

MATTHEW

Conversational Version

The Genealogy of Jesus (cp. Lk 3:23-38)

1:¹The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, son of David, son of Abraham

² Abraham, father of Judah and his brothers;	Isaac, father of	Jacob, father of
³ Judah was father of	Peres and Zerah by Tamar; Peres was father of	Hezron, father of
Ram, ⁴ father of	Amminadab, father of	Nahshon, father of
Salmon, ⁵ father of	Boaz by Rahab; Boaz was father of	Obed by Ruth; Obed was father of
Jesse, ⁶ father of	David the king.	
David was father of Solomon by his wife, who had been Uriah's wife.	⁷ Solomon was father of	Rehoboam, father of
Abijah, father of	Asaph, ⁸ father of	Jehoshaphat, father of
Joram, father of	Uzziah, ⁹ father of	Jotham, father of
Ahaz, father of	Hezekiah, ¹⁰ father of	Manasseh, father of
Amos, father of	Josiah, ¹¹ father of	Jechoniah and his brothers at the exile to Babylon.
¹² After the exile, Jechoniah was father of	Shealtiel, father of	Zerubbabel, ¹³ father of
Abiud, father of	Eliakim, father of	Azor, ¹⁴ father of
Zadok, father of	Achim, father of	Eliud, ¹⁵ father of
Eleazar, father of	Matthan, father of	Jacob, ¹⁶ father of Joseph husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, called Messiah.

¹⁷There are 14 generations from Abraham to David,
14 from David to the exile in Babylon, and

14 from the exile to Messiah.

Mt 1:1-17

Jesus' Birth Announced to Joseph

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph. Before they got married, it was discovered that she was pregnant (by the Holy Spirit).

¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a just man and not willing to disgrace her publicly, so he intended to break off the engagement privately. ²⁰As he was struggling with the matter, an angel of the

LORD appeared in a dream, *"Joseph son of David, don't have qualms about marrying her. She's pregnant by the Holy Spirit."*

²¹*She'll have a son you're to name Jesus, because he'll 'save' his people from their sins."* ²²That fulfilled what the LORD had said by the prophet Isaiah,

²³***"A virgin will have a son***

they'll call Emmanuel ('God with us')" [Is 7:14].

²⁴Joseph got up and did what the angel said, ²⁵but didn't have relations with her till she had a son; he named him Jesus.

Mt 1:18-25

The Visit of the Magi

^{2:1}When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Judaea, during the reign of King Herod, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, ²*"Where's the newborn king of the Jews? In the East we saw his star and have come to pay him homage."* ³That disturbed Herod and the whole city as well. ⁴He called in the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They said, *"In Bethlehem, Judaea. The prophet wrote,*

⁶***"You, Bethlehem, Judah,***

are by no means least among the leading cities of Judah,

because a leader will come out of you

to shepherd my people Israel'" [Mic 5:2].

⁷Herod privately called the Magi to find out when the star had appeared, ⁸and sent them to Bethlehem, *"Look for the child carefully. When you find him, let me know so I can come and pay him homage too."*

⁹So they started out, and the star they'd seen back East started going ahead of them till it stood above where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were elated. ¹¹They went into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother and bowed down in homage to him. They opened their treasure chests and brought him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they took a different route home.

Mt 2:1-12

The Flight to Egypt

the Slaughter of the Infants

¹³When they'd gone, an angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph in a dream, "*Get up and hurry to Egypt with the child and his mother. Stay there till I tell you. Herod intends to look for the child to destroy him.*" ¹⁴Joseph got up during the night and took them to Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there till Herod died—in keeping with what the LORD said by the prophet,

"I've called my son out of Egypt" [Hos 11:1].

¹⁶When Herod saw the Magi had tricked him, he was enraged and had all the male children killed in and around Bethlehem—the ones two years old and under as figured from the time the Magi told him. ¹⁷That paralleled what the prophet Jeremiah said,

***¹⁸"A sound was heard in Ramah,
weeping and bitter crying;
Rachel was weeping for her children.
She wouldn't be consoled;
they were gone"*** [Jer 31:15].

Mt 2:13-18

The Return from Egypt and Settlement in Nazareth

¹⁹After Herod died, the angel appeared^p to Joseph in a dream in Egypt, ²⁰"*Get up and take the child and his mother to Israel. The ones that were trying to kill him have died.*" ²¹He got up and took them to Israel; ²²but when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judaea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. God warned him in a dream, and he withdrew into Galilee ²³and settled down in a town called Nazareth. That name sounds like what the prophets said he'd be: a Nazarene [*nezer, shoot*; Is 11:1; 53:2]^{lit}.

Mt 2:19-23

The Beginning of John's Ministry

3:¹In time, John the Baptist came^p preaching in the desert in Judaea, ²"*Repent, the kingdom of heaven's coming.*" ³He's the one Isaiah spoke about:

***"One shouting in the desert,
'Get the road ready for the LORD!
Make it straight!'"*** [Is 40:3]

⁴John wore *clothes woven from camel's hair* with a leather belt around his waist and lived on locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem, all over Judaea, and around the Jordan River were going out ⁶to have him baptize them in the Jordan as they confessed their sins. **Mt 3:1-6**

An Example of John's Preaching

⁷When John saw lots of Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said,
"You bunch of poisonous snakes! Who warned you to flee from God's wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit appropriate for repentance. ⁹Don't think, 'Abraham's our father.' God can raise up descendants of Abraham from these rocks. ¹⁰An axe is already lying at the base of the trees. Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit

will be chopped down and burned. ¹¹*I'm immersing you in water to repentance. The One who's coming after me is greater than me; I'm not worthy to take his sandals off. He'll 'immerse' you in the Holy Spirit and fire.* ¹²*His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he'll thoroughly clean up his threshing floor. He'll put the grain in his granary but burn up the chaff with a fire you can't put out."* **Mt 3:7-12**

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came^p from Galilee to the Jordan to have John baptize him. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him, *"I need you to baptize me, and you're coming to me?"*

¹⁵Jesus answered, *"Let's do this; it's appropriate to do everything that's right."* So John went ahead^p and baptized him.

¹⁶When he'd baptized him, Jesus came up from the water and the sky opened up, and John saw God's Spirit come down on Jesus like a dove. ¹⁷A voice came out of the sky, *"This is my dearly loved Son that I delight in."* **Mt 3:13-17**

The Temptation of Jesus

^{4:1}Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting 40 days, he was hungry, ³and the tempter came, *"If you're God's Son, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."*

⁴But he answered,

***"People aren't to live by bread only,
but by everything God says"*** [Deut 8:3].

⁵The devil took^p him to the Holy City and stood him on the pinnacle of the Temple, ⁶*"If you're God's Son, throw yourself down. Scripture says,*

***'He'll tell his angels to catch you
so you'll never trip over a rock'"*** [Ps 91:11-12].

⁷Jesus said, *"Again scripture says,*

'Don't tempt the LORD your God'" [Deut 6:16].

⁸The devil took^p him to a tall mountain and showed^p him the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, ⁹*"If you kneel down and worship me, I'll give you all this."*

¹⁰Jesus said^p, *"Go away, Satan. Scripture says,*

***'Worship the LORD your God,
and only serve him'"*** [Deut 6:13].

¹¹The devil left^p, and angels came to give him support.

Mt 4:1-11

Introductory Statements About the Galilean Ministry

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee, ¹³and moved from Nazareth to Capernaum by the lake in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴That fulfills what Isaiah the prophet said,

¹⁵*“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
by the road along the lake,
by the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—*

¹⁶*people that lived in darkness
have seen a bright light.*

*It has dawned on those who lived
in a region of deep darkness” [Is 9:1-2].*

¹⁷From then on, Jesus preached, *“Repent; the kingdom of heaven’s coming.”* **Mt 4:12-17**

Calling Four Fishermen

¹⁸As he was walking along Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew. They were casting nets into the lake; they were fishermen. ¹⁹He told^p them, *“Come with me, and I’ll have you ‘fishing’ for people.”* ²⁰Right away, they left their nets and went with him.

²¹He went on from there and saw two more brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee, in a boat with their father, mending nets; and he called them. ²²At once, they left the boat and their father and went with him. **Mt 4:18-22**

The First General Tour of Galilee

²³He started going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, delivering the good news about the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease and illness among the people. ²⁴The news about him spread all over Syria, and they brought him people that were ill, people distressed with various sicknesses and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and he healed them. ²⁵Big crowds followed him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judaea, and beyond the Jordan. **Mt 4:23-25**

The Sermon on the Mount**

5¹When he saw the crowd, he went up on a hillside and sat down. His disciples joined him, ²and he started teaching:

³*“Poor people are fortunate spiritually;
they have the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴*“People in mourning are fortunate;
comfort will come.*

⁵*“Humble people are fortunate;
they’ll inherit the earth.*

⁶*“People that are hungry and thirsty for righteousness are fortunate;
they’ll be satisfied.*

⁷“Merciful people are fortunate;
they’ll receive mercy.

⁸“People that are pure in heart are fortunate;
they’ll see God.

⁹“Peacemakers are fortunate;
they’ll be called God’s children.

¹⁰“People persecuted for living right are fortunate;
they have the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 5:1-10

¹¹“When people insult you, mistreat you, say all kinds of bad things about you falsely because of me, you are fortunate. ¹²Be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. They treated the prophets the same way.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt loses its saltiness, what can make it salty? It’s not good for anything but to throw out for people to walk on. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can’t hide. ¹⁵Nobody lights a lamp and sticks it under a basket; they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everybody in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine so people can see the good things you’re doing and praise your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Don’t get the impression that I’m here to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to destroy them, but to fulfill them. ¹⁸Earth and sky will pass away, but not one iota or one serif* will pass away from the Law till it’s fully accomplished its purpose. ¹⁹Whoever breaks one of its least commandments and teaches people to do that, is least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them is great in that kingdom. ²⁰Unless the way you live is better than the way the scribes and Pharisees live, you won’t even get into the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 5:11-20

²¹“You’ve heard that God said long ago, ‘**Do not commit murder**’ [Ex 20:13; Deut 5:17]; ‘whoever commits murder faces condemnation.’ ²²I’m telling you, anybody that’s mad at someone faces judgment. Whoever says, ‘You good for nothing . . .’ has the court to face. Whoever says, ‘You idiot,’ faces a burning hell. ²³So if you’re taking your gift to the altar and remember your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave it at the altar and go reconcile with him. Then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms with your opponent quickly while you’re on the way to court with him so he doesn’t deliver you to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the court assistant, and he put you in jail. ²⁶You won’t get out till you pay the last penny.

²⁷“You’ve heard, ‘**Do not commit adultery**’ [Ex 20:14; Deut 5:18]. ²⁸I’m telling you, anybody that looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed

adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye is causing you problems, gouge it out and throw it away. It's better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to get thrown into hell. ³⁰If your right hand is causing you problems, cut it off and throw it away. It's better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go to hell. **Mt 5:21-30**

³¹"It's been said, **'Whoever divorces his wife has to give her divorce papers'** [Deut 24:1]. ³²I'm telling you, whoever divorces his wife—except for adultery—is treating her like an adulteress, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³"Again, you've^{pl} heard that God said long ago, **'Do^{sg} not swear falsely'; 'perform your^{sg} oaths to the LORD'** [Lev 19:12; Num 30:3; Deut 23:21]. ³⁴I'm telling you^{pl} not to swear at all—not by heaven, it's God's throne; ³⁵not by the earth, it's his footstool; not by Jerusalem, it's the city of the Great King; ³⁶not by your head, you can't make one hair white or black. ³⁷Just say 'yes, I will' or 'no, I won't'; anything more than that comes from the evil one. **Mt 5:31-37**

³⁸"You've heard, **'An eye for an eye,' 'a tooth for a tooth'** [Ex 21:24; Lev 24:20; Deut 19:21]. ³⁹I'm telling you not to try to get even with evil. Whoever slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other one too. ⁴⁰If somebody sues you for your shirt, give them your coat too. ⁴¹If somebody makes* you go one mile, go with them two. ⁴²Give to whoever asks you, and don't turn away from anybody that wants to borrow from you.

⁴³"You've heard, **'Love your^{sg} neighbor** [Lev 19:18], and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴I'm telling you^{pl} to love your enemies and pray for people that mistreat you ⁴⁵so you can be like your Father in heaven. He raises his sun on the good and the bad, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. ⁴⁶If you love the people that love you, what's special about that? Don't tax collectors do that? ⁴⁷If you just say 'Hi' to your buddies, what's special about that? Don't even pagans do that? ⁴⁸You be perfect like your Father. **Mt 5:38-47**

6¹"Be careful about practicing your^{pl} goodness in public so people will see you. Otherwise, you won't have any reward from your Father in heaven.

²"When you^{sg} donate to benevolence, don't blow a trumpet like the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets so people will admire them. They have all the reward they're going to get. ³When you donate to benevolence, don't let your left hand know what your right hand's doing. ⁴That will keep your benevolence will be private, and your Father who sees private things will reward you.

⁵“When you^{pl} pray, don’t do like the hypocrites. They like to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so people will see them. I tell you^{pl}, they have all the reward they’re going to get. ⁶When you^{sg} pray, go to your private room, shut the door, and pray in private. Your Father, who sees private things, will reward you. **Mt 6:1-6**

⁷“When you^{pl} pray, don’t say things over and over like pagans do. That doesn’t mean anything. They think they’ll be listened to because they say lots of words. ⁸Don’t do that. Your Father knows what you need before you ask. ⁹You pray this way,

‘Our Father in heaven,
you are holy.

¹⁰May your kingdom come,
and your will be done
on earth like it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us our days food today.

¹²Forgive us of our debts
like we’ve forgiven our debtors.

¹³Keep us from facing temptation;
deliver us from the evil one,
[because the kingdom, power, and glory
belong to you forever. Amen.]^{ms}

¹⁴If you^{pl} forgive people, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵If you don’t, he won’t forgive you. **Mt 6:7-15**

¹⁶“When you^{pl} fast, don’t do like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance to show people they’re fasting. That’s all the reward they’re going to get. ¹⁷When you^{sg} fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸so you won’t be showing people you’re fasting. Your Father who sees secret things will reward you.

¹⁹“Don’t save up wealth on earth, where moths and rust ruin things, and thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰Save up wealth in heaven, where moths and rust don’t ruin it, and thieves don’t break in and steal it. ²¹Your heart will be where your wealth is.

²²“The eyes are the body’s lamp. If you have good eyes, your whole body will have light. ²³If your eyes are bad, your whole body will be in the dark. If the light that’s in you is darkness, that’s serious darkness! **Mt 6:16-23**

²⁴“Nobody can serve two masters. You’ll disregard one and be loyal to the other. You can’t serve God and money. ²⁵So don’t worry about what you’ll

eat or drink or what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes?

²⁶*"Look at the birds in the sky. They don't plant or harvest or gather into barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than birds?*

²⁷*Which one of you, by worrying, can make yourself a foot and a half taller?*

²⁸*Why worry about clothes? Look how wild flowers grow. They don't spin or toil,*

²⁹*but Solomon in all his splendor didn't dress like one of them. ³⁰If God dresses the plants in the field that way—here today and thrown in an oven tomorrow—won't he much more dress you, you with little faith?*

³¹*"So don't worry about what you're going to eat or what you're going to wear. ³²Gentiles strain after things like that. Your heavenly Father knows you need them. ³³Strive after his kingdom and his goodness, and they'll come along with it. ³⁴Don't worry about tomorrow; it will worry about itself. **Mt 6:24-34***

^{7:1}*"Don't criticize and you^{pl} won't get criticized. ²The criticism you^{pl} criticize with, you'll^{pl} be criticized by; the measure you^{pl} measure with, you'll^{pl} be measured by. ³Why look^{sg} at a speck of sawdust in somebody else's eye, and not see the log in your^{sg} own? ⁴How can you^{sg} say, 'Let me get the piece of sawdust out of your^{sg} eye,' when there's a log in yours!? ⁵You foolish people, get^{sg} the log out of your own eye so you^{sg} can see to get the speck of sawdust out of theirs.*

⁶*"Don't give sacred things to dogs or throw your pearls in front of pigs. They'll trample them under their feet and turn on you and tear you apart.*

⁷*"Ask and you'll get, seek and you'll find, knock and it'll open for you. ⁸People that ask get, people that seek find, and people that knock it opens for. ⁹If your boy asked for a loaf of bread, you wouldn't give him a rock, would you? ¹⁰If he asked for a fish, would you give him a snake? ¹¹If you, who are sinful, know how to give good gifts to your kids, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to people that ask him? ¹²Treat other people the way you want them to treat you. That covers the Law and the Prophets. **Mt 7:1-12***

¹³*"Go through the narrow gate. It's a broad road and a wide gate that leads to destruction, and many go through it. ¹⁴How narrow the path is and tight the gate that leads to life! Not many find it.*

¹⁵*"Watch out for false prophets that come to you in wool, but inside they're wolves. ¹⁶You can recognize them by what they produce. People don't gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, do they? ¹⁷⁻¹⁸Good trees bear good fruit; bad trees bear bad fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit gets*

chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So, you can recognize them by what they produce.

²¹“Not everybody that says to me ‘Lord’ is going to get into the kingdom of heaven. It’s the ones that do the will of my Father in heaven. ²²A lot of people will try to say to me in that day, ‘Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, cast out demons in your name, and do lots of miracles in your name?’ ²³I’ll tell them, ‘I never knew you. Go away, sinners.’” **Mt 7:13-23**

²⁴“Everybody that hears what I’m saying and does it, is like a wise man that built his house on bedrock. ²⁵Rain fell, floods came, winds blew and beat on it; but it didn’t collapse. He’d built it on bedrock.

²⁶“Everybody that hears what I’m saying and doesn’t do it, is like a foolish man that built his house on sand. ²⁷Rain fell, floods came, winds blew and beat on it, and it collapsed—a total loss.”

²⁸When Jesus finished, the crowd was amazed at his teaching. ²⁹He taught them like somebody that had authority, not like their scribes. **Mt 7:24:29**

Cleansing a Leper

8:¹When Jesus came down from the hillside, big crowds followed him. ²A leper came and knelt down to him, “Sir, if you’re willing, you can cleanse me.”

³Jesus reached out and touched him, “I’m willing; be cleansed.” Instantly his leprosy disappeared. ⁴Jesus told^p him, “Don’t tell anybody. Instead, for a public statement, show yourself to a priest and offer the gift Moses commanded.” **Mt 8:1-4**

Healing the Centurion’s Servant

⁵He went to Capernaum, and a centurion came and appealed to him, ⁶“Sir, my servant is laid up at home paralyzed and tormented terribly.”

⁷Jesus said^p, “I’ll come and heal him.”

⁸But the centurion answered, “I don’t deserve to have you under my roof. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I’m under authority myself, with soldiers under me. I say, ‘Go.’ and they go; to another, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰Jesus was impressed and told the people that were following him, “I haven’t found faith like that in Israel. ¹¹Lots of people will come from the east and west, and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹²but citizens of the kingdom will be thrown out into the dark. There’ll be crying and chattering of teeth.”

¹³He told the centurion, “Go on, it’ll happen according to your faith.” His servant was cured the same hour. **Mt 8:5-13**

Teaching and Miracles in Capernaum

¹⁴Jesus went to Peter's house and saw his mother-in-law in bed with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand and the fever left. She got up and started waiting on him.

¹⁶That evening, people brought him a number of demon-possessed people, and he cast the spirits out with a word. ¹⁷As Isaiah the prophet said,

***"He took our weaknesses
and bore our illnesses" [Is 53:4].***

Mt 8:14-17

A Conversation About Following Jesus

¹⁸When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave instructions to leave for the other side of the lake.

¹⁹A scribe came, *"Rabbi, I'll go with you wherever you go."*

²⁰Jesus said^p, *"Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to lay his head."*

²¹Another of his disciples said, *"Let me go bury my father first."*

²²*"Come on with me; let the dead bury their dead."*

Mt 8:18-22

Stilling the Storm

²³He got in the boat, and his disciples left with him. ²⁴A dangerous storm came up, and the waves were beginning to splash into the boat. He was sleeping. ²⁵*The disciples went and woke him up, "Lord, help us! We're going to die!"*

²⁶*"Why are you so scared? Where's your faith?"* He got up and rebuked the wind, and a general calm settled in.

²⁷They were astounded, *"What kind of man is this who can even make the wind and waves obey?"*

Mt 8:23-27

Healing the Gadarene Demoniac

²⁸When he got to the region of the Gadarenes on the other side, two demon-possessed men from the tombs met him. They were so vicious nobody dared to go around there. ²⁹They started crying out, *"What is this, you Son of God? Did you come to torment us ahead of time?"*

³⁰A little way off a tremendous herd of pigs was feeding. ³¹The demons begged, *"If you're going to cast us out, send us into the pigs."*

³²*"Go ahead."*

They went into the pigs, and the whole herd stampeded down the steep place into the lake and drowned. ³³The herdsmen ran away to town and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. ³⁴The whole town came out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave.

Mt 8:28-34

Healing a Paralyzed Man

^{9:1}They got in the boat and crossed back over to his town. ²Some men were trying to bring him a paralyzed man on a stretcher. When he saw their faith, he said to the man, *“Take heart, son; I’ve forgiven your sins.”*

³Some of the scribes said to themselves, *“He’s blaspheming!”*

⁴Jesus knew what they were thinking, *“Why are you thinking critical things? ⁵Which is easier, to say, ‘I’ve forgiven your sins’ or ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶So you can know that the Son of Man has the right on earth to forgive sins”*—he said^p to the man, *“Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home.”* ⁷He got up and went home. ⁸When the crowd saw it, they were afraid and praised God for giving such authority to mortals. **Mt 9:1-8**

Calling Matthew;

Controversy About Table Fellowship

⁹Jesus went along from there and saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and said^p, *“Come with me.”* He got up and went with him. ¹⁰While he was reclining at table in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined at table with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw it, they started saying, *“Why is your Rabbi eating with tax collectors and sinners?”*

¹²He overheard it, *“Healthy people don’t need a doctor; sick ones do. ¹³Go figure out what this means, ‘I want mercy more than sacrifice’ [Hos 6:6]. I didn’t come so much to call good people, as to call sinners.”* **Mt 9:9-13**

Questions About Fasting

¹⁴Then John’s disciples came, *“Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples don’t fast?”*

¹⁵Jesus said,

“The groomsmen can’t feel sad while the groom is around, can they? The time’s coming when the groom will be taken away. They’ll fast then. ¹⁶Nobody puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. The new material would pull away from the old garment and make the tear worse. ¹⁷People don’t put new wine in old wineskins. The wineskins would burst and be ruined, and the wine would drain out. They put new wine in new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Mt 9:14-17

Healing a Woman from Hemorrhaging;

Raising of Jairus’ Daughter

¹⁸While he was saying that, a ruler came and knelt to him, *“My daughter has just died. If you come and put your hand on her, she’ll come back to life.”* ¹⁹Jesus and his disciples followed him.

²⁰A woman with chronic bleeding for 12 years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak. ²¹She said to herself, *"If I can just touch his cloak, I'll be cured."*

²²Jesus turned and saw her, *"It's okay, daughter, your faith has cured you."* She was cured from then on.

²³Jesus went into the ruler's house and saw flute players and a crowd making an uproar, ²⁴*"You can go; the girl's not dead; she's 'asleep.'"* They started to ridicule him. ²⁵When he'd put them out, he went in and took the girl's hand and raised her up. ²⁶That news *about the miracle* got out into the whole area. **Mt 9:18-26**

Healing Two Blind Men and a Mute Man with a Demon

²⁷As Jesus was leaving, two blind men followed him, shouting, *"Son of David, have mercy on us!"* ²⁸When he went into the house, they came to him. Jesus said, *"Do you believe I can do this?"*

"Yes."

²⁹Jesus touched their eyelids, *"Let it happen according to your faith";* ³⁰and they could see. Jesus strictly warned them to keep this to themselves. ³¹But they went out and spread the news about him all over that area.

³²As they were leaving, people brought him a demon-possessed man that couldn't talk. ³³When Jesus had cast out the demon, the man could speak. The crowd was amazed, *"Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel."* ³⁴The Pharisees were claiming he was casting out demons by the ruler of demons. **Mt 9:27-34**

The Mission of the Twelve; Jesus' Third Tour of Galilee

³⁵Jesus was traveling around the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, delivering the good news about the kingdom, and healing all *kinds of* disease and illness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were stressed and scattered like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He told^p his disciples, *"There's a big crop to harvest, but there aren't many workers."* ³⁸*Ask the harvest foreman to put more workers in his harvest."* **Mt 9:35-38**

10:¹He called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out unclean spirits and heal all *kinds of* disease and illness. ²These are the twelve apostles: Simon called Peter; his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, his brother John, ³Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him *in the end*.

⁵Jesus sent out these twelve,

“Don’t go out among Gentiles or to any Samaritan town. ⁶Go to the lost sheep in Israel. ⁷As you go, say, ‘The kingdom of heaven is coming.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You’ve received at no charge; give at no charge.

*⁹“Don’t get any gold, silver, or copper coins for your money belts. ¹⁰Don’t get a traveler’s bag, a staff, shoes, or two shirts for the trip. Workers deserve their wages. **Mt 10:1-10***

¹¹“Whatever town or village you go into, find out who’s worthy in it, and stay at that place till you leave. ¹²When you go into a house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace rest on it. If not, take it back.

¹⁴“Whoever doesn’t welcome you or listen to what you have to say, go outside that house or town and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵On judgment day it’ll be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

¹⁶“I’m sending you^{pl} out like sheep among wolves, so be as subtle as snakes and harmless as doves. ¹⁷Watch out for people, because they’ll deliver you up to the courts and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸They’ll take you in front of governors and kings because of me as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they deliver you up to the courts, don’t worry about how or what to say. It’ll come to you at the time. ²⁰You won’t be the ones talking; your Father’s Holy Spirit will be speaking in you^{pl}.

*²¹“Brothers will betray brothers to death; fathers will betray sons. ²²Everybody will hate you because of me. Whoever stays with it to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. You won’t get around to all the towns in Israel before the Son of Man comes. **Mt 10:11-23***

²⁴“Students have it no better than their teachers, and servants have it no better than their masters. ²⁵It’s enough for a student to become like the teacher and a servant to be like the master. If they’ve called the head of the house Beelzebub, how much worse the members of his household.

²⁶“Don’t be afraid of them. Everything that’s covered up will become public; everything that’s hidden will come out in the open. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light; what’s whispered in your ear, announce from the housetops. ²⁸Don’t be afraid of people that kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Be more afraid of the One that can kill both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Aren’t two sparrows sold for a dollar, and not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing it? ³⁰The very hairs on your head are all numbered, ³¹so don’t be afraid; you’re worth more than lots of sparrows.

- ³²“Everybody that acknowledges me to other people,
I’ll acknowledge to my Father in heaven.
- ³³Whoever denies who I am to other people,
I’ll deny to my Father in heaven as belonging to me. **Mt 10:24-33**
- ³⁴“Don’t think I’ve come to bring peace to the earth.
I didn’t come to bring peace, but a sword, ³⁵to turn
son ‘**against father,**’
‘**daughter against mother,**’
‘**daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.**’
³⁶**‘People’s enemies will be in their own houses’** [Mic 7:6].
- ³⁷“If you loves father or mother more than me, you don’t deserve me.
If you love son or daughter more than me you don’t deserve me.
- ³⁸If you don’t pick up your cross and follow me, you don’t deserve me.
- ³⁹If you find your life, you’ll lose it;
if you lose your life over me, you’ll find it.
- ⁴⁰“Anyone that receives you receives me;
Anyone that receives me receives the One that sent me.
- ⁴¹If you receive a prophet as a prophet,
you’ll receive a prophet’s reward.
If you receive good people as good people,
you’ll receive a good person’s reward.
- ⁴²If you give one of these little ones
even a cup of cool water as a disciple,
you’ll certainly receive reward.”

11:¹When Jesus had finished giving his disciples directions, he went off to teach and preach in their towns. **Mt 10:34-11:1**

John’s Question and Jesus’ Comments on John

²In prison John heard what the Messiah was doing and sent disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the One to come or should we wait for somebody else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Tell John what you’re seeing: ⁵*the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead resurrect, and the poor are hearing the good news.*
⁶*He is blessed that’s not disappointed in me.*”

⁷While they were leaving, Jesus started talking to the crowd about John,
“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed waving in the wind?

⁸What did you go out to see? Somebody dressed in fine clothes? People that

wear fine clothes live in palaces. ⁹What did you go out to see? A prophet? Oh yes, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰He's the one scripture refers to,

'I'll send my messenger ahead of you

to get the road ready for you' [Ex 23:20; Mal 3:1].

¹¹I'm telling you, nobody that's ever been born is greater than John the Baptist, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than him. ¹²From his time till now, violent people have been trying to bring in the kingdom of heaven by force.

¹³All the Prophets and the Law prophesied till John. ¹⁴If you're ready to accept it, he is the Elijah that was to come. ¹⁵Whoever has ears, listen! **Mt 11:2-15**

¹⁶"What are people like today? They're like kids sitting in a marketplace, calling out to one another,

¹⁷'We played a flute for you, but you didn't dance.

We wept, but you didn't mourn.'

¹⁸John came, not eating or drinking, and people said, 'He's got a demon.' ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'A glutton and a drunk, a pal of tax collectors and sinners.' Wisdom is vindicated by what it produces."

Mt 11:16-19

Cities Denounced for Unbelief:

The Great Invitation

²⁰He began to denounce the towns where many of his miracles had happened, because they didn't repent.

²¹"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that happened in you had happened in Tyre and Sidon, they would've repented long ago in burlap and ashes. ²²On judgment day, it'll be more bearable for them than for you.

²³"And you, Capernaum, you won't rise up to heaven, will you? You'll go down to hell. If the miracles that took place in you had happened in Sodom, they'd still be here. ²⁴On judgment day, it'll be more bearable for the area around Sodom than for you."

²⁵Then Jesus said,

"I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the wise and intelligent, and revealing them to the innocent. ²⁶Yes, you delighted in doing it that way."

²⁷"The Father has handed everything over to me, and nobody knows the Son but the Father, and nobody knows the Father but the Son and whoever the Son wants to reveal him to.

²⁸*“All of you that labor and carry heavy loads, come to me; you’ll get some rest. ²⁹Put my yoke on and learn about me. I’m gentle and humble, and you’ll get relief. ³⁰My yoke fits right, and my load is light.”* **Mt 11:20-30**

Another Controversy About Breaking Sabbath

12:¹At that time, Jesus was walking along through grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and started picking off heads of wheat and eating the seeds.

²When some Pharisees saw it, they said, *“Your disciples are breaking the Law.”*

³He said, *“You’ve read, haven’t you, what David and his men did when they needed food? ⁴He went into God’s house, and he and his men ate the consecrated loaves that were against the Law for him and his men to eat, loaves that were only for priests. ⁵Or, you’ve read in the Law, haven’t you, how the priests in the Temple desecrate Sabbath and remain innocent? ⁶Something more important than the Temple is here. ⁷If you’d known what this means, ‘**I want mercy more than sacrifice**’ [Hos 6:6], you wouldn’t have criticized innocent people. ⁸A person is more important than the Sabbath.”*^{lit} **Mt 12:1-8**

Healing a Man with a Paralyzed Hand

⁹He left and went into their synagogue. ¹⁰A man with a paralyzed hand was there, and they asked Jesus if it was lawful to heal on a Sabbath (so they could accuse him).

¹¹He said, *“Wouldn’t any of you pull your sheep out that fell in a ravine on a Sabbath? ¹²A person’s worth more than a sheep. So, it’s lawful to do good on a Sabbath.”*

¹³Then he told the man, *“Hold out your hand.”* It was restored like the other one. ¹⁴The Pharisees went out and plotted to destroy him. **Mt 12:9-14**

Jesus and the Multitudes:

Teaching and Healing

¹⁵Jesus knew it and left. Many [crowds]^{ms} followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶and charged them not to expose him—¹⁷in fulfillment of what Isaiah the prophet said,

¹⁸*“My servant that I’ve chosen,
my dearly loved one I delight in—
I’ll put my Spirit on him,
and he’ll render justice for the nations.*

¹⁹*He won’t quarrel or shout;
nobody will hear him in the streets.*

²⁰*He won’t break a bent reed
or put out smoking flax,
till he brings justice to victory.*

²¹*The nations will put their hope in him*” [Is 42:1-4].

Mt 12:15-21

Pharisees’ Charge That Jesus Was in League with the Devil

²²They brought Jesus a demon-possessed blind mute, and he healed him; he could speak and see. ²³The crowds were astounded, *“This isn’t the Son of David, is it?”*

²⁴When the Pharisees heard *about it*, they said, *“He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons.”*

²⁵He knew what they were thinking and told them,

“Every kingdom at cross purposes with itself becomes desolate; no city or family at cross purposes with itself will stand. ²⁶If Satan casts out Satan, he’s at cross purposes with himself; how would his kingdom stand? ²⁷If I cast out demons by Beelzebub, who do your students cast them out by? Judge for yourselves.

²⁸*“If I cast out demons by God’s Spirit, then God’s kingdom has reached you. ²⁹How can somebody go into a strong man’s house and seize his property unless he ties him up first? Then he can ransack his house.*

³⁰*“Whoever’s not with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather with me scatters around. ³¹So, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven except blasphemy against the Spirit. ³²Whoever insults me can be forgiven, but whoever blasphemes the Holy Spirit won’t be forgiven in this age or the next.*

³³*“Consider a tree and its fruit good or bad together, because by its fruit a tree is known to be good or bad. ³⁴You bunch of poisonous snakes! How can you bad people say good things? The mouth says what the heart holds. ³⁵A good person brings good things out of his good treasure; a bad person brings out bad things.*

³⁶*“At the judgment, people will account for every off-handed comment they make. ³⁷What you say will justify you or condemn you.”*

Mt 12:22-37

Scribes and Pharisees Demand a Sign

³⁸Some scribes and Pharisees answered, *“Rabbi, we want to see you do a sign.”*

³⁹He answered them,

*“A sinful, adulterous generation is straining to see a sign, but it won’t get one—except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰As ‘**Jonah was in the stomach of the sea monster for three days and nights**’ [Jon 1:17], the Son of Man will be in the ground for three days and nights. ⁴¹The people of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with people from today and condemn them. They repented at*

Jonah's preaching; something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴²*The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with people from today and condemn them; she came from the ends of the earth to hear Solomon's wisdom; something greater than Solomon is here.*

⁴³*"When an unclean spirit leaves someone, it wanders through desert places looking for rest and doesn't find any. ⁴⁴It says, 'I'm going back to the house I left.' It goes and finds it empty, swept out, and decorated. ⁴⁵Then it takes seven spirits worse than itself, goes in and takes up permanent residence. The person's last condition is worse than the first. That's how it'll be with today's bad people."* **Mt 12:38-45**

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

Interrupt His Ministry

⁴⁶While Jesus was talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers were standing outside of the crowd, trying to get to him to talk to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, "*Your mother and your brothers have been standing outside, trying to get to talk to you.*"

⁴⁸He answered the person, "*Who's my mother? Who are my brothers?*" ⁴⁹He held out his hand toward his disciples, "*My mother and my brothers!*" ⁵⁰*My brother, my sister, my mother is whoever does the will of my Father in heaven.*" **Mt 12:46-50**

The Sermon in Parables

13:¹Jesus left the house that day and sat down by the lake. ²So many people were gathering that he got in a boat and sat down while the crowd stood on the shore. ³He told parables for a long time.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and birds came along and ate it.

⁵*"Some fell on rocky ground. It sprouted up right away because there wasn't much soil. ⁶But when the sun climbed high, the seed dried up because it didn't have roots.*

⁷*"Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it out.*

⁸*"But others fell on good ground and yielded 30, 60, or 100 times as much as he planted.*

⁹*"Whoever has ears, listen!"*

Mt 13:1-9

¹⁰The disciples came and asked, "*Why are you telling them parables?*"

¹¹*"Because you're allowed to know unrevealed things about the kingdom of heaven, but they're not. ¹²Whoever has, will receive; whoever doesn't have, will lose even what he has. ¹³That's why I'm telling them parables: though they*

see, they don't see; though they hear, they don't hear or understand. ¹⁴They illustrate the way Isaiah describes them:

***'You can certainly see, but don't understand;
you can certainly hear, but don't perceive,***

¹⁵because you've become insensitive;

you're hard of hearing and

you've closed your eyes

so you don't see or hear,

understand or change

so I can heal you' [Is 6:9-10]. Mt 13:10-15

¹⁶"But your eyes are fortunate because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷Many prophets and good people have wanted to see what you're seeing and didn't see it, and to hear what you're hearing and didn't hear it.

¹⁸"You listen, then, to the parable about the sower.

¹⁹"People that hear the message about the kingdom and don't understand it are the ones the devil comes to and snatches what was planted in their heart: they're the seed sown along the path.

²⁰"Seed sown on rocky soil represents people that hear the message and right away are glad to accept it, ²¹but they don't have root in themselves and don't last. When difficulties or persecution come because of the message, they give up their faith right away.

²²"Seed sown among thorns represents people that hear the message, and the cares of the world and the deception of wealth choke it out, and it doesn't produce anything.

²³"Seed sown on good ground represents people that hear the word and understand it, who produce 30, 60, 100 times as much as sown." **Mt 13:16-23**

²⁴He presented another parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man that sowed clean seed in his field.

²⁵*While people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed darnels in the wheat.*

²⁶*When the plants grew and began to mature, the darnels appeared too. ²⁷The servants came to the owner, 'Master, didn't you plant clean seed in your field? Where'd darnels come from?'*

²⁸*"The owner said, 'An enemy has done this.'*

"Do you want us to go pull them up?'

²⁹*"No, that would uproot the wheat too. ³⁰Let them both grow till harvest. I'll tell the reapers, "Gather up the darnels first and bundle them to burn, but gather the wheat into my granary."'"*

³¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed a fellow planted in his garden. ³²What’s the smallest of seeds, when grown, is bigger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so birds come and build nests in its branches.

³³“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast a woman put in a bushel of meal till the whole bushel had risen.”

³⁴Jesus taught the crowd these things only in parables ³⁵like the prophet said,

“I’ll speak to them in parables

and tell them things not revealed since the founding of the world”

[Ps 78:2].

Mt 13:24-35

Further Private Instruction in Parables

³⁶When he left the crowd and went into the house, his disciples came, “*Explain the parable about the darnels in the field.*”

³⁷Jesus answered,

“The One who sowed the clean seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸the field is the world, the clean seed is the people of the kingdom, the darnels are the ones belong ing to the evil one, ³⁹the enemy that sowed them is the devil, ⁴⁰the harvest is the end of the age, the reapers are angels. ⁴¹The darnels are gathered and burned just like it’ll be at the end of the age: the Son of Man will send his angels to rid his realm of evil people and everything that makes people stumble, ⁴²and throw them in the furnace. There’ll be crying and gritting teeth there. ⁴³Good people will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Whoever has ears, listen!

⁴⁴*“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure a man found hidden in a field. He hid it again and in his excitement went^p and sold^p everything he had and bought^p that field.*

⁴⁵*“The kingdom is like a businessman that was looking for valuable pearls. ⁴⁶When he found a really valuable one, he sold everything he had and bought it.*

⁴⁷*“The kingdom’s like a net cast into the sea that gathers all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it’s full, the fishermen pull it up on the shore and sit down. They put the good ones in containers and throw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹That’s how it’ll be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the bad from the good, ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace. There will be crying and gritting of teeth there.*

⁵¹*“Do you understand?”*

“Yes.”

⁵²“So, every scribe that’s become a disciple in the kingdom is like a homeowner that brings out of his holdings things new and old.”

⁵³When Jesus had finished those parables, he left.

Mt 13:36-53

Last Visit to Nazareth

⁵⁴When he came to his hometown; he began to teach them in their synagogue. They were astonished, “Where’d he get that wisdom and those miracles?” ⁵⁵Isn’t Mary his mother? Aren’t James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas his brothers? ⁵⁶Aren’t his sisters all with us? Where’d he get all that?” ⁵⁷They were put off by him.

He told them, “A prophet is respected everywhere but at home.” ⁵⁸He didn’t do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Mt 13:54-58

Herod’s Conscience Stricken;

Confusion of John the Baptist and Jesus

^{14:1}Herod the tetraarch heard about Jesus ²and told his servants, “That’s John the Baptist, risen from the dead. That’s why he has miraculous powers.” ³Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison over Herodias, his brother Philip’s former wife. ⁴John kept telling him, “It’s against the Law for you to be living with her.” ⁵Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he was afraid of the people. They considered John a prophet.

⁶But when Herod’s birthday came, Herodias’ daughter danced at the banquet, and it pleased Herod. ⁷So he solemnly swore to give her whatever she asked for. ⁸Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ⁹Although the king was grieved, because of the oaths and those reclining at table with him, he commanded it to be given. ¹⁰He had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹They brought his head and gave it to the girl, and she took it to her mother. ¹²John’s disciples came and took the corpse and buried it, and went to tell Jesus.

Mt 14:1-12

Feeding the 5,000

¹³When he heard the news, he withdrew by boat into open country privately. The crowds heard where he was going and followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he got out, he saw a large crowd and felt sorry for them and healed their sick.

¹⁵In the evening his disciples came, “Nobody lives around here, and it’s getting late. Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the villages and buy food.”

¹⁶Jesus said, “They don’t need to leave. Feed them.”

¹⁷“We only have five loaves and two fish.”

¹⁸“Bring them here.”

¹⁹He told the crowd to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven and blessed them, broke them up for the disciples to give to the crowd. ²⁰Everybody ate their fill, and *the disciples* picked up twelve medium-sized baskets of leftovers. ²¹About 5,000 men had eaten—plus women and children. Mt 14:13-21

Jesus Walking on the Water

²²He urged the disciples to get in the boat right way and go on to the other side *of the lake* while he dismissed the crowd. ²³When he'd dismissed them, he went up on the hill by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴The boat was already a long way from land, and waves were bashing it because the wind was against them. ²⁵About 4 in the morning, he went to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When they saw him, they were terrified. "*It's a ghost!*" they cried out in fear.

²⁷At once Jesus spoke, "*It's me. Don't be afraid.*"

²⁸Peter responded, "*If it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.*"

²⁹"*Come on.*"

Peter got down out of the boat and started walking to Jesus on the water. ³⁰But when he saw the strong wind, he got scared and started to sink. He cried out, "*Save me!*"

³¹At once Jesus reached out and grabbed him, "*One with little faith, why did you doubt?*"

³²When they climbed up into the boat, the wind died down. ³³The ones in the boat bowed to him, "*You really are God's Son!*" Mt 14:22-33

Miracles at Gennesaret

³⁴When they got across, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵The people recognized him and sent out into that whole area for everybody that was sick. ³⁶They pleaded with him just to let them touch the fringe of his cloak. As many as touched him were cured. Mt 14:34-36

Attack by the Jerusalem Pharisees

About Traditions

15:¹Then Pharisees and scribes came^p from Jerusalem, ²"*Why don't your disciples keep the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat.*"

³He answered them,

"*Why do you transgress God's commandment with your tradition?* ⁴*A case in point: God said, 'Honor your parents' [Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16], and 'Execute whoever curses at his father or mother' [Ex 21:17].* ⁵*But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "I've given God what you could have used,"* ⁶*certainly wouldn't be honoring his father. You've negated God's word with your tradition.*

⁷*You foolish people, Isaiah described you well,*

⁸*‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.*

⁹*They worship me without meaning it,
and teach their rules as doctrines.’” [Is 29:12 LXX].*

¹⁰He called the crowd, *“Listen and get this. ¹¹It’s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you, but what comes out of it.”*

¹²Then the disciples came to him, *“Do you realize you offended the Pharisees with what you said?”*

¹³*“Every plant my heavenly Father hasn’t planted will be pulled up. ¹⁴Let them alone; they’re blind guides of the blind. If the blind guides the blind, they both fall into the ditch.”*

¹⁵Peter said, *“What does your illustration mean?”*

¹⁶*“You^{pl} still don’t understand either? ¹⁷You do know, don’t you, that everything that goes into your mouth goes into your stomach and is eliminated in the toilet. ¹⁸But what comes out of your mouth comes from your heart. That’s what defiles you. ¹⁹Evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, stealing, lying, insults come from your heart. ²⁰They are what defile you. Not washing your hands when you eat doesn’t defile you.”*

Mt 15:1-20

Healing the Syrophoenician Woman’s Daughter

²¹Jesus left for the territory around Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman there began to shout, *“Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter’s cruelly demon-possessed!”*

²³But Jesus didn’t answer her.

His disciples came and asked him, *“Send her away; she keeps shouting behind us.”*

²⁴He answered her, *“I was just sent to the lost sheep in Israel.”*

²⁵But she came and bowed down, *“Help me, Lord.”*

²⁶*“It’s not right to take the kids’ food and toss it to the house dogs.”*

²⁷*“Yes, but even house dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owners’ table.”*

²⁸*“Dear woman, you have strong faith. Have what you asked for.”* Her daughter was healed from then on.

Mt 15:21-28

Ministry in Decapolis;

Feeding the 4,000

²⁹Jesus crossed Lake Galilee and went up on a hill and sat down. ³⁰Big crowds came with lame, blind, disabled, mute, and other conditions, and put them by him to heal them.

³¹They were amazed at seeing the mute speak, the crippled cured, the lame walk, the blind see; and they praised Israel’s God.

³²Jesus called his disciples to him, *“I feel for the crowd. They’ve stayed with me three days without anything to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry for fear they’ll give out on the way.”*

³³His disciples said^p, *“Where can we get enough bread out in the country to satisfy such a crowd?”*

³⁴*“How many loaves do you have?”*

“Seven—and a few small fish.”

³⁵He had the crowd sit down on the ground. ³⁶He took the seven loaves and the fish, blessed them, and broke them up for the disciples to pass out to the crowd. ³⁷They all ate their fill, and the *disciples* picked up seven large baskets of leftover pieces. ³⁸4,000 men ate—besides women and children. ³⁹After he dismissed them, he got in a boat and went to the area around Magadan.

Mt 15:29-39

Visit to Magadan;

Demand for a Sign from the Sky

16:¹The Pharisees and Sadducees came, testing him, asking for a sign from the sky.

²He answered, *“When evening comes, you say, ‘It’ll be fair weather; the sky’s red.’ ³In the morning, ‘It’ll be bad weather today; the sky’s red and dark.’ You can read the sky, but you can’t read the signs of the times. ⁴An sinful, adulterous generation keeps looking for a sign, but it’s not going to get one—except for the sign of Jonah.”* He left.

Mt 16:1-4

Fourth Withdrawal East of the Lake;

Warning to the Disciples

⁵The disciples went to the other side of *the lake* and had forgotten to take bread. ⁶Jesus told them, *“Watch out for the ‘yeast’ from the Pharisees and Sadducees.”*

⁷They started talking among themselves, *“He said that because we didn’t bring any bread.”*

⁸Jesus knew it, *“Men with little faith, why are you talking about not having any bread? ⁹Don’t you understand or remember the 5 loaves for the 5,000 and how many medium-sized baskets full you picked up, ¹⁰or the 7 loaves for the 4,000 and how many large baskets full you picked up? ¹¹How do you not know I wasn’t talking about bread!? Watch out for the ‘yeast’ from the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ¹²Then they got it; he hadn’t warned them about the yeast in bread, but about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

Mt 16:5-12

Peter’s Great Confession

¹³When Jesus came into the area around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, *“Who are people saying the Son of Man is?”*

¹⁴*“John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, one of the prophets.”*

¹⁵“Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter said, “You’re the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷“Bless you, Simon Barjonah. You didn’t get that from other people, but from my heavenly Father. ¹⁸As sure as you’re ‘Peter,’ I’ll build my church on that ‘rock.’ Even the gates of the grave won’t be strong enough to stop it. ¹⁹I’ll give you^s the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you lock up on earth will be locked up in heaven, and whatever you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.” ²⁰Then he charged them not to tell anybody he was the Messiah. **Mt 16:13-20**

The First Prediction of His Death

²¹From then on Jesus started showing his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem; suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes; be put to death, and resurrect the third day.

²²But Peter pulled him aside and got after him, “That’s not going to happen to you!”

²³But Jesus turned away from him, “Get behind me, Satan. You’re being a stumbling block to me. You don’t have God’s interests in mind, but people’s interests.”

²⁴Then he told his disciples,

“If anybody wants to follow me, he has to set his own interests aside, pick up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses it over me will find it. ²⁶What good does it do to get the whole world and lose your life? What will you give in exchange for your life? ²⁷The Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels. ²⁸Some people standing here won’t die before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

Mt 16:21-28

The Transfiguration

^{17:1}Six days later, Jesus took^p Peter, James, and his brother John up on a tall mountain by themselves ²and was transfigured in front of them. His face glowed like the sun, and his clothes turned as white as light. ³Moses and Elijah appeared to them and were talking to him.

⁴Peter responded, “Lord, it’s good to be here. If you want, I’ll put up three tents—one each for you and Moses and Elijah.”

⁵While he was still talking, a bright cloud engulfed them, and a voice said, “This is my dearly loved Son that I delight in. Listen to him.”

⁶When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces terrified. ⁷Jesus came and touched them, “Get up; don’t be afraid.” ⁸They looked up and didn’t see anybody but Jesus. **Mt 17:1-8**

Discussing the Vision

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus impressed on them, “*Don’t tell anybody what you saw till I’ve resurrected from the dead.*”

¹⁰The disciples asked, “*Why do the scribes say Elijah has to come first?*”

¹¹“*Elijah does come first to restore everything.* ¹²*He’s already come, and they didn’t recognize him. They treated him however they wanted to. That’s the way it’ll be, too, when the I suffer at their hand.*” ¹³Then they caught on that he was talking about John the Baptist. **Mt 17:9-13**

Healing a Demoniac Boy

¹⁴When they got to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus and fell on his knees, ¹⁵“*Sir, have mercy on my boy. He suffers badly with epilepsy. He falls into the fire and the water.*” ¹⁶*I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.*”

¹⁷“*Unbelieving, perverse bunch, how long am I going to be with you? Bring^{pl} him to me.*” ¹⁸Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him. The child was healed from then on.

¹⁹The disciples came to Jesus privately, “*Why couldn’t we cast it out?*”

²⁰“*Because your faith was weak. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can tell this mountain to move from here to there, and it’ll move. You can do anything.*” ²¹“*This kind doesn’t come out except by prayer and fasting.*” ^{ms} **Mt 17:14-21**

Third Prediction of His Death

²²While they were together in Galilee, Jesus said, “*I’m going to be betrayed.*” ²³*They’ll put me to death, but I’ll resurrect on the third day.*” That really distressed them. **Mt 17:22-23**

Jesus and the Temple Tax

²⁴As he was going into Capernaum, those who collect the didrachma came to Peter, “*Your Rabbi pays the didrachma, doesn’t he?*”

²⁵“*Yes.*”

When he came in the house, Jesus spoke first, “*What do you think, Simon? Who do kings exact tribute from—citizens or foreigners?*”

²⁶When Peter said, “*Foreigners,*”

Jesus said, “*So citizens are exempt.*” ²⁷*But we don’t want to make them stumble. Go to the lake and throw in a fishhook. Take the first fish you catch and open its mouth. You’ll find a stater. Give it to them for you and me.*” **Mt 17:24-27**

Discussion About Rank;

^{18:1}At that time the disciples came to Jesus, “*Who’s greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*”

²He called a little child and stood him in front of them,

³“Unless you change and become like little children, you won’t even get into the kingdom. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this little child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven, ⁵and whoever receives a little child like this in my name, receives me. **Mt 18:1-5**

The Question of Stumbling Blocks

⁶“Whoever makes a little one stumble that believes in me, would be better off to have a large millstone hung around their neck and drown in the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of temptations. They’ll come, but woe to the ones that bring them. ⁸If your^{sg} hand or foot causes you problems, cut it off and throw it away. It’s better to go about life deformed or lame than to have two hands and two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹If your^{sg} eye is causing you problems, gouge it out and throw it away. It’s better to go about life with one eye than to have two eyes to be thrown into the burning hell.

¹⁰“Make sure you^{pl} don’t look down on one of these little ones. I tell you^{pl}, their angels in heaven can always see my heavenly Father. [¹¹]^{ms} ¹²What do you^{pl} think? If a man has 100 sheep and one wanders off, doesn’t he leave the 99 on the hillside and go looking for the stray? ¹³If he finds it, he’s happier over it than over the 99 that didn’t stray. ¹⁴In the same way, your heavenly Father doesn’t want a one of these little ones to perish. **Mt 18:6-14**

Mistreatment and Forgiveness

¹⁵“If your^{sg} brother sins against you, go show him his fault privately. If he listens, you’ve gained him back. ¹⁶If he doesn’t, take one or two with you so **‘two or three witnesses will confirm everything’** [Deut 19:15]. ¹⁷If he won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t even listen to the church, regard him like a Gentile or a tax collector.

¹⁸“Whatever you^{pl} bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask for, it’ll happen for you from my Father in heaven.

²⁰Where two or three gather in my name, I’m with them.” **Mt 18:15-20**

²¹Then Peter came and asked, “How many times should I forgive someone that sins against me? Up to 7 times?”

²²Jesus said^p, “I wouldn’t say up to 7; I’d say up to 77.”

²³“The kingdom of heaven is like a king that wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he was making the settlements, one debtor was brought to him that owed 10,000 talents. ²⁵Since he couldn’t repay it, the lord commanded his wife, children, and everything he owned to be sold to make the repayment.

²⁶*The servant prostrated himself and pleaded with him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll repay it all.’* ²⁷*The lord felt sorry for him, let him go, and forgave his debt.*

Mt 18:21-27

²⁸*“That servant went out and found a fellow servant that owed him 100 denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him, ‘Pay me what you owe me.’*

²⁹*His fellow servant fell down and began to beg him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’* ³⁰*But he wasn’t willing. He put him in prison till he’d paid what he owed.*

³¹*“His fellow servants were deeply grieved and reported to their lord what happened.* ³²*His lord called him in, ‘Evil servant, I forgave you all that debt when you begged me.* ³³*Shouldn’t you have been merciful with your fellow servant like I was with you?’* ³⁴*His lord was angry and turned him over to the torturers till he’d pay everything he owed.*

³⁵*“My heavenly Father will do the same thing to you^{pl} unless you forgive your fellow believer from your heart.”*

Mt 18:28-35

Jesus in Perea;

Teaching About Divorce

^{19:1}When Jesus finished, he left Galilee and went into the regions of Judaea on the other side of the Jordan. ²Big crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³Pharisees came to him, testing him, *“Is it lawful to divorce a wife for any reason whatever?”*

⁴He answered, *“You’ve read, haven’t you, that ever since the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’? [Gen 1:27; 5:2]* ⁵*So ‘a man is to leave his parents and unite with his wife, and they’ll become a physical unit’ [Gen 2:24].* ⁶*So, they’re no longer two but one. What God has united, people are not to separate.”*

⁷They said, *“So why did Moses command ‘to give a certificate of divorce and send her away?’” [Deut 24:1]*

⁸*“Because of your hardheartedness, Moses let you divorce your wives, but ever since the beginning it’s not been that way.* ⁹*Whoever divorces his wife—except for sexual immorality—and marries someone else, is committing adultery.”*

¹⁰His disciples said^p, *“If that’s the way it is, it’s better not to get married.”*

¹¹Jesus said, *“Not everybody can live that way—only the ones who have that gift.* ¹²*Some are eunuchs from birth, some are made eunuchs by men, and some have made themselves ‘eunuchs’ because of the kingdom of heaven. Let him accept it that can accept it.”*

Mt 19:1-12

Jesus and the Little Children

¹³At the time, people were bringing their kids so Jesus could lay hands on them and pray. But the disciples fussed at them.

¹⁴Jesus said, *“Let the kids alone. Don’t get in their way. The kingdom of heaven is made up of people like them.”*

¹⁵He laid hands on them and left.

Mt 19:13-15

The Rich Young Ruler

¹⁶A man came and said, *“Rabbi, what good can I do to have eternal life?”*

¹⁷He said, *“Why are you asking me about what’s good? There’s only One that’s good. But if you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments.”*

¹⁸*“Which ones?”*

Jesus said, *“‘Do not commit murder, commit adultery, steal, or lie’; ¹⁹‘honor father and mother,’ ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’”* [Ex 20:12-16; Deut 5:16-20].

²⁰The young man said^p, *“I’ve kept all of those. What do I still need to do?”*

²¹*“If you want to be perfect, go sell what you own and give it to the poor, and you’ll have wealth in heaven. Come with me.”*

²²When he heard that, he went away discouraged because he was in possession of lots of things.

Mt 19:16-22

The Peril of Wealth

²³Jesus said to his disciples, *“Wealthy people have a hard time getting into the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴It’s easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for someone rich to get into God’s kingdom.”*

²⁵That really surprised them, *“Then who can be saved?”*

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, *“With men it’s not possible, but with God everything’s possible.”*

²⁷Peter responded, *“We’ve left everything to follow you. What will we have?”*

²⁸Jesus told them, *“In the next age when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you that have followed me will sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹Anybody that has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or fields for my sake will receive 100 times as much and inherit eternal life. ³⁰Many first will be last; and last, first.”* **Mt 19:23-30**

Parable About Workers in a Vineyard

20:¹*“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner that went out early to hire workers. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them to his vineyard. ³About 9 o’clock he went out and saw some other men standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴You go to my vineyard too, and I’ll pay you what’s right.’ ⁵At*

noon and one o'clock, he did the same thing. ⁶About five o'clock he found some more standing around, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

⁷"'Nobody's hired us.'

"You go to my vineyard too.'

⁸"That evening, he told his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them from last to first.' ⁹When the five o'clock men came, they got a denarius apiece.

¹⁰When the first came, they thought they'd get more; but they got a denarius too.

¹¹They complained, ¹²'These last hires worked an hour, and you made them equal to us who bore the burden and scorching heat of the day.'

¹³"The landowner answered one of them, 'Friend, I've been fair with you. Didn't you agree to a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what's yours and go. I want to pay this last hire what I paid you. ¹⁵Can't I do what I want with what's mine? Are you jealous because I'm generous?' ¹⁶That's how the last will be first and the first, last."

Mt 20:1-16

Another Prediction of His Death

¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside on the way, ¹⁸"We're going to Jerusalem, and I'll be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes, and they'll condemn me to death. ¹⁹They'll turn me over to the Gentiles to make fun of, flog, and crucify; but on the third day I'll resurrect."

Mt 20:17-19

James and John's Request for Rank

²⁰Then Zebedee's wife came with her sons, bowed down, to ask for something,

²¹"What is it you want?"

"Say that my two sons will sit on your right and left hand in your kingdom."

²²Jesus answered, "You^{pl} don't know what you're asking. Can you^{pl} drink the cup I'm about to drink?"

"Yes."

²³"You'll drink it, but I don't decide who sits on my right and left hand. They're the ones my Father prepared it for."

²⁴When the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

²⁵Jesus called them over to him,

"You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; their important ones act like tyrants. ²⁶It won't be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will minister to you, ²⁷whoever wants to be first among you will serve you—²⁸just like I didn't come to be served but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

Mt 20:20-28

Healing Two Blind Men at Jericho

²⁹As they were leaving Jericho, a big crowd was following him. ³⁰Two blind men were sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was going by, they yelled out, *“Have mercy on us, Lord, son of David.”*

³¹The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they yelled louder, *“Have mercy on us, Lord, son of David.”*

³²Jesus stopped, *“What do you want me to do?”*

³³*“Make us able to see.”*

³⁴Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyelids. Immediately they could see again, and went along with him. **Mt 20:29-34**

The Triumphal Entry

21:¹When they got close to Jerusalem, to Bethany on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²*“Go in the village across from you. Close by you’ll find a donkey tied and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anybody says anything, say the Lord needs them; they’ll send them right away.”* ⁴That fulfilled what the prophet said,

⁵*“Tell the people of Zion [Is 62:11],
‘Your king’s coming to you,
humble and riding on a donkey—
the colt of a donkey’” [Zech 9:9].*

⁶The disciples did like Jesus said, ⁷brought the donkey and colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸The big crowd spread cloaks on the road; others started cutting tree branches and spreading them on the road. ⁹The crowd ahead and behind started shouting,

*“Hosanna to the son of David!
Blessed be the One that’s coming in the name of the LORD [Ps 118:25-26]!
Hosanna in the highest!”*

¹⁰When he went into Jerusalem, it stirred up the whole city, *“Who is this?”*

¹¹The crowd said, *“The prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”* **Mt 21:1-11**

Second Cleansing of the Temple;

Cursing the Fig Tree

¹²Jesus went into the Temple and drove out the ones that were buying and selling, and turned over the tables of the moneychangers and the chairs of men selling doves.

¹³He said^p, *“Scripture says,*

*‘Call my house a house for prayer’ [Is 56:7].
You’ve made it ‘a den of thieves’!” [Jer 7:11]*

¹⁴Blind and lame people came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things he was doing and the kids shouting in the Temple, *“Hosanna to the son of David!”* they were indignant, ¹⁶*“Do you hear what they’re saying?”*

“Yes. You’ve read, haven’t you, ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you’ve prepared yourself perfect praise’?” [Ps 8:3 LXX] ¹⁷He left the city for Bethany to spend the night.

¹⁸In the morning as he was coming into the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹He noticed one fig tree beside the road. He went over to it and didn’t find anything on it but leaves. He said^p, *“You’ll never grow fruit again.”* Right away the tree started shriveling up. **Mt 21:12-19**

Discussing the Shriveled Fig Tree

²⁰When the disciples saw it, they were surprised, *“How did it shrivel up so fast?”*

²¹Jesus answered, *“If you have faith—and don’t doubt—not only will you do what happened to this fig tree; even if you tell this mountain to be picked up and thrown in the sea, it’ll happen.”* ²²*Whatever you ask for in prayer you’ll receive if you believe.”* **Mt 21:20-22**

Jesus’ Authority Challenged

²³When he went into the Temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came while he was teaching, *“What right do you have to do this? Who gave you that right?”*

²⁴*“I’ll ask you a question too. If you tell me, I’ll tell you what right I have to do this.”*
²⁵*Was John’s baptism from heaven or humans?”*

They talked it over, *“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he’ll say, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’* ²⁶*If we say, ‘From humans,’ we’re afraid of the people”* (everybody considered John a prophet).
²⁷So they answered, *“We don’t know.”*

He also said, *“I won’t tell you either what right I have to do this.”* **Mt 21:23-27**

Parable About the Two Sons

²⁸*“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first, ‘Go work in the vineyard today.’*

²⁹*“‘I don’t want to,’ but later he regretted it and went.*

³⁰*“He went to the other son and said the same thing.*

“‘Okay,’ but didn’t go.

³¹*“Which one did the father’s will?”*

They said, *“The first.”*

Jesus said^p,

“Tax collectors and prostitutes are going into God’s kingdom before you are.” ³²*John came telling you to live right, and you didn’t believe him; but tax*

collectors and prostitutes did. But you, when you saw that, didn't even regret it later and believe him. **Mt 21:28-32**

Parable About a Vineyard

³³“Listen to another parable. A landowner planted a vineyard, put a wall around it, dug a wine press in it, built a tower, rented it out to tenants, and went on a trip. ³⁴When it came time for the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenants took them and beat one, murdered another, and stoned another. ³⁶He sent some others—more than the first, and they did the same thing. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son, ‘They’ll respect my son.’ ³⁸But when they saw him, they said, ‘That’s the heir. Come on, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹They dragged him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When the owner comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹They said, “He’ll miserably destroy those sinful men and rent out the vineyard to other tenants that will pay him the fruit in its season.”

⁴²Jesus said^p, “You’ve read in the scriptures, haven’t you,

**‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

**That has come from the LORD;
it’s amazing to us’?** [Ps 118:22-23]

⁴³So God will take the kingdom away from you and give it to a nation that will produce its fruit. [[⁴⁴Whoever falls on that stone will get bruised, and whoever it falls on will get crushed.]]^{ms}”

⁴⁵The chief priests and the Pharisees knew he’d told his parables about them. ⁴⁶They were trying to find a way to arrest him, but they were afraid to; the people considered him a prophet. **Mt 21:33-46**

Parable About a Wedding Garment

22:¹Jesus told them another parable.

²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king that prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent servants to call the people that he’d invited, but they didn’t want to come. ⁴He sent some other servants, ‘Tell the ones I’ve invited, “I’ve prepared my banquet. I’ve butchered my oxen and grain-fed calves; everything’s ready. Come on to the banquet.”’ ⁵But they didn’t pay any attention and went on with their own affairs, one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest grabbed his servants, treated them disgracefully, and killed them. **Mt 22:1-6**

⁷“The king was angry and sent troops to destroy those murderers and burn their town. ⁸Then he told his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but the people I invited didn’t deserve it. ⁹So go out to the main roads and invite

everybody you find.’ ¹⁰They went out in the roads and gathered everybody they could find, good and bad, and filled the wedding banquet with guests.

¹¹“The king went in to inspect the guests and saw a man that wasn’t dressed for a wedding. ¹²He said, ‘How’d you get in here without being dressed for a wedding?’ He was speechless. ¹³The king told the attendants, ‘Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him out in the dark. There’ll be crying and chattering of teeth out there. ¹⁴Many are called, but few are chosen.’” **Mt 22:7-14**

Question About Tribute to Caesar

¹⁵The Pharisees plotted how to trap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶They sent^p their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Rabbi, we know you tell the truth and teach the way of God correctly; you don’t defer to anybody or respect persons. ¹⁷So tell us what you think: Is it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar?”

¹⁸Jesus perceived their wickedness, “Why are you trying to put me on the spot, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for paying the tribute.”

They brought him a denarius.

²⁰“Whose image and inscription are these?”

²¹“Caesar’s.”

“Then pay Caesar what you owe Caesar and pay God what you owe God.”

²²They were dumbfounded and left.

Mt 22:15-22

The Question About Resurrection

²³That day, some Sadducees, saying there’s no resurrection, approached him,

²⁴“Rabbi, Moses said,

‘If a man dies childless, his brother is to marry his wife’ [Deut 25:5] and ‘raise up heirs for his brother’ [Gen 38:8].

²⁵There were seven brothers with us, and the first died. Since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶The same thing happened with the second and third through the seventh. ²⁷Last of all, the woman died. ²⁸So, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? They’d all married her.”

²⁹Jesus answered them, “You’re mistaken because you don’t know the scriptures or God’s power. ³⁰In the resurrection there’s no such thing as marriage. They’re like the angels in heaven.

³¹“Now as to the resurrection of the dead, you’ve read, haven’t you, what God said to you, ³²**‘I’m Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s God’?** [Ex 3:6, 15, 16] He’s not a God of the dead, but of the living.”

³³The crowd was astounded at his teaching.

Mt 22:23-33

Question About the Greatest Commandment

³⁴When the Pharisees heard he'd silenced the Sadducees, they gathered around him. ³⁵One of them, [a lawyer]^{ms}, tested him, ³⁶*"Rabbi, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"*

³⁷*"'Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and mind' [Deut 6:5].* ³⁸*That's the most important commandment.* ³⁹*The second is like it, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' [Lev 19:18].* ⁴⁰*The whole Law and the Prophets depend on those two commandments."* **Mt 22:34-40**

Question About the Son of David

⁴¹While the Pharisees were together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²*"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"*

"David's."

⁴³*"How then does David by inspiration call him 'Lord':*

⁴⁴'The LORD told my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand

till I make your enemies your footstool'?" [Ps 110:1]

⁴⁵*If David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"* ⁴⁶Nobody could answer him, and nobody dared ask him any more questions. **Mt 22:41-46**

Denunciation of the Pharisees

23:¹Jesus told the crowd and his disciples,

²*"The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat. ³So do whatever they tell you, but don't be like them; they say and don't do. ⁴They strap heavy, awkward burdens on people's shoulders, but they aren't willing to move them with one of their fingers. ⁵They do everything for show—like making wide phylacteries and long tassels. ⁶They like places of honor at banquets, prominent seats in synagogues, ⁷greetings in marketplaces, and people calling them Rabbi. ⁸Don't you be called Rabbi. You have one Rabbi; you're all brothers. ⁹Don't call anybody on earth your father. You have one Father, the One in heaven. ¹⁰Don't be called leaders. You have one Leader, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your minister. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.* **Mt 23:1-12**

¹³*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You lock up the kingdom of heaven in front of people. You don't go in yourselves or let them go in that are trying to. [¹⁴]^{ms}*

¹⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel all over land and sea to make one proselyte. Then you make him more destined for hell than you are.

¹⁶“Woe to you, blind guides that say, ‘Whoever swears by the sanctuary hasn’t taken a binding oath, but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary has taken a binding oath.’ ¹⁷Blind fools! Which is more important, the gold or the sanctuary that makes it holy?

¹⁸“You also say, ‘Whoever swears by the altar hasn’t taken a binding oath, but whoever swears by the gift on the altar has taken a binding oath.’

¹⁹You blind people! Which is more important, the gift or the altar that makes it holy? ²⁰So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and everything on it.

²¹Whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and the One that lives there.

²²Whoever swears by heaven swears by God’s throne and the One that sits on it.

Mt 23:13-22

²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You give a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin; and neglect the more important things in the Law: justice, mercy, faith. You should’ve done these and not neglected those. ²⁴Blind guides that strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!

²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and plate, but inside they’re full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! Clean the inside of the cup first so the outside of it becomes clean too.

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You’re like whitewashed tombs that look beautiful on the outside, but inside they’re filled with filth and dead men’s bones. ²⁸You look good on the outside, but inside you’re filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Mt 23:23-28

²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous ³⁰and say, ‘If we’d lived when our ancestors did, we wouldn’t have joined them in shedding the prophets’ blood.’ ³¹You speak against yourselves because you’re just like the ones that murdered the prophets. ³²Go ahead and be as bad as your ancestors. ³³You snakes! You nest of vipers! How will you escape condemnation in hell? ³⁴For this reason I’ll send you prophets, wise men, and scribes. You’ll kill and crucify some of them; some you’ll flog in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. ³⁵So on you will come all the righteous blood shed from Abel to Zechariah son of Berechiah, the one you murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. ³⁶I’m telling you, it’ll all come down on this generation!

³⁷*“Jerusalem! Jerusalem! that murders prophets and stones my messengers! How many times I’ve wanted to gather your people the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you didn’t want to! ³⁸I leave your house to you deserted. ³⁹You won’t see me again till you say, ‘Blessed is the One that’s coming in the name of the LORD’” [Ps 118:26].* Mt 23:29-39

The Olivet Discourse

24:¹Jesus was leaving the Temple when his disciples came to show him the buildings of the Temple complex.

²He responded, *“See all this? There won’t be one stone left on another.”*

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came privately, *“Tell us, when will that happen, what will be the sign that you’re coming and the end of the age?”*

⁴Jesus answered,

“Make sure nobody deceives you. ⁵Many will come, saying, ‘I’m the Messiah,’ and deceive lots of people. ⁶You’ll hear about wars and reports of wars. Don’t let it alarm you. They have to happen, but that’s not the end. ⁷Nation will attack nation and kingdom attack kingdom. There’ll be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸That’s the beginning of labor pains.

⁹*“Then they’ll bring distress on you and kill you, and Gentiles will hate you because of me. ¹⁰Many will fall away, betray each other, hate one another. ¹¹False prophets will rise up and deceive people. ¹²Since lawlessness will increase, many people’s love will grow cold; ¹³but the one that endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴The good news about the kingdom will be delivered in the whole empire for a testimony to the nations. Then the end will come. **Mt 24:1-14***

¹⁵*“When you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’ that Daniel the prophet spoke about, standing in the holy place (reader, understand.), ¹⁶people in Judaea need to flee to the hill country. ¹⁷Nobody on a housetop should go down to pick up things out of the house. ¹⁸Nobody in the field should go back to get a coat. ¹⁹Woe to the ones who are pregnant and nursing babies then! ²⁰Pray that your flight won’t happen in the winter or on a Sabbath. Great distress will come on the country and wrath on this people. ²¹That time will be the worst ever—from the beginning till now or ever again. ²²If the LORD hadn’t shortened those days, nobody would survive. But because of the Chosen, he’ll cut those days short.*

Mt 24:15-22

²³*“Then if anybody says, ‘Here’s the Messiah,’ or, ‘There’s the Messiah,’ don’t believe it. ²⁴False Messiahs and false prophets will arise and give great*

signs and wonders that could deceive, if possible, even the Chosen. ^[25] ²⁶If anybody says, 'He's in the desert,' don't go out there. 'He's in private quarters,' don't believe it. ²⁷The Son of Man will come like lightning flashes from east to west. ²⁸Vultures will gather where the carcass is,

²⁹"Immediately after that ordeal,
 the sun will grow dark,
 the moon won't shine,
 stars will fall,
 and the powers in the sky will be shaken.

Mt 24:23-29

³⁰"Then the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and every tribe on earth will mourn. **They'll see him coming in the clouds** [Dan 7:13] with power and great glory. ³¹He'll send out his angels with a loud trumpet blast to gather his Chosen from every direction, from one end of the sky to the other.

³²"Learn a lesson from a fig tree. When its branches get tender and sprout leaves, you know summer's coming. ³³So too, when you see these things, you'll know he's at the door. ³⁴This generation won't pass away before it happens. ³⁵Earth and sky will pass away, but what I say won't pass away.

³⁶"But nobody knows about that day and hour, not the angels, not the Son, just the Father. ³⁷When the Son of Man comes, it will be like it was in Noah's time. ³⁸Before the flood came, people were eating and getting married till Noah went into the ark. ³⁹They didn't realize what was going to happen till the flood came and swept them all away.

"That's how the coming of the Son of Man will be. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one taken, the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one taken, the other left. ⁴²So keep watching because you don't know what day your Lord will come.

Mt 24:30-42

⁴³"Do know this: if the homeowner had known in which watch the thief would come, he would've been on alert and not let the thief ransack his house. ⁴⁴So you be ready too; the Son of Man will come when you least expect it.

⁴⁵"Who then is a smart, reliable servant that his master has put in charge of feeding his family on time? ⁴⁶He's fortunate whose master finds him doing that when he comes. ⁴⁷He'll put him in charge of everything he owns. ⁴⁸But if a sinful servant says to himself, 'My master won't be coming for a long time'; ⁴⁹and he starts abusing fellow servants, and eating and getting drunk with drunks, ⁵⁰his master will come on a day he doesn't expect at an hour he doesn't

know. ⁵¹He'll punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites. There'll be crying and chattering of teeth there. **Mt 24:43-51**

The Parable About Ten Virgins

25:¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins that took their lamps to meet the groom. ²Five were foolish, five were wise. ³The foolish didn't take any oil along. ⁴The wise took some along in flasks with their lamps. ⁵The groom was delayed, and they all got drowsy and fell sleep. ⁶At midnight the shout came, ‘The groom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷The virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸“The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“The wise said, ‘No, there won't be enough for all of us. Go to the dealers and get your own.’ ¹⁰While they were gone, the groom came. The ones that were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was locked.

¹¹Later, the rest of the virgins came, ‘Sir, let us in.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘I don't know you.’ ¹³So be alert; you don't know the day or the hour.” **Mt 25:1-13**

The Parable About Talents

¹⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a trip. He called his servants and entrusted them with things he owned. ¹⁵He gave five talents to one, two to another, and one to another—according to their abilities—and left. Right away ¹⁶the one with five talents went and traded with them and earned five more. ¹⁷The one with two talents did the same thing and earned two more. ¹⁸But the servant with one talent dug a hole and hid it.

¹⁹“After a long time, the master came back and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The one he gave five talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with five talents; I've earned five more.’

²¹“‘Well done, good, dependable servant. You were dependable in handling a few things; I'll put you in charge of many. Enjoy my approval.’

²²“The one he gave two talents came up, ‘You entrusted me with two talents; I've earned two more.’ **Mt 25: 14-22**

²³“‘Well done, good, reliable servant. You were reliable in handling a few things; I'll put you in charge of many. Enjoy my approval.’

²⁴“But the servant he gave one talent came up, ‘Master, I knew you were a hard man, reaping where you didn't sow, gathering where you didn't scatter. ²⁵I was afraid and hid your talent in the ground. You have what's yours.’

²⁶“You wicked, lazy servant. You knew, did you, that I reap where I don’t sow and gather where I don’t scatter? ²⁷You should’ve taken my money to the bankers. When I came back, I would’ve received it back plus interest. ²⁸Take the talent away from him and give it to the one with ten. ²⁹Everybody that has will receive more; but the one that doesn’t have will lose what he does have. ³⁰Throw the worthless servant out into the dark. There’ll be crying and chattering of teeth out there. **Mt 25:23-30**

Discussion of the Final Judgment

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory with the angels, he’ll sit on his glorious throne. ³²The nations will stand in front of him, and he’ll separate them like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. ³³He’ll put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴The king will tell the sheep, ‘Come, my Father’s blessed ones, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. ³⁵I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you gave me a place to stay. ³⁶I needed clothes, and you gave me some. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ **Mt 25:31-36**

³⁷“Those good people will say, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and give you a place to stay, or needing clothes and give you some? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and take care of you.’

⁴⁰“The king will answer, ‘When you did it for the of least of these friends of mine, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he’ll say to the people on the left, ‘Go away, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²I was hungry, and you didn’t give me anything to eat. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me anything to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger, and you didn’t give me a place to stay. I needed clothes, and you didn’t give me any. I was sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’

⁴⁴“They’ll say, ‘When did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, needing clothes, sick, or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵“He’ll answer, ‘Since you didn’t do it for the least of these of the friends of mine, you didn’t do it for me either.’ ⁴⁶Those will go away into eternal punishment, but the good people will go into eternal life.” **Mt 25:37-46**

Fifth Prediction of His Death

26:¹When Jesus finished, he told his disciples, ²*“As you know, the Passover is two days from now. I’ll be handed over to be crucified.”*

³Meantime the chief priests and the elders of the people met in the courtyard of Caiaphas, the high priest, ⁴and conspired to arrest Jesus by treachery and put him to death. ⁵But they said, *“Not during the festival; the people will riot.”* **Mt 26:1-5**

The Anointing by Mary

⁶While Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman approached him with an alabaster cruise of very expensive ointment and poured it on his head while he was reclining at table. ⁸The disciples were indignant, *“What’s the point of such waste? ⁹She could’ve sold it for a lot and given the money to the poor.”*

¹⁰Jesus was aware of it, *“Why are you fussing at her? She’s done me a good turn. ¹¹You always have poor people around, but you won’t always have^p me. ¹²She put this ointment on my body to prepare me for burial. ¹³I tell you, wherever you deliver the good news in the world, tell what she did in memory of her.”* **Mt 26:6-13**

Judas’ Plot to Betray Jesus

¹⁴Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the high priests, ¹⁵*“What would you give me to deliver Jesus over to you?”* They counted out 30 silver shekels for him. ¹⁶From then on, he was looking for a chance to deliver him over to them. **Mt 26:14-16**

Preparation for the Passover Meal

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, *“Where do you want us to get things ready for the Passover?”*

¹⁸He said, *“Go into the city to such and such a man and say, ‘The Rabbi says, “My time’s getting close. I’ll observe^p the Passover at your place with my disciples.”’”*

¹⁹The disciples did that and got things ready for observing the Passover meal. **Mt 26:17-19**

The Passover Meal;

Judas Identified as Traitor

²⁰That evening, Jesus was reclining at table with the Twelve.

²¹While they were eating, he said, *“I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”*

²²They were really distressed and started saying, *“It’s not me, is it?”*

²³He answered, *“It’s the one that has dipped his hand with me in the bowl. ²⁴The Son of Man will go the way scripture says, but woe to the one that betrays him. It would’ve been better if he hadn’t been born.”*

²⁵Judas, the one that did betray him, said, *“It’s not me, is it?”*

“Yes.”

Mt 26:20-25

The Lord's Supper Instituted

²⁶During the meal, Jesus took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, *"Take and eat it; it's my body."* ²⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, *"All of you, drink out of it; ²⁸it's my blood of the covenant that's shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹This is the last time I'll be drinking this fruit of the vine till I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom."*

³⁰They sang a hymn and went out to The Mount of Olives. Mt 26:26-30

The Disciples Warned

³¹Jesus told^p them, *"All of you will desert me tonight. Scripture says,*

***'I'll strike down the shepherd,
and his sheep will scatter'*** [Zech 13:7].

³²*After I'm resurrected, I'll go ahead of you to Galilee."*

³³Peter responded, *"Even if everyone else deserts you, I'll never desert you."*

³⁴Jesus said, *"I tell you, tonight before a rooster crows, you'll deny three times that you know me."*

³⁵Peter said^p, *"Even if I have to die with you, I won't deny you."*

That's what all the disciples said. Mt 26:31-35

The Agony in the Garden

³⁶Jesus went^p with them to a place called Gethsemane. *"Sit here while I go over there and pray."*

³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and became overwhelmed with dread. ³⁸He said^p, *"I'm distressed to death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

³⁹He went on a little way and fell on his face, *"My Father, if it's possible, take this cup away from me; but not what I want, but what you want."*

⁴⁰He came back^p and found^p them sleeping. He said^p to Peter, *"Couldn't you^{pl} keep watch one hour? ⁴¹Keep watch and pray so you won't be tempted. The spirit's willing, but the flesh is weak."*

⁴²A second time he went and prayed, *"My Father, if this can't pass without me drinking it, your will be done."* ⁴³He came back and found them sleeping again; they couldn't keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴He left them again and prayed the same thing a third time. ⁴⁵He came^p back to his disciples, *"You're still sleeping and resting? It's time; I'm about to be betrayed^p to sinners."*

⁴⁶*Get up; let's go. The one that's betraying me is coming."* Mt 26:36-46

The Arrest of Jesus

⁴⁷While he was still talking, Judas came with a large contingent armed with swords and clubs from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸The traitor had given them a signal, *“The one I kiss is him; arrest him.”*

⁴⁹At once he came to Jesus, *“Hello, Rabbi,”* and kissed him.

⁵⁰Jesus said, *“Companion, do what you came to do.”*

They came and grabbed him and arrested him. ⁵¹One of the men with Jesus drew his sword and struck the high priest’s servant and cut his ear off.

⁵²Jesus told^p him, *“Put your sword away. Everybody that picks up a sword dies by a sword. ⁵³Do you suppose I can’t ask my Father right now for over 70,000 angels? ⁵⁴How then would I fulfill the scriptures that things need to happen this way?”*

⁵⁵Jesus said to the crowd, *“You’ve come out here with swords and clubs to arrest me like an insurrectionist? I sat teaching in the Temple every day, and you didn’t arrest me. ⁵⁶But this is all happening to fulfill what the prophets wrote.”*

The disciples ran away.

Mt 26:47-56

The Trial Before Caiaphas; Peter’s Denials; The Final Condemnation by the Sanhedrin

⁵⁷The ones that arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders had assembled. ⁵⁸A long way behind, Peter followed him to the high priest’s courtyard, went inside, and sat down with the officers to see the end.

⁵⁹The chief priests and the full Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so they could execute him. ⁶⁰But they didn’t find it even though a number of false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward, ⁶¹*“He said, ‘I can tear down God’s sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.’”*

⁶²The high priest got up and said, *“You aren’t going to answer the claims these men are making against you?”*

⁶³Jesus didn’t say anything.

The high priest said, *“I’m putting you under oath: by the living God, tell us if you’re the Messiah, the Son of God.”*

⁶⁴*“Yes. Nevertheless, I’m telling you,*

*‘Later you’ll see **the Son of Man**
sitting on the right hand of Power and
coming on the clouds’”* [Ps 110:1; Dan 7:13].

⁶⁵The high priest tore his clothes, *“He blasphemed. What do we need witnesses for?”*
You heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What’s your verdict?”

“He deserves the death penalty.”

Mt 26:57-67

⁶⁷They spit in his face, punched him, and slapped him, ⁶⁸*“Tell us, ‘Messiah,’ who slapped you.”*

⁶⁹Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up, *“You were with Jesus the Galilean too.”*

⁷⁰He denied it in front of them all, *“I don’t know what you’re talking about.”*

⁷¹When he went out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to the ones there, *“This fellow was with Jesus the Nazarene.”*

⁷²He denied it again—with an oath: *“I don’t know him.”*

⁷³A little while later the ones standing around came up to Peter, *“You are too one of them. Your accent gives you away.”*

⁷⁴He started pronouncing curses and swearing: *“I don’t know him.”* Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Peter remembered, *“Before a rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.”* He went out and broke down sobbing.

27:¹In the morning, the chief priests and the elders of the people developed a strategy for getting Jesus executed.

²They bound him and delivered him to Pilate, the governor. **Mt 26:67-27:2**

The Death of Judas

³When Judas the traitor saw Jesus was condemned, he regretted it and took the 30 silver shekels back to the chief priests and elders, ⁴*“I’ve sinned. I betrayed innocent blood.”*

They said, *“What’s that to us? That’s your problem.”*

⁵He threw the shekels into the sanctuary and went and hanged himself.

⁶The chief priests took the shekels and said, *“It’s against the Law to put them in the Temple Treasury since they’re blood money.”* ⁷They talked it over and decided to use them to buy a potter’s field as a cemetery for foreigners. ⁸That’s why it’s still called the Field of Blood.*

⁹That fulfilled what Jeremiah the prophet said,

***“I took the 30 silver shekels,
the price of the One as evaluated by the people of Israel,
¹⁰and they^{ms} bought a potter’s field,
like the LORD instructed me”*** [Zech 11:12-13; cp Jer 32:6-9].

Mt 27:3-10

The First and Second Trials in Front of Pilate

¹¹Jesus stood in front of the governor, who asked him, *“Are you king of the Jews?”*
“Yes.”

¹²While the chief priests and elders were accusing him, he didn’t respond.

¹³Pilate said, *“You hear all the things they’re accusing you of, don’t you?”*

¹⁴He didn't answer him on a single charge. The governor was really surprised.

Mt 27:11-14

¹⁵At each *Passover* Festival the governor had a custom of releasing one prisoner the crowd wanted. ¹⁶At the time they were holding a notorious prisoner called [Jesus]^{ms} Barabbas. ¹⁷So while they were assembled, Pilate said, *"Who do you want me to release to you, [Jesus]^{ms} Barabbas or Jesus, called Messiah?"* (¹⁸He knew they'd delivered him up out of envy.)

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, *"Don't do anything with that innocent man. I suffered a terrible nightmare last night because of him."*

²⁰The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and execute Jesus.

²¹Pilate asked them, *"Who do you want me to release?"*

"Barabbas."

²²*"What do you want me to do with Jesus, called Messiah?"*

"Crucify him!"

²³*"Why? What's he done?"*

They started shouting louder, *"Crucify him!"*

²⁴When Pilate saw he wasn't getting anywhere, but a riot was brewing, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, *"I'm innocent of this man's blood. This is your problem."*

²⁵The people answered, *"His blood's on us and our descendants."*

²⁶Then he released Barabbas, had Jesus scourged, and turned him over to be crucified.

Mt 27:15-26

Torture by the Roman Soldiers

²⁷The governor's soldiers took him into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet military robe on him. ²⁹They twisted together a crown made out of thorns and put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand, knelt to him, and made fun of him, *"Hail, King of the Jews!"* ³⁰They spit on him and took the reed and kept beating him over the head with it.

Mt 27:27-30

The Way to Golgotha

³¹When they got done making fun of him, they took the robe off, put his clothes back on him, and led him off to crucify him.

³²As they were coming out, they found a Cyrenian named Simon and made him carry the cross. ³³When they got to a place called Golgotha ("Place of the Skull"), ³⁴they offered him wine mixed with gall; but, after tasting it, he wouldn't drink it. ³⁵After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots ³⁶and sat down to keep watch. ³⁷They put his accusation above his head: *"Jesus, King of the Jews."*

³⁸They crucified two insurgents with him, on his right and left.

Mt 27:31-38

The Death of Jesus

³⁹The ones passing by were ridiculing him, shaking their heads, ⁴⁰*“You that tear down the sanctuary and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you’re God’s Son, and come down from the cross!”*

⁴¹The chief priests as well as the scribes and elders were making fun of him too: ⁴²*“He saved other people; he can’t save himself! He’s king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross, and we’ll believe it. ⁴³He has trusted in God; let God rescue him now if he wants him”*—because he said, *“I’m God’s Son.”* ⁴⁴The insurgents that were crucified with him were denouncing him.

⁴⁵From noon till 3, it got dark over the whole country. ⁴⁶About 3 p.m., Jesus shouted, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani (My God, my God, why have you deserted me)?”* [Ps 22:1]

⁴⁷Some of the ones standing there heard him, *“He’s calling for Elijah.”*

⁴⁸One of them ran to fill a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave him a drink.

⁴⁹The rest were saying, *“Let’s see if Elijah will come^p to save him.”*

⁵⁰Jesus let out another loud cry and quit breathing.

Mt 27:39-50

Miracles Accompanying His Death

⁵¹The sanctuary curtain tore in two, top to bottom; the ground tremored, and the bedrocks ruptured. (⁵²Tombs came open, and the bodies of many saints resurrected. ⁵³They left their graves after his resurrection and went into the Holy City and appeared to many people.) ⁵⁴The centurion and the ones on watch with him were scared to death when they saw the earthquake and the other things that were happening.

⁵⁵Several women were watching from a distance. They’d traveled with Jesus from Galilee to wait on him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary the Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Mt 27:51-56

The Burial of Jesus

⁵⁷That evening a wealthy man named Joseph from Arimathea came; he was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body, and Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹He took it and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. ⁶⁰He put it in his own new, rock-hewn tomb, rolled a large stone against the entrance, and left. ⁶¹Mary the Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting across from the grave.

Mt 27:57-61

The Watch at the Tomb

⁶²The next day, the day after Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees got together with Pilate, ⁶³*“Sir, we’ve remembered that while he was alive, the deceiver said he’d resurrect*

after three days.’ ⁶⁴*Have the grave sealed till the third day so his disciples can’t steal the body and tell the people he arose from the dead. The last deception would be worse than the first.*”

⁶⁵Pilate told them, “*You have a guard. Secure it as well as you know how.*” ⁶⁶They secured the tomb with a guard and put a seal on the stone. **Mt 27:62-66**

The Resurrection of Jesus

28:¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary the Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake. An angel of the LORD came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning; his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so shaken they were paralyzed with fear like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “*You don’t need to be afraid. I know you’re looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He’s not here; he resurrected like he said he would. Come see where he was lying. Hurry and tell his disciples, ‘He arose from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee; you’ll see him there.’ I’ve told you.*” **Mt 28:1-7**

The Appearance to the Other Women

⁸They left the tomb quickly with fear and great excitement and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Jesus met them and said, “*Hello.*” They came and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said^p, “*You don’t need to be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They’ll see me there.*” **Mt 28:8-10**

The Report of the Guard

¹¹While they were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests what all happened. ¹²When they got together with the elders and took counsel, they gave a large number of silver coins to the soldiers, ¹³“*Say that his disciples came during the night while you were asleep and stole him.*” ¹⁴*If the governor hears about this, we’ll persuade him and keep you out of trouble.*” ¹⁵They took the silver coins and did what they were told. That story has spread among the Jews to this day. **Mt 28:11-15**

The Great Commission

¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain Jesus had indicated. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped, but some of them doubted! ¹⁸He came and told them,

“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go make disciples in every country. Baptize them into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; ²⁰and teach them to observe everything I’ve commanded you. I’ll always be with you till the end of the age.”

Mt 28:16-20

Translator: Virgil Warren

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