B04:35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

⁴⁰ C08:22 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

A violent storm came up, and the strong winds were almost turning the van over. Lightning could have hit them. They were in trouble, but Jesus was asleep.⁴¹

They woke Jesus and said, “Save us!”⁴²

Jesus replied, “What’s the problem?” He got up, left the van by the cargo door, ordered the wind and rains to stop, and suddenly everything calmed.⁴³

The teachers thought, “Sheez -- even the weather obeys him.”⁴⁴

41 A08:24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves but he was asleep.

42 A08:25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us we perish.

43 A08:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

44 A08:27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

5. Converting an Army

When they reached the other side of the field, they were in the town of Rockaway Beach.¹ Jesus was about to enter a supermarket, and a demon-possessed man confronted him.² The man lived in front of the store, and nobody could put him in a shelter.³ Night and day, he screamed and harmed himself.⁴

When the man saw Jesus, the man knelt down⁵ and cried out, “What are you doing here, Jesus?”⁶

Jesus asked him, “What’s your name?”

He replied, “Army! Because there are many of us.”⁷

Demons inside the man begged Jesus, “If you cast us out, send us to the pigs.”⁸

Jesus walked Army into the supermarket and back to the meats section.⁹ Jesus said to the demons, “Go!”

The demons emerged from Army, shot into the pork, and turned it rancid.¹⁰ The store manager called the police, and radio stations reported the story. In minutes, people came from everywhere to see what happened.¹¹ Witnesses told what they saw.¹²

¹ B05:01 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

² B05:02 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

³ B05:03 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains

⁴ B05:05 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

⁵ B05:06 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

⁶ B05:07 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

⁷ B05:09 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion for we are many.

⁸ B05:12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

⁹ B05:13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

¹⁰ A08:32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

¹¹ B05:14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

¹² B05:16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

The people met Jesus and saw that the infamous Army was behaving normally. This frightened them.¹³ The people begged Jesus to leave.¹⁴ As Jesus stepped into his van, Army asked if he could come along.¹⁵

Jesus answered, “Instead, go on the radio and tell everyone what I did for you.”¹⁶

A little later, Jairus, one of the radio station owners, came up to Jesus.¹⁷ Jairus begged Jesus, saying, “My daughter is near death. Could you please lay your hands on her, because I know she will be well again.”¹⁸

Just then, Jairus’ cell phone rang. Someone from his house said, “Your daughter has passed away.”¹⁹

Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid. You only need to believe.”²⁰

Jesus walked into Jairus’ house. He heard the stereo playing sad classical music, and he saw the family and medical technicians.²¹ Jesus said to them, “Please move back. This girl is asleep.”

They almost mocked Jesus right there.²² He took the girl by the hand and said, “Girl, I tell you: Get up.”²³ Her spirit returned and she rose. Jesus said to give the girl some food.²⁴ All the broadcast stations and newspapers picked up this story.²⁵

¹³ B05:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind and they were afraid.

¹⁴ B05:17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

¹⁵ B05:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

¹⁶ B05:19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

¹⁷ B05:22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

¹⁸ B05:23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

¹⁹ B05:35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead why troublest thou the Master any further?

²⁰ B05:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

²¹ A09:23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

²² A09:24 He said unto them, Give place for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

²³ B05:41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

²⁴ C08:55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway and he commanded to give her meat.

²⁵ A09:26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Jesus was teaching on the AM radio station, and the people were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get thoughts like that?” and, “How can he be so wise?²⁶ Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? We know his sisters.” They were messed up over Jesus.²⁷

Meanwhile, Jesus was broadcasting -- and he was listening. He learned how the people were directionless, and he had empathy for them.²⁸

Parable 19: Economics 101

Jesus said to his teachers, “This is basic economics. The demand is strong, but the supply is weak.²⁹ Let’s pray that we can increase the supply.”³⁰

Jesus brought his 12 teachers together, and he gave them the power to heal people and cast out demons.³¹

²⁶ B06:02 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

²⁷ B06:03 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and of Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

²⁸ A09:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

²⁹ A09:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

³⁰ A09:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

³¹ A10:01 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

6. A listener is healed

Another day, Jesus was broadcasting on one of the local radio stations.¹ A woman listener had internal bleeding for 12 years,² and no doctor could help her. She ran through all her insurance and only got worse.³

The woman heard Jesus broadcasting, so she turned the radio up full volume and felt the vibes in his voice.⁴ Immediately her blood flow ceased.⁵

Still on the air, Jesus perceived that some power had gone out of him. He asked, “Who was just healed from my voice?”⁶

His teachers asked, “You have thousands of listeners, and you can feel that someone is cured?”⁷

Jesus asked the listener to call him.⁸ The woman did so, and she was full of fear.⁹

Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”¹⁰

¹ B05:24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

² B05:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

³ B05:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

⁴ B05:27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

⁵ B05:29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

⁶ B05:30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

⁷ B05:31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

⁸ B05:32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

⁹ B05:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

¹⁰ B05:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

1999. Year three ministry

7. Teachers spread the word

Jesus sent the 12 teachers out to instruct. He said, “Don’t go among the uncivilized, and don’t go into Lake County.¹ Instead, find the sinners in other parts of Illinois.”²

He also said, “Stay in people’s houses.”³ Plus, they should take very little on their journeys -- just their cars.⁴ In addition, they should wear sneakers and one coat.⁵ “And if the town doesn’t want to hear what you’re broadcasting,” Jesus said, “jump in your car and go. When judgment day comes, it’ll be better for Atlantic City than for them.”⁶ Jesus said he would follow his teachers.⁷

¹ A10:05 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not

² A10:06 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

³ B06:10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

⁴ B06:08 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse

⁵ B06:09 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

⁶ B06:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

⁷ A11:01 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

8. Herod's birthday

Meanwhile, Judge Herod's birthday came along, and there was a celebration with other Wisconsin VIPs.¹ Herod's niece danced for everyone, and this pleased the judge.²

Herod said to her, "Whatever you want, I'll give it to you. I'll even make you a Supreme Court Justice if you like. Your wish is my command."³

The girl left and asked her mom, "What do I want?"

Herodias said, "You want a video of John the Baptist being killed."⁴

The young girl then returned and whispered into Herod's ear, "I want a video of that Baptizer John getting killed."⁵ The judge was shocked, but he didn't want to refuse her.⁶

A few days later, Herod secretly executed a plan where another prisoner slit John's throat, and a closed circuit camera taped the brutal killing.⁷

Herod showed the young girl the videotape, and she gave it to her mother.⁸

When John's students heard the news, they retrieved John's body and buried it.⁹

Afterwards, Judge Herod was watching the 10:00 news, and he learned more about Jesus.¹⁰ Herod pointed at Jesus on the television and said, "That's John the Baptist -- he's risen from the dead! This is why he has those powers."¹¹

¹ B06:21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

² B06:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

³ B06:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

⁴ B06:24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

⁵ B06:25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

⁶ B06:26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

⁷ B06:27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

⁸ B06:28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel and the damsel gave it to her mother.

⁹ B06:29 And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

¹⁰ A14:01 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus,

¹¹ A14:02 And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

9. Faith in the farmland

Herod wanted to meet this miracle worker.¹ Jesus learned this, so he got away by driving deep into the Wisconsin farm country. Some people followed Jesus in their cars.²

Jesus stopped near Appleton, Wisconsin.³ Meanwhile, his teachers were spreading the good news all over Illinois. Jesus talked with them on their cell phones, and they reported what they were doing.⁴

Jesus told them, "Come out here to the farmland and rest awhile."⁵ So, the teachers drove up.⁶

Word spread rapidly that Jesus was near Appleton, and people came from all around to see him.⁷

¹ C09:09 And Herod said, John have I beheaded but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

² A14:13 When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

³ C09:10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

⁴ B06:30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

⁵ B06:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

⁶ B06:32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

⁷ B06:33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.

10. One for 5,000

The people kept coming. He held compassion for them and healed their sick.¹

That evening, Jesus' teachers said, "We need to send the people along so they can go eat."²

Jesus replied, "We can feed them here."³

The teachers said, "With what? All we have is a bag of hamburgers and fries."⁴

Jesus said, "Give me the bag."⁵ He stepped to the van's roof, picked up the microphone, and commanded his audience to sit. Jesus held the bag up, blessed it, and handed it to a teacher.⁶ The teacher turned the bag over, and out poured an endless number of wrapped hamburgers and fries.

Everyone ate, and there were still 12 baskets full of food.⁷ This meant over 5,000 people were fed.⁸

¹ A14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

² A14:15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

³ A14:16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

⁴ A14:17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

⁵ A14:18 He said, Bring them hither to me.

⁶ A14:19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

⁷ A14:20 And they did all eat, and were filled and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

⁸ A14:21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

11. Jesus walks the wheat

Jesus asked the crowd to go home, and he told his teachers to drive all the vehicles deep into the winter wheat fields.¹ They were headed to Hamples Corner, Wisconsin.²

They stopped in the middle of the field. Jesus walked another direction so he could pray alone.³ Jesus perceived the authorities were going to arrest him.⁴

The vehicles were in the field, and the wind was bouncing the teachers around.⁵ Jesus came back to the vehicles by walking on top of the wheat.⁶ One teacher said, "It's a ghost!"⁷ But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid."⁸ He stepped into his van, and the wind died down.⁹

Peter was in another vehicle, and he yelled, "Is that you professor? Order me to walk on the wheat!"¹⁰

Jesus yelled, "Come to me!" Peter started to do just that.¹¹ But he became afraid of the wind, and he dropped into the dirt.¹² Jesus took Peter by the hand and said, "You don't have much faith. Why do you doubt me?"¹³

When they crossed the field, they came to Hamples Corner.¹⁴

¹ A14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

² D06:01 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

³ A14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

⁴ D06:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

⁵ A14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves for the wind was contrary.

⁶ A14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

⁷ A14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

⁸ A14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

⁹ B06:51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

¹⁰ A14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

¹¹ A14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

¹² A14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

¹³ A14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

¹⁴ A14:34 And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

The next day, people were watching the vans with their binoculars. They didn't see Jesus coming and going – they just saw the teachers leave without Jesus.¹⁵ The people drove to Neenah and looked for Jesus.¹⁶ They found him and asked, “Professor, when did you get here?”¹⁷

Jesus replied, “You weren't looking for me because you were inspired, but because you liked stuffing yourselves on burgers.¹⁸ Well, French fries that sit out become nasty. Instead, work for the food of eternal life – the food I'm giving you now. Use the power God gave to me.”¹⁹

They asked, “How should we work for God?”²⁰

Jesus answered, “Believe in the one that God has sent.²¹ Our people ate at Manna's Restaurants on their journey. This was as predicted: ‘He gave them food from heaven.’²² But the ‘he’ wasn't Moses giving out free meals at Mannah's. It was my father giving out real food from heaven.²³ Because it's God's food that gives the world life.”²⁴

They replied, “Professor, please give us this food all the time.”²⁵

Jesus said, “I am the food of life. Come to me and you'll never be hungry or thirsty.”²⁶

The Illinoisans there whispered to themselves.²⁷ They said, “This Jesus is Mary and Joseph's son – we know them. And Jesus is saying, ‘I came from heaven.’”²⁸

¹⁵ D06:22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

¹⁶ D06:24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

¹⁷ D06:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

¹⁸ D06:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

¹⁹ D06:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you for him hath God the Father sealed.

²⁰ D06:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

²¹ D06:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

²² D06:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

²³ D06:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

²⁴ D06:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

²⁵ D06:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

²⁶ D06:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

²⁷ D06:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Jesus lost many followers that day.²⁹ This led Jesus to ask the 12, “Are you also going away from me?”³⁰

Peter replied, “Professor, who else are we going? You speak the words of eternal life.³¹ We know you’re the leader – the son of God.”³²

²⁸ D06:42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

²⁹ D06:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

³⁰ D06:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

³¹ D06:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

³² D06:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

12. Interviewed

In the days following, Jesus stayed in Wisconsin. He couldn't drive into Chicago, because some civilized Illinoisans were trying to kill him.¹ But he accepted TV interviews from Chicago reporters.

One evening, Jesus was split-screened with a Chicago politician.² "Jesus," the politician asked, "if your teachers are so good, why do they have license plates in states they don't reside in?"³

Jesus answered, "Why do you want people to betray their mothers and fathers?⁴ The people of Illinois need tax credits to help their aging parents. You say, 'No -- give it to us instead.'⁵

"You're phonies," Jesus continued. "You remind me of what the forefather Isaiah said:⁶ 'They talk about how much they honor me, but their hearts aren't in it.'⁷ Then, they enforce stupid man-made laws.'⁸

"To answer your attack about license plates: What you put on your car isn't illegal. What you do with your car could be illegal."⁹

Later, the politicians and Illinoisans saw Jesus' teachers eating with their hands, and this bothered them.¹⁰ It was against a tradition.¹¹ The politicians and reporters asked Jesus, "Why don't your teachers eat with utensils?"¹²

¹ D07:01 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

² A15:01 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

³ A15:02 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

⁴ A15:03 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

⁵ A15:05 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

⁶ A15:07 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

⁷ A15:08 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

⁸ A15:09 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

⁹ A15:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

¹⁰ B07:02 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

¹¹ B07:03 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

¹² B07:05 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

Jesus answered, “Our forefather Isaiah was smart when he talked about you phonies. Isaiah said, ‘These people have honor on their lips, but their heart is far from me.’¹³ You politicians wash the outside of every dish, but inside you’re bloodthirsty and rotten.¹⁴ Bad news, guys! You want the best stereos, and you want everyone calling you on your cell phones. You’re cursed.¹⁵

“I’ve got bad news for you lawyers, too. You’re always loading your problems onto other people, and you won’t lift a finger to help them.¹⁶ And you’re the ultimate brain drain. You do nothing, and you block people who are trying to accomplish things.”¹⁷

Later, the teachers told Jesus, “The politicians didn’t like that.”¹⁸

Parable 20: Machines

“Every machine my heavenly Father didn’t make will break down.¹⁹ Leave these people alone, because they are the fools leading the fools. They’ll fall all over each other.”²⁰

Peter asked, “Could you explain this parable?”²¹

¹³ B07:06 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

¹⁴ C11:39 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

¹⁵ C11:43 Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.

¹⁶ C11:46 And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

¹⁷ C11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

¹⁸ A15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

¹⁹ A15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

²⁰ A15:14 Let them alone they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

²¹ A15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

Jesus said, “You still don’t understand?”²² Anything that enters the mouth enters the stomach, and then out it goes.²³ But anything that comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this can taint anyone.²⁴ The problem is: The heart produces bad thoughts, murders, adulteries, permissiveness, thefts, false witnesses, and blasphemies.²⁵ These taint you. But eating with your hands doesn’t taint you.”²⁶

Jesus then drove to West Bend and Fond du Lac.²⁷ After that, he went to southeastern Wisconsin.²⁸

The people brought him a deaf man with a speech impediment, and they begged Jesus to help him.²⁹ Jesus pulled the man away from the crowd and got him alone. Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears, and he put a spittled finger onto the man’s tongue.³⁰ Jesus looked toward heaven and said, “Open!”³¹

At that moment, the man could hear and speak clearly.³² Jesus told the people not to say what happened, but the more he asked this, the more they broadcast it.³³

²² A15:16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

²³ A15:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

²⁴ A15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

²⁵ A15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies

²⁶ A15:20 These are the things which defile a man but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

²⁷ A15:21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

²⁸ B07:31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

²⁹ B07:32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

³⁰ B07:33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

³¹ B07:34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

³² B07:35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

³³ B07:36 And he charged them that they should tell no man but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

13. Responding to politicians

Later, Jesus and his teachers drove to Rainbow Beach.¹ The politicians faced Jesus in order to test him. They asked, “Show us a sign.”²

Jesus replied, “You watch the weather report on TV and you say, ‘It’ll be warm tomorrow.’³ So, you can see this sign from heaven, but you can’t see the climate that’s changing all around you.”⁴

Jesus then went to Freedom, Wisconsin, and he asked his teachers, “Who do the people say I am?”⁵

They replied, “Some say you’re John the Baptist. Others think you’re Elijah...or Jeremiah...or one of the other forefathers.”⁶

Jesus asked, “Who do you think I am?”⁷

Peter answered, “You’re the leader – the son of God.”⁸

“Peter, you’re truly blessed,” Jesus replied. “Because a person didn’t make you know this about me -- my father did.”⁹ You are the rock I will build my church on, and nukes from Hell won’t stop it.¹⁰ I will give you the keys to the Nation of Heaven, and whatever you decide on earth will be enforced in heaven; and whatever you reject on earth will be rejected in heaven.”¹¹

Then told his teachers they should keep secret that he is God’s son.¹²

¹ B08:10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.

² A16:01 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

³ A16:02 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather for the sky is red.

⁴ A16:03 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

⁵ A16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

⁶ A16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

⁷ A16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

⁸ A16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

⁹ A16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁰ A16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

¹¹ A16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹² A16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Jesus told his teachers he had to do the following: 1) suffer abuse from the station owners, radio hosts, and reporters; 2) be executed; and 3) rise up three days later.¹³

Peter said, “They can’t do this to you!”¹⁴

Jesus replied, “You’re Satan! Stop worrying about people things, Peter. Focus on God things.”¹⁵

Then Jesus said to the 12, “If you’re prepared to deny yourself, come along.¹⁶ Because if you try to save your life, you’ll lose it. And if you lose your life for my sake, you’ll find it.”¹⁷

¹³ B08:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

¹⁴ A16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord this shall not be unto thee.

¹⁵ A16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan thou art an offence unto me for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

¹⁶ A16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

¹⁷ A16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

14. To the top

Six days later, Jesus took John (his brother), Peter and James to the Wisconsin Dells.¹ In the Upper Dells, Jesus was transformed before their eyes. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes turned white light.² Forefathers Moses and Elijah appeared, and they talked with Jesus.³

Peter said, “Professor, I’m glad we’re here. Should we get three motel rooms for you, Moses and Elijah?”⁴

Then a bright cloud came over them, and a voice said, “This is my son, and I couldn’t be happier. Listen to him.”⁵

John, Peter and James fell to the ground.⁶ Jesus said, “Get up. Don’t be afraid.”⁷ Moses and Elijah left.⁸

As they were walking to the vehicle, Jesus told the three to keep those events secret. They could only tell after he had risen from the dead.⁹

They did keep the secret, but they wondered what “risen from the dead” meant.¹⁰ They asked him: “Why does the constitution say Elijah comes first?”¹¹

Jesus answered, “Elijah restores everything. Also, it describes how God’s son will endure suffering and be hated.¹² Now, Elijah has come. Also, they did him in – like it was written.”¹³

The disciples understood that the “him” Jesus talked about was John the Baptist.¹⁴

¹ A17:01 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

² A17:02 And was transfigured before them and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

³ A17:03 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

⁴ A17:04 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

⁵ A17:05 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

⁶ A17:06 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

⁷ A17:07 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

⁸ A17:08 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

⁹ B09:09 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

¹⁰ B09:10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

¹¹ B09:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?

¹² B09:12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.

¹³ B09:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

¹⁴ A17:13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

The next day, big crowds met Jesus in the Dells.¹⁵ A man called out: “Professor, I’m pleading with you to help my son – my only child.¹⁶ He’s possessed by some evil spirit. It makes him scream and convulse. He’s getting beaten up terribly.¹⁷ Your teachers couldn’t exorcize it.”¹⁸

Jesus answered, “This whole generation has no faith. How long am I going to deal with you? Bring your son up here.”¹⁹ While the boy was coming to Jesus, the evil spirit shook him tremendously. Jesus cast out the demon, cured the boy, and delivered him back to his father.²⁰

Later, the teachers asked Jesus, “Why couldn’t we exorcise the demon?”²¹

Jesus answered, “Because you don’t believe. I’m telling you: If you have the faith of one molecule, you can order skyscrapers to move. Everything will be possible for you.”²²

¹⁵ C09:37 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

¹⁶ C09:38 And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son for he is mine only child.

¹⁷ C09:39 And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

¹⁸ C09:40 And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

¹⁹ C09:41 And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

²⁰ C09:42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

²¹ A17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

²² A17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

15. Paying the fee

Then, trying to blend with the populace, Jesus and his group drove their vehicles on Interstate 94 in Wisconsin.¹ Near Neenah, a highway patrol officer stopped Peter's bus.

The officer asked, "Don't you pay vehicle fees?"²

Peter said, "Yes."

Peter arrived at the house with ticket in hand.

Jesus asked, "What do you think, Peter? Who do the authorities get fees from: their children or strangers?"³

Peter said, "From strangers."

Jesus said, "So, the children are exempt.⁴ But so there's no trouble, go see this lawyer. His name is Fishman. He'll resolve the ticket."⁵

Peter asked, "Professor, how often should I forgive someone? Seven times?"⁶

Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven."⁷

Parable 21: Skydiving

"The Nation of Heaven is like a skydiving school owner. He wanted to resolve financial problems with his flight instructors."⁸

"One instructor owed him \$10,000.⁹ Because he couldn't pay, the owner told him to sell his plane.¹⁰ The instructor pleaded, 'Be patient! I'll repay everything.'¹¹ The owner felt sorry for the instructor and let him off the hook.¹²

¹ B09:30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it.

² A17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

³ A17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

⁴ A17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

⁵ A17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

⁶ A18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

⁷ A18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times but, Until seventy times seven.

⁸ A18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

“Then the instructor called another flier and said, ‘Hey, you owe me money! Pay me.’¹³

“The owner heard about this and said to the instructor, ‘You jerk! I let all that money go because you pleaded with me.¹⁴ Why didn’t you help someone else out the way I helped you out?’¹⁵ The owner was so angry he got the instructor’s plane.¹⁶ And my heavenly father will do the same to you if you don’t forgive others.’¹⁷

Jesus then asked his teachers, “Oh, what were you guys arguing about on the way here?”¹⁸

They were quiet, because they had been squabbling. Some of them believed they were greater than the others.¹⁹

Jesus said, “In this group, the man in first is the one in last -- and the servant of everyone.”²⁰

John said, “Well, get this: Some jerk on the radio was casting out demons in your name. We called and complained.”²¹

Jesus said, “Don’t stop the man,²² because whoever isn’t against us is for us.”²³

⁹ A18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

¹⁰ A18:25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

¹¹ A18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

¹² A18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

¹³ A18:28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

¹⁴ A18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me

¹⁵ A18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

¹⁶ A18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

¹⁷ A18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

¹⁸ B09:33 And he came to Capernaum and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

¹⁹ B09:34 But they held their peace for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

²⁰ B09:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

²¹ B09:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

Jesus went on an interview show, and a politician asked him, “Can a couple get divorced for any reason?”²⁴

Jesus answered, “In the beginning, God made man and woman,²⁵ and he said they should become one.²⁶ Therefore, what God has joined together, nobody should tear apart.”²⁷

The politician asked, “Then why did Moses say there could be divorce?”²⁸

Jesus replied, “I’m saying that anyone who divorces – except for immorality – and marries another, commits adultery. And someone who marries this divorced person also commits adultery.”²⁹

Later, the teachers said, “Maybe people shouldn’t marry.”³⁰

Jesus said, “Everyone won’t get what I’m saying – only the ones I’m saying it to.”³¹

²² B09:39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

²³ B09:40 For he that is not against us is on our part.

²⁴ A19:03 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

²⁵ A19:04 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

²⁶ A19:05 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they twain shall be one flesh?

²⁷ A19:06 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

²⁸ A19:07 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

²⁹ A19:09 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

³⁰ A19:10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

³¹ A19:11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.

16. The mental hospital

A holiday was coming up.¹ Jesus said, “You guys drive to Chicago, because it’s not my time yet.² And don’t worry, because the world doesn’t hate you -- it hates me. I’m the one who tells them about their evil.”³

So, Jesus stayed in Wisconsin.⁴ But then he realized that his time had come,⁵ so he decided to secretly drive to Chicago.⁶ Jesus told some Lake County broadcasters about his upcoming visit, and they told their listeners.⁷ The people didn’t want to see Jesus, because they felt he was more focused on reaching Chicago.⁸

Teachers James and John learned about this. They contacted Jesus and asked, “Are you going to fire bomb them from the sky – like Elijah did?”⁹

Jesus reprimanded them: “You don’t know get it.¹⁰ I didn’t come to destroy people but to save them.”¹¹

Driving through Lake County,¹² Jesus passed in front of a mental hospital, and 10 patients sat in front.¹³

They yelled, “Jesus, help us!”¹⁴

Jesus said to them, “Pile in.”

The patients squeezed into Jesus’ van. He drove off, and suddenly everyone became healed.¹⁵ The men got out, and only one of them thanked Jesus.¹⁶

¹ D07:02 Now the Jew’s feast of tabernacles was at hand.

² D07:06 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come but your time is always ready.

³ D07:07 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

⁴ D07:09 When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

⁵ C09:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

⁶ D07:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

⁷ C09:52 And sent messengers before his face and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

⁸ C09:53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

⁹ C09:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

¹⁰ C09:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

¹¹ C09:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

¹² C17:11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

¹³ C17:12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off

¹⁴ C17:13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

¹⁵ C17:14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Jesus said, “Your faith has healed you.”¹⁷

¹⁶ C17:15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

¹⁷ C17:19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way thy faith hath made thee whole.

Part 7. Conflict

1. Followers get an earful

Jesus walked into a Chicago radio station and began broadcasting.¹ The Illinois listeners were amazed. One caller said, “I hear you don’t have much formal education. How can you speak so knowledgeably?”²

Jesus replied, “My words belong to the one who sent me.³ If you do God’s work, all the words will come to you, too.⁴ Just stop speaking for yourself, and speak for God.”⁵

Another caller said, “I’ll follow you wherever you go, Professor.”⁶

“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and if necessary, you could hide in a basement tavern, or you could sit in an attic. But I have no place to rest.”⁷

To another caller Jesus said, “OK, then, follow me.”

The caller replied, “Professor, my father just died, and of course I need to be there.”⁸

“Let the dead bury their dead,” Jesus answered. “You should get out and announce that God’s nation is coming.”⁹

Another called said, “I’ll just go home, say goodbye to my family, and I’ll join you.”¹⁰

Jesus replied, “If you’re looking back, you’re not ready.”¹¹

¹ D07:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

² D07:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

³ D07:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

⁴ D07:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

⁵ D07:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

⁶ C09:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

⁷ C09:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

⁸ C09:59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

⁹ C09:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

¹⁰ C09:61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

¹¹ C09:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Later in the broadcast, Jesus said, “Moses gave us inoculations. And on a Sunday, you give a baby his shots.¹² But you’re getting me on Blue Laws because I healed a man on Sunday?¹³ You listeners don’t keep the laws Moses gave us. Why do you want to kill me?”¹⁴

The phone lines lit up. “You’re the devil!” they exclaimed. “Who’s trying to kill you?”¹⁵

Jesus replied, “I did something good on a Sunday, and this shocked some people.¹⁶ But unfortunately, people judge according to the superficial. Instead, they should judge what is right.”¹⁷

Some in Chicago said to themselves, “This is Jesus – the one the authorities are trying to kill.¹⁸ Boy, he shoots his mouth off, and they say nothing to him. Maybe the authorities think he really is God’s son.”¹⁹

But many of the people believed in Jesus. They asked, “When the real leader comes, he won’t perform more miracles than this man has, will he?”²⁰

Later in the broadcast, Jesus said, “I’ll stay around a little longer, but then I’m going to the one who sent me here.²¹ You’ll look for me, but you won’t find me.”²²

Some Illinois listeners asked each other, “Where will he go that we can’t find him? Will teach the uncivilized?”²³

On the last day of the holiday, Jesus told his listeners, “If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink.”²⁴

¹² D07:22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

¹³ D07:23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

¹⁴ D07:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

¹⁵ D07:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil who goeth about to kill thee?

¹⁶ D07:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

¹⁷ D07:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

¹⁸ D07:25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

¹⁹ D07:26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

²⁰ D07:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

²¹ D07:33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

²² D07:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

²³ D07:35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

²⁴ D07:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

However, people still talked under their breath about Jesus, because one Illinoisan feared another.²⁵

Some said, "That Jesus is a good man."

Others said, "He deceives people."²⁶

Some said, "Jesus is our savior."

Others asked, "Would our savior come from Wisconsin?²⁷ Isn't it true the savior descends from our forefather David? Since David live in Pullman, it's logical our leader would be from there."²⁸

This caused a division with the people.²⁹ Some wanted Jesus arrested -- but they sure weren't going to do it.³⁰

²⁵ D07:13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

²⁶ D07:12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him for some said, He is a good man others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

²⁷ D07:41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

²⁸ D07:42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

²⁹ D07:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

³⁰ D07:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

2. Getting Jesus

The leading broadcasters and politicians said to the officers, “You heard Jesus on the radio. Why didn’t you arrest him?”¹

The officers answered, “Yes, we heard him. And there’s no one else like him!”²

The politicians said, “So, he’s gotten at you, too.³ Do any of the other leaders or politicians support him?⁴ Because people who don’t know our laws are heading for trouble.”⁵

A politician named Nicodemus (recall that he met Jesus one night) asked,⁶ “According to the law, do we have to see Jesus committing crimes before we act against him?”⁷

They answered, “That’s a good question. Do you know anyone from Wisconsin? We need to search up there and stop this false leader.”⁸ Then they all went home.⁹

¹ D07:45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

² D07:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

³ D07:47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

⁴ D07:48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

⁵ D07:49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

⁶ D07:50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

⁷ D07:51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

⁸ D07:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

⁹ D07:53 And every man went unto his own house.

3. Michigan Avenue broadcast

Jesus drove to the eastern side of the Loop¹ and sat down at the street level Michigan Avenue radio studio. People stood outside the studio and watched him. Also, listeners tuned in from all over, and Jesus taught everyone.²

The politicians and reporters brought a woman to the studio window.³ They said to Jesus, “Professor, we caught this woman committing adultery.⁴ According to Moses’ law, she should be executed. What do you say about this?”⁵ They were testing him -- looking for something they could use to accuse him.

Jesus took a piece of paper, wrote something on it, and held it up to the window.⁶ Almost in unison, the street crowd read Jesus’ words on the paper: “The one without sin should shoot first.”⁷

The politicians and reporters slunk away.⁸ Jesus leaned out the door and asked the woman, “Where are your accusers? Aren’t they castigating you?”⁹

She said, “No, professor.”

Jesus said, “I won’t either. Take a bus out of here and be good.”¹⁰

Jesus spoke to his radio audience: “Friends, I am the light of the world. Follow me, and you’ll never walk into darkness. You’ll have the light of life.”¹¹

A politician called in and said, “Since you’re making these claims about yourself, they can’t be valid.”¹²

¹ D08:01 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

² D08:02 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

³ D08:03 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

⁴ D08:04 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ D08:05 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned but what sayest thou?

⁶ D08:06 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

⁷ D08:07 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

⁸ D08:09 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

⁹ D08:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

¹⁰ D08:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee go, and sin no more.

¹¹ D08:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

¹² D08:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

“However,” Jesus replied, “what I’m saying is true. You wouldn’t understand this, because you don’t know where I came from or where I’m going.”¹³

Another caller asked, “Where is your father?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t know me or my father. If you knew me, you would also know my father.”¹⁴ Jesus was saying all this, but nobody arrested him. This is because it wasn’t his time yet.¹⁵

“You will die in your sins,” Jesus continued. “Unless you believe that I am the one, you will die in your sins.”¹⁶ He then spoke to the Illinoisans who believed in him: “If you stay true to my words, then you can be my followers.¹⁷ You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”¹⁸

Callers responded, “We are from the forefather Abraham, and nobody has ever held us. How are you making us free?”¹⁹

Jesus replied, “I know you’re from Abraham. But you want to kill me, because my words aren’t connecting with you.”²⁰ By the way, Abraham was glad to see me arrive.”²¹

The caller shot back: “You aren’t even 50 years old! And you’ve seen Abraham?”²²

Jesus replied, “Are you sitting down, sir? Before Abraham came into existence, I lived.”²³ You didn’t know him, but I did. If I said, ‘I don’t know him,’ I would be a liar like you. But I not only know him, I follow his words.”²⁴

¹³ D08:14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

¹⁴ D08:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

¹⁵ D08:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

¹⁶ D08:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

¹⁷ D08:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

¹⁸ D08:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

¹⁹ D08:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

²⁰ D08:37 I know that you are Abraham's seed, yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you.

²¹ D08:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day and he saw it, and was glad.

²² D08:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

²³ D08:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

²⁴ D08:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you but I know him, and keep his saying.

Outside the studio, someone flashed a concealed handgun at Jesus. Since his program was over, Jesus left and walked through the angry crowd.²⁵

²⁵ D08:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

4. The blind man

As he was walking on, Jesus and his teachers saw a blind man.¹ The teachers asked Jesus, “Why is this man blind? Did he sin, or did his parents?”²

Jesus replied, “Nobody sinned. He is blind so the works of God might be revealed in him.”³

Jesus took some soot from a car’s tail pipe and rubbed it onto the man’s eyes.⁴ “Go and wash your eyes in the Chicago River,” Jesus said. The man did so and came back with sight.⁵

Some people brought the now-seeing man to the politicians.⁶ The reason: Jesus had restored the man’s sight on a Sunday, and that was against the law.⁷

There was a disagreement amongst the politicians. Some said, “This Jesus isn’t from God, because he works on Sunday.” Others asked, “If Jesus is a sinner, how could he do such wonderful things?”⁸

Some Illinoisans didn’t believe the man was previously blind, so they called his parents.⁹ The politicians asked, “Is this your blind son we’re talking to? How can he see now?”¹⁰

His parents replied, “Of course this is our son, and yes, he was born blind.¹¹ We don’t know why he’s able to see now. He’s old enough -- ask him.”¹² His parents were cautious, because they feared these civilized Illinoisans.¹³

¹ D09:01 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

² D09:02 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

³ D09:03 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

⁴ D09:06 He had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

⁵ D09:07 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

⁶ D09:13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

⁷ D09:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

⁸ D09:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

⁹ D09:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

¹⁰ D09:19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

¹¹ D09:20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind

¹² D09:21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not he is of age; ask him he shall speak for himself.

¹³ D09:22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

The Illinoisans said to each other, “Now we know this man Jesus is a sinner.”¹⁴

Parable 22: The good bus driver

“You get on a bus by walking through the passenger door. If you enter by climbing in a window or an emergency door, then you’re the same as a thief.¹⁵ The bus driver walks through that door and leads the passengers.¹⁶ The passengers listen to the driver¹⁷ and trust him on their long journey.¹⁸ If a strange driver took the wheel the passengers wouldn’t trust him, because they don’t recognize him.”¹⁹

Jesus’ teachers didn’t understand this parable.²⁰ Jesus responded, “I am the bus door.²¹ People who got in by going around the door are thieves, and the passengers didn’t listen to them.²² When the passengers walk through the door, they will be saved.²³ The thief only comes to steal the bus and kill the passengers. But I came to give the passengers great lives.²⁴

“I’m the good bus driver. I lay down my life for the passengers.²⁵ The driver’s assistant doesn’t feel responsibility for the passengers. If he saw headlights coming straight at them, he would protect himself -- but not the passengers. Also, the assistant will let a thief steal the passengers’ bags and toss them along the road.²⁶ This is because the assistant is a hired hand.²⁷

¹⁴ D09:24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise we know that this man is a sinner.

¹⁵ D10:01 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

¹⁶ D10:02 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

¹⁷ D10:03 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

¹⁸ D10:04 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him for they know his voice.

¹⁹ D10:05 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him for they know not the voice of strangers.

²⁰ D10:06 This parable spake Jesus unto them but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

²¹ D10:07 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

²² D10:08 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers but the sheep did not hear them.

²³ D10:09 I am the door by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

²⁴ D10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

²⁵ D10:11 I am the good shepherd the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

²⁶ D10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

²⁷ D10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

“I’m the good bus driver. I know my passengers, and they know me.²⁸ This is like how my father knows me, and I know my father. I lay down my life for the passengers.²⁹

“I have other passengers who aren’t on this bus. I must shepherd them as well, and they will know me. They will become one group of passengers with one driver.³⁰ Because I’m doing all this, my father loves me. In laying down my life, I can take it again.”³¹

²⁸ D10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

²⁹ D10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep.

³⁰ D10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

³¹ D10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

5. More calls

Another day Jesus was on the air, and a lawyer called him and asked, “What should I do to have eternal life?”¹

Jesus answered, “You’re the lawyer. What’s written in the law?”²

The caller responded, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.’”³

Jesus said, “Right! Do this and you will live.”⁴

Parable 23: The good Lake Countian

One caller asked, “Who is my neighbor?”⁵

Jesus answered, “A man was driving from Chicago to Wrigleyville, and carjackers stopped him. They beat him badly, took his car, and left him for dead.”⁶

“A broadcaster was listening on the police radio, and he heard about the crime. He could have announced it on the radio to help catch the thieves, but he didn’t.”⁷ And in the same way, a broadcaster at another station could have sent out a message, but he didn’t.⁸

¹ C10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

² C10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

³ C10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴ C10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right this do, and thou shalt live.

⁵ C10:29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

⁶ C10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

⁷ C10:31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

⁸ C10:32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

“But a Lake Countian saw the poor man, and she showed compassion.⁹ She covered the man’s wounds, and drove him to a hotel.¹⁰ She gave \$200 to the hotel manager and said, ‘Take care of this man. Whatever you spend above that, put it on my credit card.’¹¹ Now, which of these three seemed to be a neighbor to this man?”¹²

The caller said, “The lady – because she who helped him.”

Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”¹³

A caller from Wisconsin told Jesus that Supreme Court Justice Pontius Pilate allowed tainted blood in the state’s supply.¹⁴

Jesus replied, “Are the Wisconsinians who received the blood worse sinners than others?”¹⁵ Of course not. But all of you need to turn your lives around, or you’ll die like those poor people did.”¹⁶

Parable 25: Video game

“A guy was trying to figure out a video game.¹⁷ He said to his friend, ‘For three years I haven’t gotten the hang of this thing. I’m tossing it.’¹⁸

“His friend said, ‘Let’s work on your game for a year. I’ll go online and read about it, and we’ll practice it.’¹⁹ If we can master the thing, great. But if not, we’ll trash it.’”²⁰

Jesus drove on. He stopped in various towns on his way to Chicago, and he made good press.²¹

⁹ C10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

¹⁰ C10:34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

¹¹ C10:35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

¹² C10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

¹³ C10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

¹⁴ C13:01 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

¹⁵ C13:02 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

¹⁶ C13:03 I tell you, Nay but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

¹⁷ C13:06 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

¹⁸ C13:07 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

¹⁹ C13:08 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it

²⁰ C13:09 And if it bear fruit, well and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Someone asked Jesus, “Professor, can only a few people be saved?”

Jesus replied,²² “Make sure you can crawl through the dog door to heaven, because I tell you: Others will try to get in the big doors, and they won’t be able to.²³ The last will be first, and the first will be last.”²⁴

A politician told Jesus, “You’d better move on out of here. Herod wants you dead.”²⁵

Jesus, “Tell that con artist this: Today and tomorrow I’m performing exorcisms and cures. On the third day, I’ll finish this job.²⁶ But I’ll need to hang out here for a little while, because it wouldn’t look right for a leader to die outside of Chicago.”²⁷ Oh, Chicago. You kill leaders. You crush anyone trying to help you. I’ve wanted to unite your people, but you said no.”²⁸

²¹ C13:22 And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

²² C13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

²³ C13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

²⁴ C13:30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

²⁵ C13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence for Herod will kill thee.

²⁶ C13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

²⁷ C13:33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

²⁸ C13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

6. Talking to an audience

Parable 25: Pay-per-view

An audience gathered around Jesus. He noticed how some selected the best seats, and he said to them,¹ “Let’s say you are invited to a boxing pay per view party. Don’t sit right in front of the TV, because someone more important than you might come in,² and the host would want you to make room for her. Then you would go -- with shame -- to the beanbag in the corner.³

“Instead, go and sit in the worst spot, so the host might say to you, ‘Please come in closer!’ Then you will be honored in front of everyone.⁴ The point is: Elevate yourself and you’ll be lowered. Lower yourself and you will be elevated.”⁵

Parable 26: Tailgate party

“When you have a tailgate party, don’t call your friends, family, and rich neighbors – then hope someday they’ll throw you a party.⁶ Instead, invite homeless and challenged people to your tailgate.⁷ Then you’ll be blessed, because you’ll be repaid when righteous people rise from the dead.”⁸

Parable 27: Film premiere

“A movie producer had a premiere, and he invited many VIPs.⁹ He told them, ‘The movie is a week from Saturday.’¹⁰ Everyone started making excuses.

“One said, ‘I’m scouting a location, and I have to go there.’¹¹

¹ C14:07 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them.

² C14:08 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

³ C14:09 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

⁴ C14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

⁵ C14:11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

⁶ C14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

⁷ C14:13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind

⁸ C14:14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

⁹ C14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many

¹⁰ C14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

¹¹ C14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it I pray thee have me excused.

“Another said, ‘I just bought a five cylinder car, and I’m trying it out that night. Sorry.’¹²

“Still another said, ‘I just married my third wife, so I can’t come.’¹³

“The producer was angry, and he told his assistant, ‘Go to Hollywood and Vine, then bring in the homeless and the disabled.’¹⁴

“Later the assistant said, ‘I brought people in just as you said, and there is still room for more.’¹⁵

“The producer responded, ‘Go all over LA and invite people. Fill up the theater.’¹⁶ Because I’m telling you: None of those VIPs I invited will ever see my movie.’”¹⁷

Parable 28: Eiffel Tower

“When they were building the Eiffel Tower, they had the money to finish it.¹⁸ But today, some guy lays a foundation for a deck and he can’t finish it. His neighbors laugh at him¹⁹ and say, ‘He started to build, but he couldn’t finish the job.’”²⁰

Parable 29: Hotel executive

“The hotel executive had 10,000 rooms, and he was bidding on a major convention. He thought about how he could compete with the other hotel and their 20,000 rooms.²¹ He tells his VP to call the other hotel and offer to partner on the convention.²² In the same way, if you want to be my follower you need to give up everything you have.”²³

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- ¹² C14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them I pray thee have me excused.
- ¹³ C14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.
- ¹⁴ C14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.
- ¹⁵ C14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
- ¹⁶ C14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
- ¹⁷ C14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.
- ¹⁸ C14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
- ¹⁹ C14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,
- ²⁰ C14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
- ²¹ C14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?
- ²² C14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
- ²³ C14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Parable 30: Megabytes

“Let’s say you have 100 megabytes of disk space, and you lost one mg. You would leave the 99 mg and go after the one that was lost.²⁴ When you found it, you would jump for joy.²⁵ You would e-mail your friends with glee.²⁶ It’s the same way in heaven, because there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don’t need repentance.”²⁷

Parable 31: Photography studio

“A woman owned a photography studio, and she was developing 10 rolls of film. She searched everywhere in the dark room.²⁸ When she found it, she called her coworker and said, ‘Look at this! It’s the roll of film I lost.’²⁹ The same way, there is euphoria in heaven when one sinner turns around.”³⁰

Parable 32: The prodigal VP

“A talent agency owner had two VPs – Rhonda and Patrick.³¹ Rhonda said to her boss Suzie: ‘I want to own part of the agency.’ Suzie gave 25% to each VP.³²

“Soon after, Rhonda borrowed against this 25% and flew all over the world. She got wasted with wild living.³³ Finally, she could borrow no more, and she was stuck in a backward country.³⁴ She begged a producer for help, and she took a lowly job casting music videos.³⁵

²⁴ C15:04 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

²⁵ C15:05 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

²⁶ C15:06 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

²⁷ C15:07 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

²⁸ C15:08 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

²⁹ C15:09 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

³⁰ C15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

³¹ C15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons

³² C15:12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

³³ C15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

³⁴ C15:14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

³⁵ C15:15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

“Rhonda wanted to eat one of the lunches provided to the extras, but none was left.³⁶ She thought, ‘The interns at our talent agency get to eat lunch, and I’m starving!’³⁷ I’ll go back to Suzie and say, ‘I have disobeyed you.’³⁸ I’m not worthy to be a VP, but could you make me an intern?’³⁹”

“Rhonda got enough money to get home, and she waited quietly in Suzie’s office. While Suzie was down the hall, she saw Rhonda. She ran in and hugged the prodigal VP.⁴⁰”

“Suzie said to her assistants, ‘Bring my jacket and put it on Rhonda. Take my credit card and buy her the nicest suit and shoes.’⁴¹ Call the lunch place and have platters brought in. We’re going to celebrate,⁴² because our Vice President Rhonda was gone, and she’s here again.’ They began the party right there.⁴³”

“Meanwhile, Patrick was out at a client site in the suburbs. When he called in, he heard music and laughing in the background.⁴⁴ Patrick asked the receptionist what was happening.⁴⁵”

“She said to Patrick, ‘Rhonda just returned, and Suzie is throwing a party.’⁴⁶”

“Patrick was angry, and he went home. Suzie called him and tried to calm him.⁴⁷”

“Patrick said, ‘I’ve been a faithful vice president. I’ve followed all of your orders, and you never even gave me a steak lunch.’⁴⁸ But here comes Rhonda, who wasted 25% of this agency on high living, and you have a banquet for her.’⁴⁹”

³⁶ C15:16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat and no man gave unto him.

³⁷ C15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

³⁸ C15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

³⁹ C15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son make me as one of thy hired servants.

⁴⁰ C15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

⁴¹ C15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet

⁴² C15:23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry

⁴³ C15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

⁴⁴ C15:25 Now his elder son was in the field and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

⁴⁵ C15:26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

⁴⁶ C15:27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

⁴⁷ C15:28 And he was angry, and would not go in therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

“Suzie said, ‘Pat, you’re always with me, and everything I have is yours.’⁵⁰ But it was right for us to celebrate, because Rhonda was lost, and she is found again.’”⁵¹

Parable 33: Carnival

“The owner of a traveling carnival had a manager, and this manager was accused of mishandling receivables. The towns they had events in still owed the carnival money.⁵² The owner asked the manager, ‘What’s going on here? You’re fired.’⁵³

“The manager told himself, ‘What will I do? I can’t dig ditches or beg.’⁵⁴ I got it! I’ll do good things for the towns, and they’ll take care of me.’⁵⁵

“The manager called one town and said, ‘How much do you owe this carnival?’⁵⁶

“They said, ‘Ten thousand dollars.’

“He said, ‘Send us a check now for \$5,000.’⁵⁷ Then he did likewise in another town.⁵⁸

“The owner hired back the manager. It showed that materialistic people are more clever than spiritual ones.⁵⁹

⁴⁸ C15:29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends

⁴⁹ C15:30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

⁵⁰ C15:31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

⁵¹ C15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

⁵² C16:01 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

⁵³ C16:02 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

⁵⁴ C16:03 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

⁵⁵ C16:04 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

⁵⁶ C16:05 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

⁵⁷ C16:06 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

⁵⁸ C16:07 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

⁵⁹ C16:08 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

“The point is: Maybe you operate on an extreme, and you’re unfair. But you can operate on another extreme as well.⁶⁰ So, if you do make money in evil ways, at least use that money to serve heaven.⁶¹ But if you haven’t been fair with money, how can you be trusted with the wealth that comes from heaven?⁶² If you can’t be trusted with the possessions of another, who will give you something that belongs to you?⁶³

“Nobody can serve two bosses. You’ll either hate one and love the other, or vice versa. You can’t serve both God and money.”⁶⁴

Parable 34: Salon owner

“There was a hair salon owner named Martin. He lived in luxury and wore nice clothes.⁶⁵ A homeless man named Lazarus sat in front of Martin’s salon⁶⁶ and begged for food.⁶⁷

“Lazarus died, and angels carried him to sit with our forefather Abraham. Martin also died, and his body was buried.⁶⁸ Martin’s spirit went to Hell, and he saw Lazarus and Abraham sitting together on an interstellar TV program.⁶⁹

“Martin called heaven and said, ‘Father Abraham, help me! I’m drowning in flames. Send Lazarus down with a gallon of water for me.’⁷⁰

“Abraham replied, ‘Martin, in your lifetime you got wonderful things, and in his lifetime Lazarus got bad things. So, Lazarus sits in a recliner while you burn.’⁷¹ Plus, there’s a big distance between us, and nobody can travel that.’⁷²

⁶⁰ C16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

⁶¹ C16:09 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

⁶² C16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

⁶³ C16:12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

⁶⁴ C16:13 No servant can serve two masters for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

⁶⁵ C16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day

⁶⁶ C16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

⁶⁷ C16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

⁶⁸ C16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom the rich man also died, and was buried;

⁶⁹ C16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

⁷⁰ C16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

“Martin said, ‘Could you send Lazarus to my Dad’s house,⁷³ because I have five brothers. Lazarus can tell them everything. They’ll change, and they won’t roast in Hell like me.’⁷⁴

“Abraham replied, ‘Moses and the other forefathers gave them plenty of words to follow.’⁷⁵

“Martin said, ‘No, father Abraham. Lazarus will be much more convincing! If they see him they will turn themselves around.’⁷⁶

“Abraham said, ‘If they aren’t following Moses and the other forefathers, they won’t listen to a risen dead man.’⁷⁷

Parable 35: Office assistant

“When an office assistant completes work for you, you wouldn’t say, ‘Come and sit in my leather chair.’⁷⁸ No, you would say, ‘Get me lunch; put on better clothes; and file these papers while I eat. You can take lunch afterwards.’⁷⁹ Do you thank the assistant for all the work? I don’t think so.⁸⁰ Still, you say, ‘We are all servants, just doing our duty.’⁸¹

Parable 36: Private investigator

Jesus said they should pray and never give up, and he told them this parable:⁸²
“There was a private investigator who didn’t think much of God or people.⁸³

“A widow came to him and said, ‘Someone is out to get me – help me!’⁸⁴

⁷¹ C16:26 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

⁷² C16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

⁷³ C16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house

⁷⁴ C16:28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

⁷⁵ C16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

⁷⁶ C16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

⁷⁷ C16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

⁷⁸ C17:07 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

⁷⁹ C17:08 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

⁸⁰ C17:09 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

⁸¹ C17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants we have done that which was our duty to do.

⁸² C18:01 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

⁸³ C18:02 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man

⁸⁴ C18:03 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

“He wouldn’t budge for some time, but finally he told himself,⁸⁵ ‘This widow is really on my back. I’ve got to help her out or she will keep coming around.’⁸⁶

“Note what the PI is saying.⁸⁷ God will help people who cry out to him day and night. But will he act slowly?⁸⁸ I tell you that he will work quickly for them. The other question is: Am I seeing faith in God on this earth?”⁸⁹

Parable 37: Two prayers

He also spoke the following parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others.⁹⁰ “A politician called a radio station,” Jesus said.⁹¹ “He prayed like this: ‘God, thanks for not making me evil, like a loan shark, a womanizer or a tax collector.’⁹² I donate all the time.’⁹³

“A tax collector then called in and prayed this way: ‘God, forgive me, because I’m a sinner!’⁹⁴

“The point is: The tax collector had it right, because everyone who acts big will be made small, and vice versa.”⁹⁵

Parable 38: Promoting rock bands

“A music industry executive was going out of the country.⁹⁶ He called 10 managers together, and he gave each of them 10 garage bands. He said, ‘Do the best you can with them until I return.’⁹⁷

⁸⁵ C18:04 And he would not for a while but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

⁸⁶ C18:05 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

⁸⁷ C18:06 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

⁸⁸ C18:07 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

⁸⁹ C18:08 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

⁹⁰ C18:09 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others

⁹¹ C18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

⁹² C18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

⁹³ C18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

⁹⁴ C18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

⁹⁵ C18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

⁹⁶ C19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

⁹⁷ C19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

“Now, the ardent fans hated the executive, and they wrote blistering online letters saying, ‘Stay on the other side of the world.’⁹⁸

“He returned anyway, and he called his managers together on a teleconference. ‘What happened with the 100 bands?’ he asked.⁹⁹

“The first manager said, ‘Sir, your 10 bands have 10 songs on the air.’¹⁰⁰

“The executive said, ‘All right! Because you did a lot with a little, I’m putting you in charge of 10 small markets.’¹⁰¹

“The second manager said, ‘My bands have five songs on the air.’¹⁰²

“The executive said, ‘And you can be in charge of five markets.’¹⁰³

“The third said, ‘I kept my bands practicing,¹⁰⁴ because you want things right.’¹⁰⁵

“The executive said, ‘You idiot! If you know I want things right,¹⁰⁶ why didn’t you seek the opinions of local DJs? Maybe they would have liked some of the bands and played their music.’¹⁰⁷ You’ve just lost your bands.’ And he gave them to the manager with the most success.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁸ C19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

⁹⁹ C19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

¹⁰⁰ C19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

¹⁰¹ C19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

¹⁰² C19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

¹⁰³ C19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

¹⁰⁴ C19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin

¹⁰⁵ C19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

¹⁰⁶ C19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow

¹⁰⁷ C19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

¹⁰⁸ C19:24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

“The executive then said, ‘If a person has something, more will be given. If a person doesn’t have anything, what little is had will be taken away.’¹⁰⁹ Also, get some of those online fans on the phone, because I’m in the mood to chew them out.”¹¹⁰

After he signed off, one of his teachers asked, “Can you tell us a good prayer to use?”¹¹¹

Jesus replied, “When you pray, say this: ‘God, your name is holy. Your heaven will come onto Earth, so I want Earth to be just like heaven.’¹¹² Make sure I have enough food every day.¹¹³ Forgive my sins, and I’ll forgive anyone who sins against me. Don’t let me get tempted, and save me from the devil.”¹¹⁴

Parable 39: Late dinner

“You call a friend at midnight and say, ‘I need some money,’¹¹⁵ because a friend just flew into town, and he’s hungry.’¹¹⁶ Your friend will say, ‘Don’t bother me. My kids are in bed. I can’t get up and help you,’ and he’ll hang up.¹¹⁷ But if you’re persistent, he will help you.¹¹⁸ So, keep asking, and you’ll get. Keep looking, and you’ll find. Keep knocking, and you’ll meet.¹¹⁹ Everyone who asks receives.¹²⁰

¹⁰⁹ C19:26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

¹¹⁰ C19:27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

¹¹¹ C11:01 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

¹¹² C11:02 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

¹¹³ C11:03 Give us day by day our daily bread.

¹¹⁴ C11:04 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

¹¹⁵ C11:05 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

¹¹⁶ C11:06 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

¹¹⁷ C11:07 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

¹¹⁸ C11:08 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

¹¹⁹ C11:09 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹²⁰ C11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

“If your child asks for chicken nuggets, would you give him rocks instead? Or if she asks for pizza, would you give her cardboard?¹²¹ Or if he asks for a juice box, would you give him a brick?¹²² Yes, you are a sinner, but you know how to feed your children. And the Holy Spirit gives much more to those who ask.”¹²³

Parable 40: Hair dye

“A filthy spirit is like a cheap hair dye. The lady let her dyed hair grow out, and the dye searched for a new victim. It couldn’t find one, so it said, ‘I’m going back into that lady’s hair.’¹²⁴ When it returned, she had made her hair natural and soft.¹²⁵ So the dye found seven other cheap body decorations -- including glue-on fingernails and glitter eye shadow -- and they fell onto the lady. Then she looked worse than ever.”¹²⁶

¹²¹ C11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹²² C11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹²³ C11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

¹²⁴ C11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

¹²⁵ C11:25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

¹²⁶ C11:26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

7. Winter heat

Jesus spoke more, and this angered the reporters and politicians.¹ They trailed Jesus, because they wanted to hear him slip up – and then they could shoot accusations at him.²

Parable 41: Spaced in aerospace

“An aerospace parts supplier had a great second quarter.³ He said to himself, ‘I have so many companies depending on me that I don’t have room to store my parts. What will I do?’⁴ He then thought, ‘I’ll level my warehouses, build much larger ones, and then store everything.’⁵ And I can finally retire and rest!’⁶

“But God told him, ‘You stupid: You need your soul now more than ever. Who did you store up everything for?’⁷ In other words, the man made a treasure for himself, but he wasn’t rich toward God.’⁸

Jesus had a television special, and many people tuned in. Jesus said, “Keep your eyes on those politicians. Their hypocrisy grows all the time.⁹ But try as they might, they can’t cover anything up. It will all be known.¹⁰ What you whisper to someone can be picked up by a microphone. What you say to someone in confidence will be broadcast all over the world.¹¹

“Friends, don’t fear those who try to kill people. Needless to say, they aren’t doing anything for God.¹² Only fear them if they turn their powers over to Hell.¹³

¹ C11:53 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things

² C11:54 Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

³ C12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully

⁴ C12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

⁵ C12:18 And he said, This will I do I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

⁶ C12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

⁷ C12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

⁸ C12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

⁹ C12:01 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

¹⁰ C12:02 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

¹¹ C12:03 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

¹² C12:04 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

¹³ C12:05 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

“Talk about me to others, and you will talk about me with God’s angels.¹⁴ But deny me in front of others and you’ll be denied by the angels.¹⁵

Someone said to Jesus, “Professor, talk with my brother, and tell him to divide our inheritance with me.”¹⁶

Jesus replied, “Sir, do I look like some TV judge?¹⁷ However, I will tell you to look out: Avoid greed, because your life doesn’t amount to what you own.¹⁸

“I mean, if you worry about your height, will that make you any taller?¹⁹ So if you can’t do something as simple as that, why concern yourself with the rest?²⁰ Don’t worry about what you’ll eat and drink.²¹ Your father knows that you need these things.²² Instead, search for God’s Nation, and you’ll get everything.²³ And take heart: Your father wants to give you his nation!²⁴ Sell your possessions, and give your money to the poor. You’ll have a wallet that doesn’t wear out, a bank account that keeps a balance, and a home that no thief can enter.²⁵

¹⁴ C12:08 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God

¹⁵ C12:09 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

¹⁶ C12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

¹⁷ C12:14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

¹⁸ C12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

¹⁹ C12:25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

²⁰ C12:26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

²¹ C12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

²² C12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

²³ C12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

²⁴ C12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

²⁵ C12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Parable 42: High school

“Be like teachers watching for their principal to return from the conference. Make it so that the double doors can be instantly opened for her.²⁶ Blessed are those teachers who the principal finds waiting for her. I tell you: That principal will help write departmental reports and assist in the classrooms.²⁷ Maybe the principal will come in late – or the middle of the night. The best teachers are there for her.²⁸ Also, if the principal knew a drug dealer would be in the school at a certain time, she would be there to prevent the tragedy.²⁹ Likewise, be ready for me, because I’m coming at a time you don’t expect me.”³⁰

Later, Jesus said, “I guess you think I’m here to bring peace. Ha! No, I’m dividing.³¹ From here on out, teams are splitting up: three against two, and two against three.³² And you’re the umpire – deciding what is right.”³³

There was a holiday in Chicago,³⁴ and winter had set in.³⁵ Jesus was at the Michigan Avenue studio. An Illinois caller asked him, “Why are you holding us in suspense? If you’re our liberator, say so.”³⁶

Jesus replied, “I already told you, and you don’t believe me.³⁷ This is because you aren’t one of my people.³⁸ My people hear my voice. I know who they are. They follow me,³⁹ and I give them eternal life.⁴⁰ Friend, my father is greater than everyone. You won’t get taken from him.”⁴¹

²⁶ C12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

²⁷ C12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

²⁸ C12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

²⁹ C12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

³⁰ C12:40 Be ye therefore ready also for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

³¹ C12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division

³² C12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

³³ C12:57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

³⁴ D10:22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

³⁵ D10:23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon’s porch.

³⁶ D10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

³⁷ D10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me.

³⁸ D10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

³⁹ D10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

⁴⁰ D10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

⁴¹ D10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.

Some Illinoisans outside the studio showed Jesus their handguns.⁴² Jesus saw this and said, “I’ve done so many good works for my father. For which are you going to shoot me?”⁴³

The Illinoisans said, “We’re going to shoot you for blasphemy. You’re a man, but you make yourself God.”⁴⁴ They tried to grab Jesus, but they failed.⁴⁵

⁴² D10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

⁴³ D10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

⁴⁴ D10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

⁴⁵ D10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him but he escaped out of their hand,

8. Lazarus

Jesus got into his van and drove to Oak Street Beach – where John had baptized a few years prior.¹

Meanwhile, down in Calumet City, a man named Lazarus was ill.² His sisters were named Mary and Martha.³ The sisters called Jesus and said, “Professor, your dear friend Lazarus is sick.”⁴

Jesus answered, “This disease is a chance to show God’s glory.”⁵ Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus.⁶ He said to his teachers, “We’re driving through Illinois again.”⁷

The teachers said, “They pulled guns on you, and you’re going out?”⁸

Jesus said, “There are 12 hours of daylight.⁹ We won’t move at night, because that’s when we’d make mistakes.”¹⁰

Jesus selected 70 other people, and he sent them in pairs to every place along his roads.¹¹ “Go on out,” Jesus said. “Just realize you’re geeks among jocks.”¹²

A little later, Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I’m going to wake him up.”¹³

The teachers replied, “If he’s asleep, he’ll awaken himself.”¹⁴

¹ D10:40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

² D11:01 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

³ D11:02 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

⁴ D11:03 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

⁵ D11:04 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

⁶ D11:05 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

⁷ D11:07 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

⁸ D11:08 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

⁹ D11:09 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

¹⁰ D11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

¹¹ C10:01 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

¹² C10:03 Go your ways behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

¹³ D11:11 These things said he and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

¹⁴ D11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Jesus looked at them. “Lazarus is dying,” he said.¹⁵ “And I’m glad I’m not there now, because maybe this time you’ll believe. Let’s go.”¹⁶ They stayed put for two days.¹⁷

¹⁵ D11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead

¹⁶ D11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

¹⁷ D11:06 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

9. For Martha and Mary

When Jesus arrived in Calumet City, he learned Lazarus was dead and buried.¹ Martha greeted Jesus at the door, but Mary stayed back.²

“Lazarus is dead,” Martha said. “If you had been here, he wouldn’t have died.³ But I know I can ask God for anything, and he will give it.”⁴

Jesus replied, “Your brother will get out of that grave.”⁵

Martha said, “I know he’ll rise on the last day.”⁶

“Martha,” Jesus said, “I am the resurrection.”⁷

Mary left the house, and the visitors said, “She’s going to Lazarus’ grave to cry.”⁸

Jesus asked, “Where did you bury him?”

They said, “Come and see.”⁹ Everyone went there, and Jesus cried.¹⁰

Some of them asked each other, “If Jesus gave a blind man sight, why didn’t he keep Lazarus from dying?”¹¹

Jesus stood over the fresh grave.¹² He pulled out his cell phone and began dialing.¹³

Jesus said, “Lazarus? ... OK, just relax. There’s enough air for you while we dig you out.”¹⁴

¹ D11:17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

² D11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him but Mary sat still in the house.

³ D11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

⁴ D11:22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

⁵ D11:23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

⁶ D11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

⁷ D11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live

⁸ D11:31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

⁹ D11:34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

¹⁰ D11:35 Jesus wept.

¹¹ D11:37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

¹² D11:38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

¹³ D11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh for he hath been dead four days.

¹⁴ D11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

Everyone dug furiously with their hands, and then the groundskeepers arrived with proper equipment. Lazarus pushed open the coffin.¹⁵

¹⁵ D11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

10. Getting rid of Jesus

Jesus drove up to Evanston, Illinois, and stayed there with his teachers.¹ Meanwhile, some of the Illinoisans went to the politicians, and they told things Jesus did.²

The leading broadcasters and the politicians got on a teleconference, and they asked, “What can we do with this miracle worker?”³ If we let him go on, we’ll lose it all. Everyone will follow him, and the federal government will have to declare martial law in Illinois.”⁴

The top broadcaster was named Caiaphas. He said, “You’re all wrong.”⁵ It helps us if one man is sacrificed for Illinois.”⁶ Caiaphas predicted that Jesus would be killed for the sake of Illinois,⁷ and this act would bring all civilized people together.⁸

They turned Caiaphas’ prediction into a plan: Execute Jesus.⁹

¹ D11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

² D11:46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

³ D11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

⁴ D11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

⁵ D11:49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

⁶ D11:50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

⁷ D11:51 And this spake he not of himself but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

⁸ D11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

⁹ D11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

11. Connecting with the young

Jesus arrived in Lincoln Park, and because it was his nature, he began teaching.¹ The people brought little children to Jesus so he could bless them.² Jesus said, “If you’re going to enter God’s nation, you have to be like these kids.”³

A man said to Jesus, “I’ve observed the 10 Laws. What else should I do?”⁴

Jesus said, “To be perfect, you need to sell what you own and give the money to the poor. You’ll get your treasure back in heaven.”⁵

The man was sad, because he was rich.⁶

Jesus turned to his teachers and said,⁷ “It’s easier to get an RV through a drive-up than to get a rich man into heaven.”⁸

His teachers were amazed. They asked, “Then who can go to heaven?”⁹

Jesus said, “With people this is impossible. But with God, everything is possible.”¹⁰

¹ B10:01 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

² B10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

³ B10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

⁴ A19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up what lack I yet?

⁵ A19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven and come and follow me.

⁶ A19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions.

⁷ A19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

⁸ A19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

⁹ A19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

¹⁰ A19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Parable 43: Movie set

“The Nation of Heaven is like the movie director. She went out early in the morning to hire extras for her film.¹¹ She agreed to pay the extras \$100 each, and they began shooting.¹² That evening, she saw other extras standing around. She asked them, ‘Do you have anything else to do?’¹³ They said to her, ‘No, because we weren’t hired.’ She said to them, ‘Come onto my set, and you’ll receive whatever is right compensation.’¹⁴

“When it came time to hand out checks,¹⁵ the late hires were brought up first, and they received \$100 each.¹⁶ The early hires saw this and complained they should receive more than \$100 each.¹⁷ They said to the director, ‘These extras worked one hour, and you made them equal to us. We were in the hot sun all day!’¹⁸

“The director replied, ‘I didn’t wrong you people. Didn’t you each agree to work for \$100?’¹⁹ Take your \$100 and go your way.²⁰ It’s not against the law for me to do what I want to with this film’s budget. Maybe you’re jealous because I’m a good person.’²¹

“So, on the movie set, the last hires were first, and the first hires were last. This is also true in heaven. Many are called, but few are chosen.”²²

Then the mother of James and John called Jesus.²³ He asked, “What can I do for you?”

She said to him, “I want my sons to be your top people when you rule the nation.”²⁴

¹¹ A20:01 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

¹² A20:02 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

¹³ A20:06 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

¹⁴ A20:07 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

¹⁵ A20:08 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

¹⁶ A20:09 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

¹⁷ A20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

¹⁸ A20:12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

¹⁹ A20:13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

²⁰ A20:14 Take that thine is, and go thy way I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

²¹ A20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

²² A20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last for many be called, but few chosen.

²³ A20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

Jesus answered, “You don’t know what that means. Are they willing to go through everything with me?”

James and John said, “Yes, of course.”²⁵

He said to them, “OK. You will endure with me, but as for being my top people...my father handles those matters.”²⁶

When the other ten teachers heard about this phone call, they were angry with James and John.²⁷

²⁴ A20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

²⁵ A20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

²⁶ A20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

²⁷ A20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

12. Searching for Jesus

Jesus and his friends pulled into Wrigleyville.¹ A packed crowd in Wrigley Field was there to see Jesus. In the stands was Zacchaeus -- an important and rich revenue agent.² Zacchaeus couldn't see over the heads because he wasn't tall.³ So, he left the stadium and climbed one of the trees on Waveland Avenue. There he could get a view.⁴

Jesus stood on the pitcher's mound. He looked off into the trees and saw the revenue agent. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus! Come on out here, because I need a place to stay tonight."⁵ Zacchaeus hurried onto the field, and they shook hands.⁶

When the crowd saw this they murmured, "Jesus is going to stay at a tax collector's house?"⁷

Zacchaeus said into the microphone, "Professor, I'm giving half of my bank account to the poor."⁸

Jesus said, "By giving you are saved."⁹

Meanwhile, other people were driving to Chicago, because a major holiday was coming up.¹⁰ The Chicago politicians and radio personalities sat in one of the radio stations, and they asked each other, "Do you think Jesus is coming in for the holiday?"¹¹ Then, they broadcast the following message: "If you know where Jesus is, report it to us immediately." They wanted to capture Jesus.¹² They also conspired to put Lazarus to death.¹³

¹ C19:01 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

² C19:02 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

³ C19:03 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

⁴ C19:04 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him for he was to pass that way.

⁵ C19:05 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

⁶ C19:06 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

⁷ C19:07 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

⁸ C19:08 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

⁹ C19:09 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ D11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

¹¹ D11:56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

¹² D11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

¹³ D12:10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

13. Dinner with Lazarus

Six days before the holiday, Jesus went to Calumet City. This is the town where Lazarus was raised from the grave.¹ Martha made dinner for Jesus, and Lazarus sat at the table.² Mary tore up a fur coat and buffed Jesus' shoes.³

Judas Iscariot -- the one who would betray Jesus -- asked,⁴ "Why did she ruin that fur? We should've sold it and donated the money to the poor."⁵ Judas didn't care at all about the poor. He was stealing from the group's funds.⁶

Jesus said, "Leave Mary alone. She kept this fur for a special time, and this is it.⁷ You'll always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me."⁸

A large crowd of Illinoisans gathered around the house, because they wanted to see Jesus and the living Lazarus.⁹

¹ D12:01 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

² D12:02 There they made him a supper; and Martha served but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

³ D12:03 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

⁴ D12:04 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

⁵ D12:05 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

⁶ D12:06 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

⁷ D12:07 Then said Jesus, Let her alone against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

⁸ D12:08 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

⁹ D12:09 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

Part 8. Chicago

1. Final ride to Chicago

Since it was all over talk radio, people near Chicago knew who Jesus was, and that he brought Lazarus out of his grave.¹ In the middle of the night, Jesus and his teachers drove north.²

Jesus told two of his teachers, “Drive to Skokie, and you’ll find a minibike. Bring it to me.³ If anyone says anything to you, tell them, ‘The professor needs it.’ And everything will be fine.”⁴

This was all done to fulfill a forefather’s prediction. He had said,⁵ “Your king is coming. He is humble, and he is riding a small motorbike.”⁶

The teachers drove off, found the minibike in front of a door, and started it up.⁷ Some people who were there asked, “What are you doing with that?”⁸

The teachers repeated Jesus’ words, and the people let the bike go.⁹

They brought the minibike back, threw their jackets on the seat, and Jesus sat down on it.¹⁰

On Jesus’ route to Chicago, people lined the streets with yellow ribbons.¹¹ The people saw Jesus riding on the minibike, and they shouted, “You’re our leader!”¹²

When he arrived in Chicago, the buzz was everywhere. Some Chicagoans asked, “Who is this?”¹³

¹ D12:17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

² A21:01 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

³ A21:02 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her loose them, and bring them unto me.

⁴ A21:03 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

⁵ A21:04 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁶ A21:05 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

⁷ B11:04 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

⁸ B11:05 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?

⁹ B11:06 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded and they let them go.

¹⁰ A21:07 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

¹¹ A21:08 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

¹² A21:09 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

¹³ A21:10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

The followers said, “This is our leader: Jesus from Milwaukee.”¹⁴

Parable 44: Circus

“A man owned a circus. He put his manager in charge and retired in Mexico City.¹⁵ The owner wasn’t getting his percentage of the receipts, so he sent a lawyer to the circus company.¹⁶ The clowns put a fright wig onto the lawyer and stuffed him into a little car.¹⁷ The owner sent another lawyer, and the trapeze artists forced him across a high wire.¹⁸ The owner sent a third lawyer, and the daredevils shot him out of a cannon.¹⁹

“The owner thought, ‘They’ll listen to my son.’ So off the son went to the circus company.’²⁰

“The employees told themselves, ‘This is the owner’s son! Let’s force him to clean up after the animals, and the owner will give up his share to us.’²¹

“Of course, the owner came back from Mexico City and fired the bad employees.²² Here’s the lesson: ‘The act that plays in the side ring is the same one in center ring.’”²³

When Jesus’ stories came to the ears of the top broadcasters and politicians, they saw that he was talking about them.²⁴ They tried to grab Jesus, but they feared the people. So, this time they let him go away.²⁵

¹⁴ A21:11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

¹⁵ B12:01 And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.

¹⁶ B12:02 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.

¹⁷ B12:03 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.

¹⁸ B12:04 And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled.

¹⁹ B12:05 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.

²⁰ B12:06 Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.

²¹ B12:07 But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be our's.

²² B12:09 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.

²³ B12:10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner

²⁴ A21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

²⁵ B12:12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them and they left him, and went their way.

2. Clearing the studio

In Chicago, Jesus entered the large television studio and drove out those who sold club memberships. The studio audience erupted with applause.¹

Jesus said, “This is my house, and it’s a home of prayer for all the nations. But you’ve made it a crack house!”²

Some politicians were in the studio, and they said to Jesus, “Professor, quiet these people down.”³

Jesus replied, “If these people stop yelling, the walls will scream.”⁴

The politicians said to each other, “We’ve accomplished nothing. Now the whole world is following him.”⁵

Later, Jesus drove to the corner of State and Madison, and he cried for the city.⁶

He said to Chicago, “I wish you could see things that will bring you peace.⁷ Your enemies are surrounding you,⁸ and they’ll destroy you. They won’t leave one building standing -- all because you don’t know when judgment day comes.”⁹

¹ A21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,
² A21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.
³ C19:39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.
⁴ C19:40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.
⁵ D12:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.
⁶ C19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,
⁷ C19:42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.
⁸ C19:43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,
⁹ C19:44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

3. The greatest medium

Jesus taught daily on television.¹

Parable 45: Short sleeves

“Watch what clothes people are wearing.² When they have short sleeves on, you know that the Summer is near.³ Now look around, and you should observe that the Nation of God is near.⁴ I say this: Your generation might die off, but it will be judged.”⁵

The blind and other disabled came to Jesus on TV, and he healed them.⁶ Reporters and broadcasters saw the audience cheer for Jesus, and they were resentful.⁷

In the evenings, Jesus drove to Calumet City and stay there.⁸ One morning, Jesus was driving into Chicago, and he was hungry.⁹ He went to a service station, but they didn't have snack cakes. Jesus said, “From here on you will only sell gas.”

That day their zoning changed, and they could no longer sell food.¹⁰

¹ C19:47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

² C21:29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

³ C21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

⁴ C21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

⁵ C21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

⁶ A21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

⁷ A21:15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

⁸ A21:17 And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

⁹ A21:18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

¹⁰ A21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

4. Tense exchanges

Inside the TV station, the leading broadcasters and citizens asked Jesus, “Who gave you the authority to do this?”¹

Jesus replied, “Let me ask you a question first. You answer me, and I’ll answer you.”² When John baptized everyone, did this come from heaven or a person?”

They huddled amongst themselves and said, “Hmm...if we say, ‘From heaven,’ Jesus will ask why we didn’t believe John.³ But if we say, ‘From a person,’ we’ll anger thousands of Illinoisans, because we all see John as a great leader.”⁴

So, they said to Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Jesus said, “Then I won’t tell you about my authority.”⁵

Parable 46: The dentist

“A dentist had two assistants, and she said to the first, ‘Clean that patient’s teeth.’⁶

“The first assistant said, ‘I won’t do it.’ But soon after, he changed his mind, and he did so.”⁷

“The dentist made the same request of the second assistant. The assistant replied, ‘Certainly.’ But he didn’t clean the patient’s teeth.”⁸ Which of the two followed the dentist’s orders?”

They replied, “The first assistant.”

¹ A21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

² A21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

³ A21:25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

⁴ A21:26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

⁵ A21:27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

⁶ A21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

⁷ A21:29 He answered and said, I will not but afterward he repented, and went.

⁸ A21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir and went not.

Jesus said, “Right! The tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Nation of God before that second assistant.⁹ Because John came to us as a moral man, and people didn’t believe him and reform. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes did believe him.”¹⁰

Parable 47: Yachts

“The Nation of Heaven is like a great yacht builder. She planned a party to celebrate her son becoming company president,¹¹ and she sent invitations to her distributors all over the world. But they wouldn’t come.¹² Worse than that, they laughed her off. One of them hung out in his mansion, and another sat in his distribution center.¹³ The rest tore up her invitations.¹⁴

“When the yacht builder heard about this, she sent her HQ representatives all over the world. Her people ended the distributors’ contracts and finished their companies.¹⁵

“Then she said to her assistants, ‘Invite anyone you can find to the party.’¹⁶ They went to all the road stops. They gathered people together and filled the party with guests.¹⁷

“When the builder came into the party, she saw a man there with an offensive t-shirt.¹⁸ She asked him, ‘Why would you wear that to this party?’

“He was speechless.¹⁹ The builder said to her assistants, ‘Escort him out.’²⁰

⁹ A21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

¹⁰ A21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not but the publicans and the harlots believed him and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

¹¹ A22:02 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

¹² A22:03 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding and they would not come.

¹³ A22:05 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise

¹⁴ A22:06 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

¹⁵ A22:07 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

¹⁶ A22:08 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

¹⁷ A22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good and the wedding was furnished with guests.

¹⁸ A22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment

¹⁹ A22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

²⁰ A22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“The point is: Many are called to heaven, but few chosen.”²¹

The politicians considered ways to trap Jesus with his words.²² They asked him, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the U.S. government?”²³

Jesus saw what they were up to and answered, “You phonies -- why do you test me?”²⁴ Show me a dollar.” They gave him one.²⁵

Jesus asked, “Whose face is on here?”²⁶

They replied, “George Washington’s.”

Jesus said, “Then give to Washington what belongs to Washington, and give to God what belongs to God.”²⁷

A lawyer was testing Jesus. She asked him,²⁸ “Professor, what is the greatest law in our constitution?”²⁹

Jesus said to her, ““Love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”³⁰ This is the first and great law.”³¹

²¹ A22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

²² A22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

²³ A22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

²⁴ A22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

²⁵ A22:19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

²⁶ A22:20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

²⁷ A22:21 They say unto him, Caesar’s. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.

²⁸ A22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

²⁹ A22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁰ A22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³¹ A22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

A little later, Jesus said, “You reporters and politicians really are phonies. You worry about ratings and contributions, but you ignore justice, mercy and faith.³² You’re misguided guides, because you prosecute small businesses and worship multi-national companies.³³ People, beware of these reporters, because they love the celebrity life.³⁴ They get the best seats and attend the best parties.³⁵ But they take homes away from widows, and they pontificate endlessly. They will get real damnation.”³⁶

³² A23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

³³ A23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

³⁴ B12:38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

³⁵ B12:39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts

³⁶ B12:40 Which devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers these shall receive greater damnation.

5. True sponsor

Later, Jesus was watching his TV channel. The rich companies ran ads on many shows.¹ Then a support group for widows sponsored one program in an overnight slot.²

Jesus pointed to the TV and said to his teachers, “This support group is giving more than all the rich advertisers.³ Because the rich sponsor out of abundance, but this group gives from their operating budget.”⁴

Later, Jesus sat in the street level Michigan Avenue radio station and, while commercials played, he talked with four of his teachers. They asked, “When will everything happen?”⁵

Jesus said, “In two days the holiday will begin, and I will be executed by lethal injection.”⁶

Parable 48: Blown speakers

“A fellow needs you to hold onto his stereo for awhile.⁷ A few weeks later, he drops by your place, and you’re playing music so loud it’s blowing out his speakers.⁸ The point is: Prepare yourself, because you don’t know when everything is coming.”⁹

Parable 49: Airline

“Who is the best pilot? He is the one the airline trusts to deliver passengers through sudden storms.¹⁰ When the airline owner sees reports about a pilot’s heroic acts, she will know he is great.¹¹ She will give that pilot a lot of responsibility.¹²

¹ B12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury and many that were rich cast in much.

² B12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

³ B12:43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury

⁴ B12:44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

⁵ A24:03 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

⁶ A26:02 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

⁷ B13:34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

⁸ B13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

⁹ B13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

¹⁰ A24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

¹¹ A24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

¹² A24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

“But that pilot could be evil and say to himself, ‘The owner isn’t paying much attention.’¹³ Then he might smack around the other pilots and get drunk in the airport lounge.¹⁴ The owner would get an alarming report about this – something that pilot didn’t expect to happen.¹⁵ She would fire him on the spot and throw him out with the other de-licensed pilots. He would be left crying.¹⁶

Parable 50: Fitness instructors

“The Nation of Heaven is like ten fitness instructors who interviewed with a top celebrity.¹⁷ Five of the instructors were stupid, and five were smart.¹⁸ The stupid ones left their workout shoes in the hotel,¹⁹ but the smart ones brought their shoes.²⁰

“And when the celebrity was finally ready,²¹ the instructors were ushered in.²² The stupid ones said to the smart ones, ‘Let us use your shoes!’²³

“The smart ones said, ‘Go back to your rooms and get them.’²⁴ While they did, the celebrity came, and there was a great closed-door workout.²⁵ The stupid instructors knocked on the door.²⁶

“The celebrity finally answered and said, ‘I don’t know you.’²⁷

“The point is: Watch out, because you don’t know the when I’m arriving.²⁸

Parable 51: Trucks and sports cars

“Someday I will sit as the leader.²⁹ Before me, all 50 states will be gathered, and I will separate them, as a car dealer separates the trucks from the sports cars.³⁰

¹³ A24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

¹⁴ A24:49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

¹⁵ A24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

¹⁶ A24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

¹⁷ A25:01 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

¹⁸ A25:02 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

¹⁹ A25:03 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them

²⁰ A25:04 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

²¹ A25:06 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

²² A25:07 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

²³ A25:08 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

²⁴ A25:09 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

²⁵ A25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage and the door was shut.

²⁶ A25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

²⁷ A25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

²⁸ A25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

“I will put the trucks on my right, and the sports cars on my left.³¹ Then I’ll say to those driving the trucks, ‘You are part of this country,³² because when I was hungry, you hauled in food. When I was thirsty, you delivered bottled water. When I was a stranger, you gave me a place at the counter.³³ When I was shivering, you brought clothes. When I was sick, you delivered medicine. When I was in prison, you visited me.’³⁴

“Then the offended people will ask me, ‘Professor, when did we see you hungry and didn’t feed you. Or thirsty, and didn’t give you a drink?’³⁵ When did we see you as a stranger, and didn’t take you in? Or shivering, and didn’t clothe you?’³⁶ When did we see you sick or in prison, and didn’t visit you?’³⁷

“I will say to them, ‘Whatever you do to the least of my people you did the same to me.’³⁸

Then I will tell the sports car drivers, ‘Leave me and drive to Hell.’³⁹ Because when I was hungry, you didn’t give me food to eat. And so forth.’⁴⁰

²⁹ A25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory

³⁰ A25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats

³¹ A25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³² A25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

³³ A25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink I was a stranger, and ye took me in

³⁴ A25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me I was sick, and ye visited me I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

³⁵ A25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

³⁶ A25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

³⁷ A25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

³⁸ A25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

³⁹ A25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels

⁴⁰ A25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink

6. The ultimate betrayal

Those who wanted Jesus dead sought to deceive him and kill him.¹ Broadcasters, reporters, and leading citizens gathered in the office of Caiaphas, the top broadcaster.²

“We can’t do it during the holiday,” they said, “because the people could riot.”³

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the 12 teachers, called up Caiaphas.⁴ Judas asked, “What will you give me if I give you Jesus?”

They offered Judas \$30,000.⁵ From that time on, Judas looked for opportunities to betray Jesus.⁶

¹ A26:03 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

² A26:75 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

³ A26:04 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

⁴ A26:13 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

⁵ A26:14 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

⁶ A26:15 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

7. Making reservations

On the first day of the holiday, the teachers asked Jesus, “Where do you want to eat?”¹

Jesus told two of his teachers, “Go into the city, and you’ll see man driving a bottled water truck. Follow him,² and he’ll stop at a restaurant. Tell the restaurant’s owner, ‘Our professor reserves dinner for 13 tonight -- in the upper room.’”³

The teachers did this.⁴

¹ A26:16 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

² B14:13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water follow him.

³ B14:14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

⁴ C22:13 And they went, and found as he had said unto them and they made ready the passover.

8. Thursday dinner

When evening arrived, Jesus was sitting at the table with his 12 teachers.¹ Jesus stood up, took a cloth napkin,² and began to shine his teachers' shoes.³

Jesus said, "You'll understand this later."⁴

Peter said, "You won't clean my shoes!"

Jesus replied, "Then you'll have no part of me."⁵

Peter said, "If that's the case, clean my hands and head too."⁶

Minutes later, Jesus said, "Why did I shine your shoes?⁷ All of you already wash your clothes, so you only need your shoes shined. In other words, you're clean, but not completely."⁸

"You call me 'Professor' and 'leader.' This is correct.⁹ As your leader and professor, I've shined your shoes. In turn, you should shine the shoes of others."¹⁰

Dinner rolls were on the table. Jesus took the bread, blessed it, gave pieces to his teachers and said, "This is my body, which I am giving up for you. Do this in memory of me."¹¹ Then, he took a glass of wine, gave thanks, and said, "This is my blood, the blood of a new agreement. I am pouring my blood to forgive sins."¹²

¹ A26:19 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

² D13:04 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

³ D13:05 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

⁴ D13:07 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

⁵ D13:08 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

⁶ D13:09 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

⁷ D13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

⁸ D13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit and ye are clean, but not all.

⁹ D13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord and ye say well; for so I am.

¹⁰ D13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹¹ C22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you this do in remembrance of me.

¹² A26:27 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

9. Singled out

As they ate, Jesus said, “One of you will betray me.”¹

They looked distraught and asked, “It isn’t me, is it?”²

One of the teachers was sitting Jesus.³ Peter said to the teacher, “Put your ear to the Professor’s heart so we can learn.”⁴

The teacher did so, and then leaned back. He asked, “Professor, who is it?”⁵

Jesus said, “The betrayer is the person I give this roll to after I dip it.” He did so, and gave the bread to Judas.⁶ Satan then entered Judas.

Jesus said, “Go and do it quickly.”⁷ Judas drove off into the night.⁸

¹ A26:20 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

² A26:21 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

³ D13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

⁴ D13:24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

⁵ D13:25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

⁶ D13:26 Jesus therefore answered, “It is he to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it.”

So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

⁷ D13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

⁸ D13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out and it was night.

10. Instructions to teachers

Parable 52: Phone lines

“I am the phone system, and my father answers the phones.¹ Every line in me that doesn’t ring, he disconnects. Every line that does ring, he answers. And he adds a new line.² You already have crystal clear connections, because you’ve heard my words.³

“But don’t hang up that phone. Just as you can’t talk with someone who isn’t on the line, you can’t talk with me unless you’re talking with me.⁴ I am the phone system, and you are the lines. Talk to me, let me talk to you, and we’ll have wonderful conversations. But alone you can do nothing.⁵ If you don’t talk to me you’re disconnected, and the lines are taken down.⁶ If you talk to me, and let me talk to you, everything you ask for will be done.⁷

“My Father is thrilled when you talk a lot with many people, and in this way you’ll be with me.⁸ This reflects my rule that you love one another the same way I have loved you.⁹ Do this, and everyone will know you’re my followers.”¹⁰

Jesus then said, “I’m giving you teachers a state, just like my father gave to me.¹¹ You will judge the 100 counties in Illinois.”¹²

“Soon, all of you will make mistakes, because as a forefather wrote, ‘I will strike the leader, and his followers will scatter.’¹³ But after I rise from the grave, I’ll meet you in Wisconsin.”¹⁴

¹ D15:01 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² D15:02 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ D15:03 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ D15:04 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ D15:05 I am the vine, ye are the branches He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit for without me ye can do nothing.

⁶ D15:06 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

⁷ D15:07 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

⁸ D15:08 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

⁹ D15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

¹⁰ D13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

¹¹ C22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

¹² C22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

¹³ A26:30 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

¹⁴ A26:31 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

11. Extra help to Peter

Jesus said, “Satan is testing all of you. And he wants you, Peter.¹ But I prayed that your faith in me won’t fail. Once you’ve finally come back to me, reunite your brothers.”²

Peter replied, “I’m not going to stumble.”³

Jesus said, “I’m telling you: Before the alarm goes off, you’ll deny knowing me three times.”⁴

Later, Jesus asked, “When I sent all of you to teach without money, did you have any problems?”

They said no.⁵

“But now,” Jesus continued, “whoever has money, carry it. And if you don’t have money, pawn your leather coat and buy a gun.⁶ Because they’re going to call me a lawbreaker.”⁷

They said, “Professor, we have two guns.” He replied, “Those are enough.”⁸ Then an angel came down from heaven and gave him strength.⁹

¹ C22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat

² C22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

³ A26:32 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

⁴ A26:33 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

⁵ C22:35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

⁶ C22:36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

⁷ C22:37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors for the things concerning me have an end.

⁸ C22:38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

⁹ C22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

12. In Navy Pier

Jesus drove with some teachers to Navy Pier, and he said, “Please wait here while I go pray.”¹

He was in agony. His sweat was like blood drops falling on the ground.²

Meanwhile, Judas drove with a group of authorities to the Pier. Judas figured Jesus would be there, because Jesus and the teachers met there often.³

To tip off the authorities, Judas said, “The man I’ll embrace is Jesus. Arrest him.”⁴

Jesus returned from praying and found his teachers sleeping. Jesus woke Peter and asked, “What -- you couldn’t stay awake for one hour?”⁵ All of you need to stand up and watch. We’re going to be met by my betrayer.”⁶

¹ B14:32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

² C22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

³ D18:02 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

⁴ A26:47 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he hold him fast.

⁵ A26:39 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁶ A26:45 Rise, let us be going behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Part 9. Arrest April, 2000

1. Friday arrest

While Jesus was still speaking, federal vehicles and camera crews pulled up. Out stepped Judas, and with him were politicians, leading broadcasters, and gun-carrying federal agents.¹

Judas walked to up Jesus, held out his arms, and exclaimed, "Hello, professor!" Judas kissed him on the cheek.²

"Judas," Jesus said. "You're betraying me with a kiss?"³

Jesus then asked the organized mob, "Who are you looking for?"⁴

They replied, "Jesus from Milwaukee."

Jesus said, "I'm Jesus from Milwaukee."⁵ Upon hearing these words, the group swooned, and some fell.⁶

"I'm the one you want," Jesus said, and he pointed back to his teachers. "Let these men go their own way."⁷

They apprehended Jesus.⁸ Peter pulled out his handgun and fired it. He shot the right ear of Malchus, an assistant to Caiaphas.⁹

"Drop your gun!" Jesus exclaimed to Peter. "This is how it's going to be."¹⁰ Then Jesus touched Malchus' ear and healed him.¹¹

¹ B14:43 And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

² B14:45 And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

³ C22:48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

⁴ D18:04 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

⁵ D18:05 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

⁶ D18:06 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

⁷ D18:08 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way

⁸ B14:46 And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

⁹ D18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

¹⁰ D18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

¹¹ C22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Jesus asked the authorities, “Why are you making a high-profile arrest here? I was on the air every day, and you could have arrested me at the studio.”¹²

Then, all the teachers began walking away from Jesus and the scene.¹³ The authorities grabbed one of Jesus’ followers by his jacket.¹⁴ The man pulled away from his jacket and ran off.¹⁵ The authorities made sure Jesus was securely handcuffed. They put him into a car and drove off.¹⁶

¹² A26:54 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

¹³ A26:55 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

¹⁴ B14:51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him

¹⁵ B14:52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

¹⁶ D18:12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

2. Caiaphas

Peter tailed them in his car -- from a distance.¹ They drove Jesus to the office of Caiaphas, the top broadcaster in Chicago. Reporters and city leaders were there.² It was Caiaphas who advised the leaders that everything would be resolved if one person was sacrificed.³

Caiaphas asked Jesus about his teachers and his teaching.⁴

Jesus said, "I've always broadcast to the open world. I've said nothing in secret.⁵ So, why are you asking me? Ask the people who've heard what I said."⁶

An officer punched Jesus and yelled, "Don't talk back to Mr. Caiaphas!"⁷

Jesus said to the officer, "If I'm saying something evil, talk to me about it. Otherwise, why are you hitting me?"⁸ Jesus was sent away.⁹

¹ C22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

² A26:56 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

³ D18:14 Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

⁴ D18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.

⁵ D18:20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

⁶ D18:21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them behold, they know what I said.

⁷ D18:22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

⁸ D18:23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil but if well, why smitest thou me?

⁹ D18:24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

3. Peter's three exchanges

Peter sat in his car nearby, and his cell phone rang. A reporter asked, "Do you want to comment on the arrest of Jesus from Wisconsin?"¹

Peter replied, "I don't know who you're talking about." And he hung up.²

Then, Peter walked to a sidewalk coffee shop and sat down. A woman said, "You're friends with that Jesus fellow."³

Peter answered, "No, I don't know him."⁴

The woman said, "Hmm. But you have a Wisconsin accent."⁵

Peter replied, "I don't know him."⁶

Peter walked back to his car, and Caiaphas' assistant was smoking in front of the building. The assistant asked, "Didn't I see you at Navy Pier with Jesus from Milwaukee?"⁷

Peter said, "Sorry -- I don't know what you're talking about." Suddenly, Peter's car alarm sounded.⁸

Peter remembered Jesus saying, "Before the alarm goes off, you'll deny knowing me three times." Peter turned off the alarm, walked away, and cried.⁹

¹ A26:68 Now Peter sat without in the palace and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

² A26:69 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

³ A26:70 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

⁴ A26:71 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

⁵ A26:72 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

⁶ B14:70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

⁷ D18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

⁸ D18:27 Peter then denied again and immediately the cock crew.

⁹ A26:74 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

4. Injustice

The authorities harassed Jesus and beat him.¹ They blindfolded him, struck him in the face, and yelled, “Hey psychic, which one of us hit you?”²

Meanwhile, the broadcasters, leading citizens, and politicians met to discuss the Jesus problem. They were looking for false witnesses -- people who would provide phony testimony that helped convict Jesus.³ Many false witnesses came forward,⁴ but their statements didn’t agree with each other.⁵

Then one witness said,⁶ “I heard Jesus say, ‘I’ll destroy this radio station in three days and build another one.’”⁷

Caiaphas met with Jesus again and brought up that witness’ testimony. Caiaphas asked Jesus, “How do you answer this person’s charges?”⁸

Jesus said nothing.

Caiaphas said, “I’m asking you to tell me: Are you our leader?”⁹

Jesus replied, “I am. And after these things are done, you’ll see me sitting at the right hand of power.”¹⁰

Caiaphas popped a button on his shirt. “That’s treason!” he exclaimed. “We don’t need any more witnesses. You all heard this man’s plot to overthrow the government.”¹¹ What do all of you think?”

The authorities answered, “Yes -- this is a capital offense.”¹²

¹ C22:63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him.

² C22:64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?

³ A26:58 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

⁴ A26:59 But found none yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

⁵ B14:56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

⁶ B14:57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

⁷ B14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

⁸ A26:61 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

⁹ A26:62 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

¹⁰ B14:62 And Jesus said, I am: and you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.

¹¹ A26:64 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

¹² A26:65 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

They took Jesus away from Caiaphas and to the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in the Loop.¹³

¹³ D18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

5. Judas is sorrowful

During this time, Judas was remorseful. He went to the leading broadcasters and returned all the money he received.¹ Judas said, “I betrayed an innocent man.”

They asked, “What’s that to us?”²

Judas drove away and later hanged himself.³

The broadcasters held the \$30,000 and said, “We’ll have problems if we keep this money.”⁴ So, they donated it to a crematorium for indigents.⁵ To this day, it is known as Blood Crematorium.⁶

¹ A27:03 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

² A27:04 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

³ A27:05 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

⁴ A27:06 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

⁵ A27:07 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.

⁶ A27:08 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

6. Pilate

The U.S. Supreme Court Justice with responsibility over the Seventh Federal Circuit was Pontius Pilate. He arrived at the MCC and asked, “What are your charges against this Jesus?”¹

They laid out their case, saying, “Jesus has committed treason against the United States. He refuses to pay taxes to Washington, and he calls himself our leader.² But under state law, we can’t execute him for treason.”³

In the prison interrogation room, Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the leader of Illinois?”⁴

Jesus replied, “Are you saying this, or did others say this about me?”⁵

Pilate answered, “I’m not an Illinoisan. Your state and citizenry brought you to me. What did you do?”⁶

Jesus replied, “My home isn’t here. If it were, my army would fight, and I wouldn’t have been arrested by these Illinoisans. But that’s not the case, is it.”⁷

Pilate asked, “Do you understand the testimony against you?”⁸

Jesus said nothing.⁹

Pilate asked, “Are you a leader?”

Jesus replied, “Those are your words. But I will tell you this: I’m here to speak about the truth. Everyone who wants to hear the truth listens to me.”¹⁰

¹ D18:29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

² C23:02 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

³ D18:31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death

⁴ D18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

⁵ D18:34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

⁶ D18:35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me what hast thou done?

⁷ D18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews but now is my kingdom not from hence.

⁸ A27:13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

⁹ A27:14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

¹⁰ D18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Pilate asked, “What is truth?” Without waiting for an answer, Pilate left.

Pilate met with the civilized Illinoisans and said, “The charges against this man are groundless.”¹¹

The Illinoisans insisted, “But your honor, he’s inciting treason throughout Illinois and Wisconsin.”¹²

Pilate said, “Oh, yes! This Jesus is from Wisconsin.”¹³

¹¹ D18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

¹² C23:05 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

¹³ C23:06 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.

7. Herod

This meant Jesus was also in Judge Herod's jurisdiction. The judge happened to be in Chicago for the holiday, so he was called in.¹

Herod was delighted to meet with the famous Jesus from Milwaukee. He hoped Jesus would perform some miracles for him.²

Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing.³ So, Herod and his officers shamed Jesus. Nearby, there was a pile of old clothes from other prisoners, and the officers forced Jesus into an ugly suit that was much too large for him.

Then Herod brought Jesus to Pilate, and Herod mockingly introduced Jesus as the Governor of Illinois.⁴ Previously, Herod and Pilate were enemies, but this incident brought them together.⁵

Now it was Pilate's turn to harass Jesus.⁶ Pilate's officials made a crown out of barbed wire and jammed it on Jesus' head.

They shook Jesus' hand and said, "We're so honored to meet the Governor!"⁷ They spit on Jesus and punched him,⁸ and then Pilate beat Jesus ferociously.⁹

¹ C23:07 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

² C23:08 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

³ C23:09 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

⁴ C23:11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

⁵ C23:12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together for before they were at enmity between themselves.

⁶ A27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

⁷ A27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

⁸ A27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

⁹ D19:01 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

8. Holiday pardons

Note 1: Another prisoner -- a man named Barabbas -- was also in the MCC.¹ Barabbas was imprisoned with some who caused an uprising against the government. They had committed a murder in the process.²

Note 2: During major holidays, it was not unheard of for government officials to obtain pardons for certain prisoners.³

Pilate was about to participate in a law school forum. Prior to his arrival, the broadcasters and citizens persuaded the students to request Jesus' execution and Barabbas' pardon.⁴

Before Pilate went into the forum, his wife called him on the cell phone and said, "I'm having nightmares about that Jesus. I don't want you having anything to do with him."⁵

In the forum, Pilate said to the law students, "You've been following the current cases. Who do you believe should be pardoned?"

The students said, "Barabbas."⁶

Then Pilate asked, "What should happen to Jesus?"

They said, "He should receive capital punishment."⁷

Pilate asked, "What crime is he accused of?"

The students wouldn't address that. Instead, they replied, "He should be executed."⁸

Pilate responded, "Would we be executing your leader?"

The leading broadcasters stepped up and said, "Our leader is President Tiberius."⁹

¹ A27:16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

² B15:07 And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection.

³ A27:15 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

⁴ A27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

⁵ A27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

⁶ A27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

⁷ A27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

⁸ A27:23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

Pilate saw that nothing was being gained by this forum. He looked at them, took a long drink of water, and said, "I'm innocent of this."¹⁰

The students said, "We'll take the responsibility. It's right for us and our children."¹¹

⁹ D19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

¹⁰ A27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person see ye to it.

¹¹ A27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

9. Illinois steps in

Pilate obtained a pardon for Barabbas,¹ and he held a press conference. The Justice released photos of Jesus in the huge suit and said, “Case two is a man called Jesus.² Simply put, this is a state matter – not a federal matter.”³

A civilized Illinoisan stood up and said, “Good! We’ve determined Illinois can follow its state laws and pursue capital punishment against Jesus. And we’re confident we’ll get this.”⁴

Pilate immediately became distraught.⁵ He knew the people would say, “If Pilate and the federal courts can’t execute this traitor, they’re weak. The state will make sure Jesus dies.”⁶

¹ A27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

² D19:05 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

³ D19:06 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him for I find no fault in him.

⁴ D19:07 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

⁵ D19:08 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

⁶ D19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

10. Pilate goes to Jesus

Pilate met with Jesus again. “Where are you from?” Pilate asked.

Jesus said nothing.¹

Pilate said, “You’re not talking. Do you understand I have the power to release you or execute you?”²

Jesus replied, “You would have no power against me unless it came from above.”³

A half-hour after the meeting, Pilate released a statement: A judgment had been made.⁴ Jesus asked to be put to death (which was a lie), and this request was granted. Execution by lethal injection would take place immediately.⁵

¹ D19:09 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

² D19:10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

³ D19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

⁴ D19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

⁵ C23:24 And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.

12. Friday midday

They transported Jesus to be executed.¹ Two other prisoners were going with Jesus, and they would also be put to death.²

At the last moment, a man named Simon, from Tupelo, Mississippi, carried Jesus' injection needles.³

They arrived at the Federal Correctional Institution in Pekin, Illinois,⁴ and a great number of Jesus' followers stood outside the walls.⁵

¹ A27:31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

² C23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

³ B15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

⁴ A27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

⁵ C23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

13. Execution

In the execution chamber, Jesus turned to the witness room and said, “People of Illinois, don’t worry about me. Worry about yourselves and your children.”¹

They gave Jesus a cup of sour lemonade, but when he tasted it, he wouldn’t drink.² In the same room, the two others being executed laid to Jesus’ left and right.³

Pilate gave the officials a hand-written sign, and they taped it to the end of Jesus’ gurney. The sign read, “Jesus, the Leader.”⁴

The leading broadcasters protested to Pilate. They wanted the sign changed to, “Jesus, Who Said He Was the Leader.”⁵

Pilate replied, “What I wrote, I wrote.”⁶

They stripped Jesus down. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.”

The officers looked over Jesus’ clothes and stole them.⁷ Then they sat down to watch.⁸

In the witness room sat Jesus’ mother, his aunt, one of the teachers, Mary Magdalene, and Cleophas’ wife Mary.⁹

Jesus saw his mother and said, “Mom, here is your son.”¹⁰

Then Jesus said to the teacher, “My mother is now your mother.” From that moment, the teacher took care of Mary.¹¹

¹ C23:28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

² A27:34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

³ A27:38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

⁴ D19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

⁵ D19:21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

⁶ D19:22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

⁷ C23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

⁸ A27:36 And sitting down they watched him there;

⁹ D19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

¹⁰ D19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

¹¹ D19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Other witnesses included broadcasters, reporters and politicians. They said,¹² “Jesus is a savior who can’t save himself. Mr. Governor, get off that table and we’ll believe you.”¹³

The two others being executed also insulted Jesus.¹⁴ One said, “You’re God’s son! Save yourself and us!”¹⁵

Jesus replied, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.”¹⁶

As they proceeded with the execution, darkness fell over the state.¹⁷ Jesus cried out, “Father, why did you give up on me?”¹⁸ Jesus then said, “I’m thirsty.”¹⁹

Some of the witnesses didn’t hear correctly. They said, “He’s calling for Elijah,” the forefather.²⁰

One of the authorities in the room dabbed a cloth into the lemonade and wet Jesus’ lips.²¹ Some witnesses said, “They shouldn’t do that. Let’s see if Elijah will come to save him.”²²

Jesus then said, “Father, I give my spirit to you.”²³ It is finished.” He tilted his head and died.²⁴

¹² A27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

¹³ A27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

¹⁴ A27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

¹⁵ C23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

¹⁶ C23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

¹⁷ A27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

¹⁸ A27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

¹⁹ D19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

²⁰ A27:47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

²¹ A27:48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

²² A27:49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

²³ C23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

²⁴ D19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Part 10. Resurrection

1. After the execution

Suddenly, there was an earthquake.¹ The graves were disturbed, and the spirits of many forefathers rose up.²

An officer felt the quake and said, “Oh, man -- this was God’s son.”³

To ensure Jesus was dead, one of the officers stabbed Jesus in the side. Blood and water came out.⁴

In the early evening, Joseph from Uptown, a wealthy follower of Jesus and a lawyer, went to the prison.⁵ Joseph met with Justice Pilate and had the courage to ask for Jesus’ body. Pilate agreed.⁶

A follower named Nicodemus had organized an immediate burial. He met with Joseph at the funeral home, and professionals prepared Jesus’ body.⁷ They dressed the corpse in a fine suit and placed it into a casket.⁸

The hearse drove to Graceland Cemetery. They lowered the casket six feet into the ground, sealed the burial vault, filled the hole with dirt, and left.⁹

¹ A27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

² A27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

³ A27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

⁴ D19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

⁵ A27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple

⁶ A27:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

⁷ D19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

⁸ D19:40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

⁹ A27:60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

2. Saturday

On Saturday, the leading broadcasters and politicians met with Justice Pilate.¹ They said, “Your honor, we remember what that Jesus said: ‘After three days I will rise from the grave.’² Please order us to have his grave guarded. Otherwise, Jesus’ followers could dig up the grave and tell people he rose up. Then we’ll have real problems.”³

Pilate said, “I agree. Make it as secure as you can.”⁴

Extra note: The forefathers who came out of their graves after the first earthquake walked into Chicago and appeared to many.⁵

¹ A27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

² A27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

³ A27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead so the last error shall be worse than the first.

⁴ A27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

⁵ A27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

3. Visitor to the grave

On that Saturday, the officials guarded the grave. While they stood watch,¹ there was another earthquake. An angel flew down from heaven, rapidly dug out all of the new dirt, and sat on the dirt pile.² He glowed like lightning, and his clothes were white.³ One by one, the guards fainted.⁴

A few hours later, the guards regained consciousness, and they quickly drove to the leading broadcasters.⁵

The broadcasters wrote large checks to the guards⁶ and said, “Tell everyone that Jesus’ teachers stole his body while you slept.”⁷

¹ A27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

² A28:02 And, behold, there was a great earthquake for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ A28:03 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow

⁴ A28:04 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

⁵ A28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

⁶ A28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

⁷ A28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

4. Sunday

On Sunday at dawn,¹ Mary Magdalene and Joses' mother, Mary, went to the grave.² They saw the hole was dug, and the vault lid was lying against the dirt pile.³ Also, the casket in the hole was open and empty.⁴

The angel appeared and stood before them. "Don't be afraid," he said. "I know you're looking for Jesus.⁵ But he isn't here, because he rose up -- like he said he would.⁶ Please call his teachers and say Jesus will meet them in Wisconsin. Whew! I'm glad I got you this message."⁷

Joses' mother left quickly. She drove until her cell phone had better reception, and she began calling the teachers.⁸

Mary Magdalene sat next to the grave and began to cry.⁹ Two angels were sitting with her,¹⁰ and a voice asked, "Why are you crying?"

Mary cried, "Because I don't know where Jesus is.¹¹ Please tell me where you put him."¹²

The voice said, "Mary."

She turned and exclaimed, "Professor!"¹³

¹ A28:01 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² B15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

³ B16:04 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away for it was very great.

⁴ C24:02 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

⁵ A28:05 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

⁶ A28:06 He is not here for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

⁷ A28:07 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him lo, I have told you.

⁸ A28:08 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

⁹ D20:11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

¹⁰ D20:12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

¹¹ D20:13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹² D20:15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

¹³ D20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

5. Meeting followers

Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, “Please don’t touch me, because I haven’t ascended yet. Go to my brothers and tell them the good news.”¹

Later, two of Jesus’ followers were driving to Cicero, Illinois.² Jesus pulled up beside them at a stoplight.³ He lightly honked his horn to get their attention, and he asked, “What’s up? You fellows look sad.”⁴

Cleopas told the stranger, “Don’t you have a radio? There was a murder on Friday.”⁵

Jesus asked, “What?”

They said, “You know, Jesus from Wisconsin.⁶ They executed him.”⁷

Jesus was empathetic. Cleopas said they were driving to Cicero, and the stranger should follow them there.⁸

In Cicero, the two had dinner with the stranger. He took the rolls, gave thanks, and gave pieces to both of them.⁹ Suddenly they recognized Jesus, and he vanished.¹⁰

¹ D20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

² C24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

³ C24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

⁴ C24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

⁵ C24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

⁶ C24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people

⁷ C24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

⁸ C24:28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went and he made as though he would have gone further.

⁹ C24:30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

¹⁰ C24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

6. Reunion in Chicago

The two followers drove to Chicago and met with the teachers.¹

As they conversed, Jesus appeared among them and said, “Peace to you.”² They were terrified.³

Jesus said, “Why are you scared?⁴ Go ahead, shake my hand. A spirit doesn’t have skin and bone, but I do.”⁵

A little later Jesus said, “Let me breathe on you, so you can receive the Holy Spirit.” And he did.⁶ “Now,” continued Jesus, “if you forgive sins, they will be forgiven, and if you don’t forgive sins, they won’t be forgiven.”⁷

They were still in wonderment, and Jesus asked, “Do you have anything to eat?”⁸ He ate a fish filet sandwich and a bowl of cereal.⁹

¹ C24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

² C24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

³ C24:37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

⁴ C24:38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

⁵ C24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁶ D20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost

⁷ D20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

⁸ C24:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁹ C24:42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

7. Doubting Thomas

Thomas was one of the 11 remaining teachers, but he wasn't at this meeting with Jesus.¹ Thomas said, "Unless I see Jesus and the needle marks, I can't believe. Sorry."²

Just then, Jesus stood in their presence.³ He said to Thomas, "Look at the needle mark in my arm. Also, take your hand and put it into my side."⁴

Thomas did so and said, "My leader!"⁵

Jesus said, "OK, Thomas: You've seen me and you believe. I'm blessing everyone who hasn't seen me and still believes."⁶

They ate breakfast together. Jesus said to Peter, "Take care of my people."⁷

¹ D20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

² D20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

³ D20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

⁴ D20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side and be not faithless, but believing.

⁵ D20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.

⁶ D20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

⁷ D21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

8. Leaving home

Later, the teachers drove where Jesus sent them: the world's tallest building.¹

Jesus met the teachers there and said, "All authority has been given to me.² Those who believe in me will be saved. But those who don't believe will be condemned."³

"Go and make followers in the entire world. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.⁴ Teach them to observe everything I told you, and know that I'm with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."⁵

The Lord Jesus Christ blessed them. He ascended into heaven,⁶ and he sat next to God.⁷

¹ A28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

² A28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

³ B16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

⁴ A28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

⁵ A28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

⁶ C24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

⁷ B16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.