1:1 [This is the] beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, [the] Son of God.

1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way.”

1:3 “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for [the] Lord, make straight paths for Him.’”

1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching [a] baptism of repentance for [the] forgiveness of sins.

1:5 [People] went out to him from all of Jerusalem and the countryside of Judea. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

1:6 John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

1:7 And he began to proclaim: “After me will come One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down [and] untie.

1:8 I baptize you [with] water, but He will baptize you with [the] Holy Spirit.”

1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

1:10 As soon [as Jesus] came up out of the water, he saw the heavens breaking open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.

1:11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

1:12 At once the Spirit drove [Jesus] into the wilderness,

1:13 and He was [there] for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

1:14 After the arrest of John, Jesus went into Galilee [and] proclaimed the gospel of God.

1:15 “The time is fulfilled,” He said, “and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel!”

1:16 As [Jesus] was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and [his] brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

1:17 “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

1:18 And at once they left [their] nets [and] followed Him.

1:19 Going on a little farther, He saw James [son] of Zebedee and his brother John. They [were] in a boat, mending [their] nets.

1:20 Immediately [Jesus] called them, and leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, they followed Him.

1:21 Then [Jesus and His companions] went to Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath [began], [Jesus] entered the synagogue [and] began to teach.

1:22 [The people] were astonished at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

1:23 Suddenly a man with an unclean spirit cried out in the synagogue:

1:24 “What do You [ want ] with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are— the Holy [One] of God!”

1:25 But Jesus rebuked [the spirit] [and] said, “Be silent! Come out of him!”

1:26 At this, the unclean spirit threw [the man] into convulsions [and] came out with a loud shriek.

1:27 All [the people] were amazed [and] began to ask one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!”

1:28 And the news about [Jesus] spread quickly through the whole region of Galilee.

1:29 As soon as [Jesus and His companions] had left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

1:30 Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and they promptly told [Jesus] about her.

1:31 So He went to [her], took her [by the] hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them.

1:32 That evening, after sunset, [people] brought to Him all who were sick and demon-possessed,

1:33 and the whole town gathered at the door.

1:34 And [Jesus] healed many who were ill with various diseases and drove out many demons. But He would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

1:35 Early in the morning, while it was still dark, [Jesus] got up [and] slipped out to a solitary place to pray.

1:36 Simon and his companions went to look for Him,

1:37 and when they found Him, they said, “Everyone is looking for You!”

1:38 But [Jesus] answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns so I can preach there as well, for that is why I have come.”

1:39 [So] He went throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

1:40 Then a leper came to [Jesus], begging on his knees: “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

1:41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand [and] touched [the man]. “I am willing,” He said, “Be clean.”

1:42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

1:43 [Jesus] promptly sent him away with a stern warning:

1:44 “See that you don’t tell [anyone]. But go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

1:45 But the [man] went out [and] openly began to proclaim and spread the news. Consequently, Jesus could no longer enter a town in plain view, but He stayed out in solitary places. Yet [people] came to Him from every quarter.

1:46

2:1 [A few] days later, [Jesus] went back to Capernaum. And when [the people] heard He was home,

2:2 they gathered in such large numbers that [there was] no more room, not even outside the door, [as Jesus] spoke the word to them.

2:3 Then a paralytic was brought to Him, carried by four [men].

2:4 Since they were unable to get to [Jesus] through the crowd, they uncovered the roof above Him, made an opening, [and] lowered the paralytic on [his] mat.

2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

2:6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and contemplating in their hearts,

2:7 “Why {does} this [man] speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

2:8 At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were considering this within themselves. “Why do you question these things in your hearts?” He asked.

2:9 “Which is easier: to say to a paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, pick up your mat, and walk’?

2:10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” He said to the paralytic,

2:11 “I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home.”

2:12 And immediately [the man] got up, picked up [his] mat, [and] walked out in front of them all. As a result, everyone was amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

2:13 [Once] again [Jesus] went out beside the sea. All the people came to Him, and He taught them [there].

2:14 As He was walking along, He saw Levi [son] of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth. “Follow Me,” He told him, and [Levi] got up [and] followed Him.

2:15 While [Jesus] was dining at [Levi’s] house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with [Him] and His disciples— for there were many who followed Him.

2:16 When the scribes who [were] Pharisees saw [Jesus] eating with [these people], they asked His disciples, “Why {does} He eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

2:17 [On] hearing this, Jesus told them, “[It is] not the healthy [who] need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

2:18 Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were often fasting. So [people] came to [Jesus] and asked, “Why don’t Your disciples fast [like] John’s disciples and [those] of the Pharisees?�

2:19 Jesus answered, “Can the guests of the bridegroom fast while [He] is with them? As long as [He is] with them, they cannot fast.

2:20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast.

2:21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the [new] piece will pull away from [the] old, and a worse tear will result.

2:22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and [both] the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, new wine [is poured] into new wineskins.�

2:23 One Sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields, and His disciples began to pick the heads of grain [as] they walked along.

2:24 [So] the Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

2:25 But [Jesus] replied, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?

2:26 During the high priesthood of Abiathar, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which was lawful only for the priests. And he gave [some] to his companions as well.”

2:27 Then [Jesus] told them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

2:28 Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

2:29

3:1 Once again [Jesus] entered the synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there.

3:2 In order to accuse Him, they were watching {to see} if He would heal on the Sabbath.

3:3 Then [Jesus] said to the man with the withered hand, “Stand up among [us].”

3:4 And He asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy [it]?” But they were silent.

3:5 [Jesus] looked around at them with anger [and] sorrow at [their] hardness of heart. Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched [it] out, and [it] was restored.

3:6 At this, the Pharisees went out [and] plotted with the Herodians how they might kill [Jesus].

3:7 [So] Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea, accompanied by a large crowd from Galilee, Judea,

3:8 Jerusalem, Idumea, the region beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. [The] large crowd came to Him when they heard what great things He was doing.

3:9 [Jesus] asked His disciples to {have} a boat ready for Him so that the crowd would not crush Him.

3:10 For He had healed so many that all who had diseases were pressing forward to touch Him.

3:11 And when the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell down before Him and cried out, “You are the Son of God!”

3:12 But He ordered them sternly not to make Him known.

3:13 Then [Jesus] went up on the mountain and called for those He wanted, and they came to Him.

3:14 He appointed twelve [of them] [whom] He designated as apostles, to accompany Him, to be sent out to preach,

3:15 and to have authority to drive out demons.

3:16 [These are] the twelve He appointed: Simon (whom He named Peter),

3:17 James [son] of Zebedee and his brother John ([whom] He named Boanerges, meaning Sons of Thunder),

3:18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James [son] of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot,

3:19 and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Him.

3:20 Then [Jesus] went home, and once again a crowd gathered, so that [He and His disciples] could not even eat.

3:21 [When] His family heard [about this], they went out to take custody of Him, saying, “He is out of His mind.”

3:22 And the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and, “By the prince of the demons He drives out demons.”

3:23 So [Jesus] called them together [and] began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan?

3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, [it] cannot stand.

3:25 If a house is divided against itself, [it] cannot stand.

3:26 And if Satan is divided and rises against himself, he cannot stand; [his] end has come.

3:27 Indeed, no one can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

3:28 Truly I tell you, the sons of men will be forgiven all sins and blasphemies, as many as they utter.

3:29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit {will} never be forgiven; he is guilty [of] eternal sin.”

3:30 [ Jesus made this statement ] because they were claiming, “He has an unclean spirit.”

3:31 Then [Jesus’] mother and brothers came and stood outside. They sent [someone] in to summon Him,

3:32 and a crowd was sitting around Him. “Look,” He was told, “Your mother and brothers are outside, asking for You.”

3:33 But [Jesus] replied, “Who are My mother and My brothers?”

3:34 Looking at those seated in a circle around Him, He said, “Here [are] My mother and My brothers!

3:35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister and mother.”

3:36

4:1 [Once] again, [Jesus] began to teach beside the sea, and [such] a large crowd gathered around Him that He got into a boat [and] sat in [it]. All the people crowded along the shore,

4:2 and He taught them many things in parables. And in His teaching He said,

4:3 “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.

4:4 As he was sowing, some [seed] fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

4:5 Other [ seed ] fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

4:6 But when the sun rose, [the seedlings] were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

4:7 Other [ seed ] fell among thorns, [which] grew up and choked [the seedlings], and [they] yielded no crop.

4:8 Still other [seed] fell on good soil, [where it] sprouted, grew up, and produced a crop— one bearing thirtyfold, another sixtyfold, and another a hundredfold.”

4:9 Then [Jesus] said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

4:10 As soon as [Jesus] was alone [with] the Twelve and those around Him, they asked Him [about] the parable.

4:11 And He told them, “The mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to those on the outside, everything is expressed in parables,

4:12 so that, ‘they may be ever seeing [but] never perceiving, and ever hearing [but] never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven.’”

4:13 Then [Jesus] said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand [any of] the parables?

4:14 The farmer sows the word.

4:15 [Some] are like the [seeds] along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear [it], Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

4:16 [Others] are like the [seeds] sown on rocky places. [They] hear the word [and] at once receive it with joy.

4:17 But they themselves have no root, [and] they remain for only a season. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

4:18 Still [others] are like the [seeds] sown among the thorns. [They] hear the word,

4:19 but the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in [and] choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

4:20 Yet [others] are like the [seeds] sown on good soil. [They] hear the word, receive [it], and produce a crop— thirtyfold, sixtyfold, [or] a hundredfold.”

4:21 [Jesus] also said to them, “Does [anyone] bring in a lamp so he can place [it] under a basket or under a bed? Doesn’t he set it on a lampstand?

4:22 For [everything] hidden is meant to be revealed, [and everything] concealed is meant to be brought to light.

4:23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

4:24 He went on to say, “Pay attention to what you hear. With [the] measure you [use], it will be measured to you, and even more will be added to you.

4:25 For whoever has will be given [more], [but] whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

4:26 [Jesus] also said, “The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground.

4:27 Night and day he sleeps and wakes, and the seed sprouts and grows, [though] he knows not how.

4:28 All by itself the earth produces a crop— first [the] stalk, then [the] head, then grain [that] ripens within.

4:29 And as soon as the grain is ripe, he swings the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

4:30 Then He asked, “To what can we compare the kingdom of God? With what parable shall we present it?

4:31 It is like a mustard seed, which is [the] smallest of all seeds sown upon the earth.

4:32 But after it is planted, it grows to be larger than all garden plants and puts forth great branches, so that the birds of the air nest in its shade.�

4:33 With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them, to the extent that they could understand.

4:34 He did not say [anything] to them without a parable. But privately He explained all things to His own disciples.

4:35 When that evening came, He said to [His disciples], “Let us go across to the other side.”

4:36 After they had dismissed the crowd, they took [Jesus] with them, since He was already in the boat. And there were other boats with Him.

4:37 Soon a violent windstorm came up, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that [it] was being swamped.

4:38 But [Jesus] was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. [So] they woke Him and said, “Teacher, don’t You care that we are perishing?”

4:39 Then [Jesus] got up [and] rebuked the wind and the sea. “Silence!” He commanded. “Be still!” And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm.

4:40 “Why are you so afraid?” He asked. “Do you still have no faith?”

4:41 Overwhelmed with fear, they asked one another, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

4:42

5:1 On the other side of the sea, they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes.

5:2 As soon as [Jesus] got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit [came] from the tombs [and] met Him.

5:3 [He] had been living in the tombs and could no longer be restrained, [even] with chains.

5:4 [Though] he {was} often bound with chains and shackles, he had broken the chains and shattered the shackles. Now no one had the strength to subdue him.

5:5 Night and day in the tombs and in the mountains, he kept crying out and cutting himself with stones.

5:6 When [the man] saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees before Him.

5:7 And he shouted in a loud voice, “What do You [want] with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God not to torture me!”

5:8 For [Jesus] had already declared, “Come out of [this] man, {you} unclean spirit!”

5:9 “What [is] your name?” [Jesus] asked. “My name [is] Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

5:10 And he begged [Jesus] repeatedly not to send them out of [that] region.

5:11 There on the nearby hillside a large herd of pigs was feeding.

5:12 [So] [the demons] begged [Jesus], “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.”

5:13 He gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out [and] went into the pigs, and the herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the [water].

5:14 Those tending [the pigs] ran off and reported [this] in the town and countryside, and [the people] went out to see what had happened.

5:15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the [man] who had been possessed by the legion {of demons} sitting [there], clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

5:16 Those who had seen [it] described what had happened to the demon-possessed man and [also to] the pigs.

5:17 And [the people] began to plead with [Jesus] to leave their region.

5:18 As He was getting into the boat, the [man] who had been possessed by the demons begged to go with Him.

5:19 But [Jesus] would not allow him. “Go home to your own [people],” He said, “and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy He has shown you.”

5:20 [So] [the man] went away and began to proclaim throughout the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

5:21 When Jesus had again crossed by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him beside the sea.

5:22 A synagogue leader named Jairus arrived, and seeing [Jesus], he fell at His feet

5:23 and pleaded with Him urgently, “My little daughter is near death. [Please] come [and] place [Your] hands on her, so that she will be healed and live.”

5:24 So [Jesus] went with him, and a large crowd followed and pressed around Him.

5:25 And a woman was there who had been afflicted for twelve years by an issue of bleeding.

5:26 She had suffered greatly under the care of many physicians and had spent all she had, but to no avail. Instead, [her condition] had only grown worse.

5:27 When [the woman] heard about Jesus, she came up through the crowd behind [Him] [and] touched His cloak.

5:28 For she kept saying, “If I only touch His clothes, I will be healed.”

5:29 At that instant, her bleeding stopped, and she sensed in [her] body that she was healed of [her] affliction.

5:30 At once Jesus was aware [that] power had gone out from Him. Turning to the crowd, He asked, “Who touched My clothes?”

5:31 His disciples answered, “You can see the crowd pressing in on You, and yet You ask, ‘Who touched Me?’”

5:32 But He kept looking around to see who had done this.

5:33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him trembling in fear, and she told Him the whole truth.

5:34 “Daughter,” said [Jesus], “your faith has healed you; go in peace and be free of your affliction.”

5:35 While He was still speaking, [ messengers ] from [the house of Jairus] arrived [and] said, “Your daughter is dead; why bother the Teacher anymore?”

5:36 But Jesus overheard their conversation and said to [Jairus], “{Do} not be afraid; just believe.”

5:37 And He did not allow anyone to accompany Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

5:38 When they arrived at the house of [Jairus], [Jesus] saw [the] commotion and [the people] weeping and wailing loudly.

5:39 He went inside [and] asked, “Why all this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead, but asleep.”

5:40 And they laughed at Him. [After] He had sent them all out, He took the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and went in [to see] the child.

5:41 Taking [her] by the hand, [Jesus] said, “Talitha koum!” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”

5:42 Immediately the girl got up and began to walk around. She was twelve years old, and at once they were overcome with astonishment.

5:43 Then [Jesus] gave strict orders that no one should know about this, and He told [them] to give her [something] to eat.

5:44

6:1 [Jesus] went on from there and came to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples.

6:2 [When] [the] Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard [Him] were astonished. “Where [did] this [man get] these [ideas]?” they asked. “What [is] [this] wisdom He has been given? And [how can] He perform such miracles?

6:3 Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary and [the] brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren’t His sisters here with us as well?� And they took offense at Him.

6:4 Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is without honor only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his [own] household.”

6:5 [So] He could not perform [any] miracles there, except to lay [His] hands on a few of the sick [and] heal [them].

6:6 And amazed at their unbelief, He went around teaching from village to village.

6:7 Then [Jesus] called the Twelve {to Him} and began to send them out two [by] two, giving them authority over unclean spirits.

6:8 He instructed them to take nothing but a staff for [the] journey— no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—

6:9 [and] to wear sandals, [but] not a second tunic.

6:10 And He told them, “When you enter a house, stay there until you leave [that town].

6:11 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that place, as a testimony against them.”

6:12 [So] they went out [and] preached that [the people] should repent.

6:13 They also drove out many demons and healed many of the sick, anointing [them] with oil.

6:14 Now King Herod heard about this, for [Jesus’] name had become well known, and [people] were saying, “John the Baptist has risen from [the] dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.�

6:15 Others said, “He is Elijah,” and still others, “[He is] a prophet, like one of the prophets [of old].”

6:16 But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised [from the dead]!”

6:17 For Herod himself had ordered that John be arrested and bound [and] imprisoned, on account of his brother Philip’s wife Herodias, [whom] [Herod] had married.

6:18 For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife!”

6:19 So Herodias held a grudge against [John] and wanted to kill him. But she had been unable,

6:20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing he [was] a righteous and holy man. When he heard [John’s words], he was greatly perplexed; yet he listened to him gladly.

6:21 On [Herod’s] birthday, [her] opportunity arose. Herod held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, as well as the leading [men] of Galilee.

6:22 [When] the daughter of Herodias came and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give [it] to you.�

6:23 And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask of me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom!”

6:24 Then she went out [and] said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” And [Herodias] answered, “The head of John the Baptist.”

6:25 At once [the girl] hurried back to the king with her request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter immediately.”

6:26 The king was overwhelmed with sorrow, but because of [his] oaths and his guests, he did not want to refuse her.

6:27 So without delay, the king commanded that John’s head be brought in. He sent an executioner who went [and] beheaded him in the prison.

6:28 [The man] brought [John’s] head on a platter and presented it to the girl, [who] gave it to her mother.

6:29 When [John’s] disciples heard about [this], they came and took his body and laid it in [a] tomb.

6:30 Meanwhile, the apostles gathered around Jesus and brought Him news of all they had done and taught.

6:31 And He said to them, “Come with Me privately to [a] solitary place, and let us rest for a while.” For many [people] were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

6:32 So they went away in a boat by themselves to a solitary place.

6:33 But many [people] saw them leaving and recognized [them]. They ran together on foot from all the towns and arrived before them.

6:34 When [Jesus] stepped ashore [and] saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.

6:35 By now the hour was already late. [So] the disciples came to [Jesus] [and] said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour [is] already late.

6:36 Dismiss [the crowd] so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages [and] buy themselves something to eat.”

6:37 But [Jesus] told them, “You give them [something] to eat.” They asked Him, “Should we go out [and] spend two hundred denarii to give all of them bread to eat?”

6:38 “Go [and] see how many loaves you have,” He told them. And after checking they said, “Five, and two fish.”

6:39 Then [Jesus] directed them to have [the people] sit in groups on the green grass.

6:40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

6:41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish [and] looking up to heaven, [Jesus] spoke a blessing and broke the loaves. Then He gave [them] to His disciples to set before [the people]. And He divided the two fish among them all.

6:42 {They} all ate and were satisfied,

6:43 and [the disciples] picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

6:44 And there were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

6:45 Immediately [Jesus] made His disciples get into the boat and cross over ahead of [Him] to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd.

6:46 After bidding them farewell, He went up on the mountain to pray.

6:47 When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and [Jesus was] alone on land.

6:48 He could see that [the disciples] were straining to row, because the wind was against them. About [the] fourth watch of the night, [Jesus] went out to them, walking on the sea. He intended to pass by them,

6:49 but when they saw Him walking on the sea, they cried out, thinking [He] was a ghost—

6:50 for they all saw Him and were terrified. But [Jesus] spoke up at once: “Take courage! [It] is I. {Do} not be afraid.”

6:51 Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. And [the disciples were] utterly astounded,

6:52 for they had not understood about the loaves, but their hearts had been hardened.

6:53 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret, [where] they moored the boat.

6:54 As soon as they got out of the boat, [the people] recognized [Jesus]

6:55 [and] ran through that whole region, carrying the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was.

6:56 And wherever He went— villages [and] towns [and] countrysides— they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him to let them just touch the fringe of His cloak. And all who touched Him were healed.

6:57

7:1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus],

7:2 and they saw some of His disciples eating [with] hands [that were] defiled— that is, unwashed.

7:3 Now in holding to the tradition of the elders, the Pharisees and all the Jews {do} not eat until they wash [their] hands ceremonially.

7:4 And [on returning] from the market, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions for them to observe, [including] the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and couches for dining.

7:5 So the Pharisees and scribes questioned [Jesus]: “Why {do} Your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders? Instead, they eat with defiled hands.�

7:6 Jesus answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘These people honor Me with [their] lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

7:7 They worship Me in vain; they teach [as] doctrine [the] precepts of men.’

7:8 You have disregarded the commandment of God to keep the tradition of men.”

7:9 He went on to say, “You neatly set aside the commandment of God to maintain your [own] tradition.

7:10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever curses [his] father or mother must be put to death.’

7:11 But you say that if a man says to [his] father or mother, ‘Whatever you would have received from me [is] Corban’ (that is, a gift committed to God),

7:12 he [is] no longer permitted to do anything for his father or mother.

7:13 [Thus] you nullify the word of God by [the] tradition you have handed down. And you do so in many such [matters].”

7:14 Once again [Jesus] called the crowd [to Him] [and] said, “All of you, listen to Me and understand:

7:15 Nothing that enters a man from the outside can defile him; but the things that come out of a man, these are what defile [him].”

7:16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.

7:17 After [Jesus] had left the crowd [and gone] into [the] house, His disciples inquired about the parable.

7:18 “Are you still so dull?” He asked. “Do you not understand? Nothing that enters a man from the outside can defile him,

7:19 because it does not enter his heart, but [it goes] into the stomach and then is eliminated.” ([Thus] all foods are clean.)

7:20 He continued: “What comes out of a man, that [is what] defiles [him].

7:21 For from within the hearts of men come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

7:22 greed, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, arrogance, [and] foolishness.

7:23 All these evils come from within, and [these are what] defile a man.”

7:24 [Jesus] left that place [and] went to the region of Tyre. Not wanting anyone to know [He was there], He entered [a] house, but was unable to escape their notice.

7:25 Instead, a woman whose little daughter had [an] unclean spirit soon heard about Jesus, [and] she came [and] fell at His feet.

7:26 Now she was a Greek woman of Syrophoenician origin, and she kept asking [Jesus] to drive the demon out of her daughter.

7:27 “First let the children have their fill,” He said. “For it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss [it] to the dogs.”

7:28 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

7:29 Then [Jesus] told her, “Because of this answer, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.”

7:30 And she went home [and] found [her] child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

7:31 Then [Jesus] left the region of Tyre [and] went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee [and] into the region of [the] Decapolis.

7:32 [Some people] brought to Him a man who was deaf and hardly able to speak, and they begged [Jesus] to place [His] hand on him.

7:33 [So] [Jesus] took him aside privately, away from the crowd, [and] put His fingers into [the man’s] ears. Then He spit [and] touched [the man’s] tongue.

7:34 And looking up to heaven, He sighed deeply and said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means, “Be opened!”).

7:35 Immediately [the man’s] ears were opened and his tongue was released, and he began to speak plainly.

7:36 [Jesus] ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more He ordered them, the more widely they proclaimed [it].

7:37 [The people] were utterly astonished [and] said, “He has done all things well! He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak!”

7:38

8:1 In those days [the] crowd once again became very large, and they had nothing to eat. [Jesus] called the disciples {to Him} [and] said,

8:2 “I have compassion for [these] people, because they have already been with Me three days and have nothing to eat.

8:3 If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a great distance.”

8:4 His disciples replied, “Where in this desolate place could anyone [find enough] bread to feed all these [people]?”

8:5 “How many loaves do you have?” [Jesus] asked. “Seven,” they replied.

8:6 And He directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves, gave thanks [and] broke [them], and gave [them] to His disciples to set before [the people]. And they distributed [them] to the crowd.

8:7 They also had a few small fish, and [Jesus] blessed them [and] ordered that these be set before [them] as well.

8:8 [The people] ate and were satisfied, and [the disciples] picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

8:9 And about four thousand were [ fed ]. As soon as [Jesus] had dismissed [the crowd],

8:10 He got into the boat with His disciples [and] went to the district of Dalmanutha.

8:11 Then the Pharisees came and began to argue with [Jesus]. They tested Him [by] demanding from Him a sign from heaven.

8:12 [Jesus] sighed deeply in His spirit [and] said, “Why {does] this generation demand a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.”

8:13 Then He left them, got back into the boat, [and] crossed to the other side.

8:14 Now [the disciples] had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

8:15 “Watch out!” He cautioned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.”

8:16 [So] they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.

8:17 Aware of [their conversation], [Jesus] asked them, “Why are you debating about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Do you have such hard hearts?

8:18 ‘Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?’ And do you not remember?

8:19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?” “Twelve,” they answered.

8:20 “And when [I broke] the seven [loaves] for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces did you collect?” “Seven,” they said.

8:21 Then He asked them, “Do you still not understand?”

8:22 [When] they arrived at Bethsaida, [some people] brought a blind [man] and begged [Jesus] to touch him.

8:23 So He took the blind [man] by the hand [and] led him out of the village. Then He spit on [the man’s] eyes [and] placed [His] hands on him. “Can you see anything?� He asked.

8:24 [The man] looked up [and] said, “I can see the people, [but] they look like trees walking around.”

8:25 Once again [Jesus] placed [His] hands on [the man’s] eyes, and when he opened them [his sight] was restored, and he could see everything clearly.

8:26 [Jesus] sent him home [and] said, “Do not go back into the village.”

8:27 Then Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He questioned His disciples: “Who {do} people say I am?�

8:28 They answered, “[Some say] John the Baptist; others [say] Elijah; and still others [say You are] one of the prophets.”

8:29 “But who {do} you say I am?” He asked. Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

8:30 And [Jesus] warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

8:31 Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and [that] He must be killed and after three days rise [again].

8:32 He spoke [this] message quite frankly, and Peter took Him aside [and] began to rebuke Him.

8:33 Turning and looking at His disciples, [Jesus] rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.�

8:34 Then [Jesus] called the crowd {to Him} along with His disciples, [and] He told them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

8:35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it.

8:36 What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

8:37 Or what {can} a man give in exchange for his soul?

8:38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father�s glory with the holy angels.�

8:39

9:1 Then [Jesus] said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God arrive with power.�

9:2 After six days, Jesus took with [Him] Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain [by] themselves. [There] He was transfigured before them.

9:3 His clothes became radiantly white, [brighter than] [any] launderer on earth could bleach them.

9:4 And Elijah [and] Moses appeared before them, talking with Jesus.

9:5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

9:6 For they were all so terrified that [Peter] did not know what else to say.

9:7 Then a cloud appeared [and] enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!”

9:8 Suddenly, [when] they looked around, they saw no one with them except Jesus.

9:9 [As] they were coming down the mountain, [Jesus] admonished them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from [the] dead.

9:10 [So] they kept this matter to themselves, discussing what it meant to rise from [the] dead.

9:11 And they asked [Jesus], “{Why do} the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

9:12 He replied, “Elijah {does} indeed come first, [and] he restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected?

9:13 But I tell you that Elijah has indeed come, and they have done to him whatever they wished, just as it is written about him.”

9:14 [When] they returned to the [other] disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them.

9:15 As soon as all the people saw [Jesus], they were filled with awe and ran to greet Him.

9:16 “What are you disputing with them?” He asked.

9:17 Someone in the crowd replied, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a spirit [that makes him] mute.

9:18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable.”

9:19 “O unbelieving generation!” [Jesus] replied. “How long must I remain with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring [the boy] to Me.”

9:20 So they brought him, and seeing [Jesus], the spirit immediately threw [the boy] into a convulsion. He fell to the ground [and] rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

9:21 [Jesus] asked [the boy’s] father, “How long {has} this been with him?” “From childhood,” he said.

9:22 “It often throws him into [the] fire [or] into [the] water, trying to kill him. But if You can [do] anything, have compassion on us [and] help us.”

9:23 “If You can?” echoed Jesus. “All things are possible to him who believes!”

9:24 Immediately the boy’s father cried out, “I do believe; help my unbelief!”

9:25 When Jesus saw that a crowd had come running, He rebuked the unclean spirit. “[You] deaf and mute spirit,” He said, “I command you to come out and never enter him {again}.”

9:26 After shrieking and convulsing him violently, [the spirit] came out. [The boy] became like a corpse, so that many said, “He is dead.”

9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand [and] helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

9:28 After [Jesus] had gone into [the] house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

9:29 [Jesus] answered, “This kind cannot come out, except by prayer.”

9:30 Going on from there, they passed through Galilee. But [Jesus] did not want anyone to know,

9:31 because He was teaching His disciples. He told them, “The Son of Man will be delivered into [the] hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days He will rise.”

9:32 But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

9:33 Then they came to Capernaum. While [Jesus] was in the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?”

9:34 But they were silent, for on the way they had been arguing with each other which [of them was] [the] greatest.

9:35 Sitting down, [Jesus] called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be [the] last of all and [the] servant of all.”

9:36 Then He had a little child {stand} among them. Taking [the child] in His arms, He said to them,

9:37 “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the [One] who sent Me.�

9:38 John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone else driving out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not accompany us.”

9:39 But Jesus replied, “{Do} not stop him. No one who performs a miracle in My name can turn around and speak evil of Me.

9:40 For whoever is not against us is for us.

9:41 Indeed, if anyone gives you [even] a cup of water because you bear the name of Christ, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.

9:42 Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me {to stumble}, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea.

9:43 If your hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two hands [and] go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.

9:44 where their worm {does} not die, and the fire is not quenched.

9:45 If your foot causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet [and] be thrown into hell.

9:46 where their worm {does} not die, and the fire is not quenched.

9:47 And if your eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes [and] be thrown into hell,

9:48 where ‘their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.’

9:49 For everyone will be salted with fire.

9:50 Salt [is] good, but if [it] loses its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

9:51

10:1 Then Jesus left that place [and] went into the region of Judea, beyond the Jordan. Again [the] crowds came to Him and He taught them, as was His custom.

10:2 [Some] Pharisees came to test Him. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” they inquired.

10:3 “What {did} Moses command you?” He replied.

10:4 They answered, “Moses permitted [a man] to write [his wife] a certificate of divorce and send [her] away.”

10:5 But Jesus told them, “[Moses] wrote this commandment for you because your hearts were hard.

10:6 However, from [the] beginning of creation, ‘[God] made them male and female.’

10:7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

10:8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

10:9 Therefore what God has joined together, {let} man not separate.”

10:10 When [they were] back inside the house, the disciples asked [Jesus] about this matter.

10:11 [So] He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another [woman] commits adultery against her.

10:12 And if a woman divorces her husband [and] marries another [man], she commits adultery.”

10:13 [People] were bringing [the] little children to [Jesus] for Him to place His hands on them. But the disciples rebuked [those who brought them].

10:14 [When] Jesus saw this, He was indignant and told them, “Let the little children come to Me, [and] {do} not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such [as these].

10:15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

10:16 And He took [the children] in His arms, placed [His] hands on them, [and] blessed them.

10:17 As [Jesus] started on His way, [a man] ran up and knelt before Him. “Good Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

10:18 “Why do you call Me good?” Jesus replied. “No one [is] good except God alone.

10:19 You know the commandments: ‘{Do} not murder, {do} not commit adultery, {do} not steal, {do} not bear false witness, {do} not defraud, [and] honor your father and mother.’”

10:20 “Teacher,” he replied, “I have kept all these from my youth.”

10:21 Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, “[There is] one thing you lack: Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.�

10:22 But [the man] was saddened by [these] words [and] went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth.

10:23 Then Jesus looked around [and] said to His disciples, “How hard {it is} for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

10:24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

10:25 It is easier [for] a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than [for] a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

10:26 They were even more astonished [and] said to one another, “Who then can be saved?”

10:27 Jesus looked at them [and] said, “With man [this is] impossible, but not with God. For all things [are] possible with God.”

10:28 Peter began to say to Him, “Look, we have left everything and followed You.”

10:29 “Truly I tell you,” said Jesus, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for My sake and for the gospel

10:30 will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age— houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions— and [to receive] eternal life in the age to come.

10:31 But many [who are] first will be last, and the last [will be] first.”

10:32 [As] they were going up the road to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking ahead of them. [The disciples] were filled with awe, but those who followed were afraid. Again [Jesus] took the Twelve {aside} [and] began to tell them what was going to happen to Him:

10:33 “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the Gentiles,

10:34 [who] will mock Him and spit on Him and flog [Him] and kill Him. And after three days He will rise again.”

10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to [Jesus] [and] declared, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

10:36 “What is it you want Me to do for you?” He inquired.

10:37 They answered, “Grant that one of [us] may sit at Your right hand and [the other] at Your left in Your glory.”

10:38 “You do not know what you are asking,” Jesus replied. “Can you drink the cup I will drink, [or] be baptized [with] the baptism [I will undergo]?”

10:39 “We can,” they answered. “You will drink the cup that I drink,” Jesus said, “and you will be baptized [with] the baptism [I undergo].

10:40 But to sit at My right or [My] left is not Mine to grant. [These places belong] to those for whom they have been prepared.”

10:41 On hearing [this], the ten became indignant with James and John.

10:42 So Jesus called them together [and] said, “You know that those regarded as rulers of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them.

10:43 But it shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

10:44 and whoever wants to be first must be [the] slave of all.

10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life [as] a ransom for many.”

10:46 Next, they came to Jericho. And as [Jesus] and His disciples were leaving Jericho with a large crowd, a blind beggar [named] Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.

10:47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

10:48 Many [people] admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

10:49 Jesus stopped [and] said, “Call him.” So they called the blind [man]. “Take courage!” they said. “Get up! He is calling for you.”

10:50 Throwing off his cloak, [Bartimaeus] jumped up [and] came to Jesus.

10:51 “What do you want Me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “Rabboni,” said the blind [man], “I want to see again.”

10:52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” And immediately he received his sight and followed [Jesus] along the road.

10:53

11:1 As they approached Jerusalem [and came] to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of His disciples

11:2 and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied [there], on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring [it to Me].

11:3 If anyone asks, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell [him], ‘The Lord needs it and will return it shortly.’”

11:4 [So] they went and found [the] colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. They untied it,

11:5 and some who were standing there asked, “Why are you untying the colt?”

11:6 [The disciples] answered as Jesus had instructed [them], and [the people] gave them permission.

11:7 They led the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, and He sat on it.

11:8 Many [ in the crowd ] spread their cloaks on the road, while others [spread] branches they had cut from the fields.

11:9 The [ones who] went ahead and those who followed were shouting: “Hosanna!” “Blessed is He [who] comes in [the] name of [the] Lord!”

11:10 “Blessed [is] the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

11:11 Then [Jesus] entered Jerusalem [and went] into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, [but since] [it] was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

11:12 The next day, [when] they had left Bethany, [Jesus] was hungry.

11:13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if there was any [fruit] on it. But when He reached it, He found nothing [on it] except leaves, since it was not the season for figs.

11:14 Then He said to [the tree], “{May} no one ever eat of your fruit {again}.” And His disciples heard [this statement].

11:15 When they arrived in Jerusalem, [Jesus] entered the temple courts [and] began to drive out those who were buying and selling [there]. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves.

11:16 And He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

11:17 Then He began to teach them and declare, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

11:18 When the chief priests and scribes heard [this], they looked for a way to kill Him. For they were afraid of Him, because the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

11:19 And when evening came, [Jesus and His disciples] went out of the city.

11:20 [As] they were walking back in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from [its] roots.

11:21 Peter remembered [it] [and] said, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree You cursed has withered.”

11:22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus said to them.

11:23 “Truly I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and has no doubt in his heart but believes that [it] will happen, it will be done for him.

11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received [it], and [it] will be yours.

11:25 And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything against [another], forgive [it], so that your Father in heaven will forgive your trespasses as well.”

11:26 But if you {do} not forgive, neither Father {will} your who [is] in heaven forgive your trespasses.

11:27 After their return to Jerusalem, [Jesus] was walking in the temple courts, [and] the chief priests, scribes, and elders came up to Him.

11:28 “By what authority are You doing these things?” they asked. “[And] who gave You the authority to do [them]?”

11:29 “I will ask you one question,” Jesus replied, “and [if] you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

11:30 The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me!”

11:31 They deliberated among themselves what they should answer: “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

11:32 But if we say, ‘From men’...” they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John truly was a prophet.

11:33 So they answered [Him], “We do not know.” And Jesus replied, “Neither {will} I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

11:34

12:1 Then [Jesus] began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall {around it}, dug a wine vat, and built a watchtower. Then he rented it out to [some] tenants and went away on a journey.

12:2 At harvest time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect [his share] of the fruit of the vineyard.

12:3 But they seized [the servant], beat [him], and sent [him] away empty-handed.

12:4 Then he sent them another servant, and they struck {him} over the head and treated [him] shamefully.

12:5 He sent still another, and this one they killed. [He sent] many others; some they beat and [others] they killed.

12:6 Finally, having one beloved son, he sent him to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

12:7 But [the] tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’

12:8 So they seized [the son], killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

12:9 What then {will} the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill [those] tenants and give the vineyard to others.

12:10 Have you never read this Scripture: ‘[The] stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

12:11 This is from [the] Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

12:12 At this, [the leaders] sought to arrest [Jesus], for they knew that He had spoken [this] parable against them. But fearing the crowd, they left Him [and] went away.

12:13 Later, they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to catch [Jesus] in [His] words.

12:14 “Teacher,” they said, “we know that You are honest and are swayed by no one. Indeed, You are impartial [and] teach the way of God in accordance with [the] truth. [ Now then, ] is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay [them] or not?”

12:15 But [Jesus] saw through their hypocrisy [and] said, “Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to inspect.”

12:16 [So] they brought [it], and He asked them, “Whose likeness [is] this? And [whose] inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they answered.

12:17 Then Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” And they marveled at Him.

12:18 Then [some] Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came and questioned Him:

12:19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, [the man] should marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.

12:20 [Now] there were seven brothers. The first [one] married and died, leaving no children.

12:21 Then the second [one] married [the widow], [but] he also died [and] left no children. And the third [did] likewise.

12:22 In this way, none of the seven left [any] children. And last of all, the woman died.

12:23 In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For [all] seven were married to her.”

12:24 Jesus said to them, “Aren’t you mistaken because you do not know the Scriptures [or] the power of God?

12:25 When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like [the] angels in heaven.

12:26 And regarding the dead rising, have you not read about the [burning] bush in the book of Moses, how God told him, ‘I [am] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob�?

12:27 He is not [the] God of [the] dead, but of [the] living. You are badly mistaken!”

12:28 Now one of the scribes had come up and heard their debate. Noticing how well [Jesus] had answered them, he asked Him, “Which commandment is [the] most important of all?”

12:29 Jesus replied, “This is the most important: ‘Hear O Israel, [the] Lord our God is One Lord,

12:30 and you shall love [the] Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.�

12:31 [The] second [is] this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

12:32 “Right, Teacher,” the scribe replied. “You have stated correctly that [God] is One and there is no other but Him,

12:33 and to love Him with all [your] heart and with all [your] understanding and with all [your] strength, and to love [your] neighbor as yourself, which is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.�

12:34 When Jesus saw that [the man] had answered wisely, He said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question Him [any] further.

12:35 While [Jesus] was teaching in the temple courts, [He] asked, “How {can} the scribes say that the Christ is [the] son of David?

12:36 Speaking by the Holy Spirit, David himself declared: ‘[The] Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.��

12:37 David himself calls Him Lord. So how can He be [David’s] son?” And the large crowd listened to Him with delight.

12:38 In His teaching [Jesus] also said, “Watch out for the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, [to receive] greetings in the marketplaces,

12:39 and [to have] the chief seats in the synagogues and [the] places of honor at banquets.

12:40 They defraud widows [of their] houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. These [men] will receive greater condemnation.”

12:41 As [Jesus] was sitting opposite the treasury, He watched the crowd placing money into [it]. And many rich [people] put in large amounts.

12:42 Then one poor widow came [and] put [in] two small copper coins, which amounted to a small fraction of a denarius.

12:43 [Jesus] called His disciples {to Him} [and] said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more than all the [others] into the treasury.

12:44 For they all contributed out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put [in] all she had to live on.”

12:45

13:1 As [Jesus] was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, look at [the magnificent] stones and buildings!”

13:2 “Do you see [all] these great buildings?” Jesus replied. “Not [one] stone here will be left on [another]; [every one] will be toppled.”

13:3 While [Jesus] was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

13:4 “Tell us, when {will} all these things happen? And what [will be] the sign that [they] are about to be fulfilled?”

13:5 Jesus began by telling them, “See to it [that] [no one] deceives you.

13:6 Many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am [He],’ and will deceive many.

13:7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, {do} not be alarmed. [ These things ] must happen, but the end [is] still to come.

13:8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, [as well as] famines. These [are] [the] beginning of birth pains.

13:9 [So] be on your guard. You will be handed over to [the] councils and beaten in [the] synagogues. On My account, you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.

13:10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations.

13:11 But when they arrest you [and] hand [you] over, {do} not worry beforehand what to say. Instead, speak whatever you are given at that time, for it will not be you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

13:12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father [his] child. Children will rise against [their] parents and have them put to death.

13:13 You will be hated by everyone on account of My name, but the [one who] perseveres to [the] end will be saved.

13:14 So when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be ({let} the reader understand), then {let} those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

13:15 {Let} [no one] on the housetop go back inside to retrieve anything from his house.

13:16 And {let} [no one] in the field return for his cloak.

13:17 [How] miserable those days [will be] for pregnant and nursing [mothers]!

13:18 Pray that it will not occur in the winter.

13:19 For [in] those days there will be tribulation unmatched from [the] beginning of God’s creation until now, and never to be seen again.

13:20 If [the] Lord had not shortened those days, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has shortened [them].

13:21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here [is] the Christ!’ [or] ‘There [He is]!’ do not believe [it].

13:22 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders that would deceive [even] the elect, if [that were] possible.

13:23 [So] be on your guard; I have told you everything {in advance}.

13:24 However, after the tribulation of those days, ‘The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

13:25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’

13:26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in [the] clouds with great power and glory.

13:27 And He will send out the angels to gather His elect from the four winds, from [the] ends of [the] earth to [the] ends of heaven.

13:28 Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near.

13:29 In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that He is near, right at [the] door.

13:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened.

13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

13:32 But as for that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

13:33 Be on your guard [and] stay alert! For you do not know when the appointed time will come.

13:34 [It is] like a man going on a journey [who] left his house, put each servant in charge of his [own] task, and instructed the doorkeeper to keep watch.

13:35 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the master of the house will return— whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning.

13:36 Otherwise, he may arrive without notice [and] find you sleeping.

13:37 And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

13:38

14:1 Now the Passover and the [Feast of] Unleavened Bread were two days away, and the chief priests and scribes were looking for [a] covert way to arrest [Jesus] [and] kill [Him].

14:2 “[But] not during the feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

14:3 While [Jesus] was in Bethany reclining at the table in the home of Simon the leper, a woman came [with] an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke open the jar [and] poured [it] on [Jesus�] head.

14:4 But some [of] those present expressed their indignation to one another: “Why this waste of perfume?

14:5 [It] could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and [the money] given to the poor.” And they scolded her.

14:6 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone; why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful deed to Me.

14:7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them whenever you want. But {you will} not always have Me.

14:8 She has done what she could to anoint My body in advance of [My] burial.

14:9 And truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached in all the world, what [she] has done will also be told in memory of her.”

14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray [Jesus] to them.

14:11 They were delighted to hear [this], and they promised to give him money. So [Judas] began to look for an opportunity to hand Him over.

14:12 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened [Bread], when the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed, [Jesus’] disciples asked Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

14:13 So He sent two of His disciples and told them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him,

14:14 and whichever {house} he enters, say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’

14:15 And he will show you a large upper room, furnished [and] ready. Make preparations for us there.”

14:16 So the disciples left and went into the city, [where] they found [everything] as [Jesus] had described. And they prepared the Passover.

14:17 When evening came, [Jesus] arrived with the Twelve.

14:18 And while they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you who is eating with Me will betray Me.”

14:19 They began to be sorrowful and to ask Him one by one, “Surely not I?”

14:20 He answered “[It is] one of the Twelve— the [one who] is dipping [ his bread ] into the bowl with Me.

14:21 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom [He] is betrayed! [It would be] better for him if [he] had not been born.�

14:22 While they were eating, [Jesus] took bread, spoke a blessing [and] broke it, and gave [it] to them, saying, “Take [it]; this is My body.”

14:23 Then He took the cup, gave thanks, [and] gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

14:24 He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

14:25 Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of [this] fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

14:26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

14:27 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

14:28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

14:29 Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I never [will].”

14:30 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “this very night before [the] rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

14:31 But [Peter] kept insisting, “Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You.” And all the others said the same.

14:32 Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, and [Jesus] told His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

14:33 He took with Him Peter, James, and John, and began to be deeply troubled and distressed.

14:34 And He told them, “My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

14:35 Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour would pass from Him.

14:36 “Abba, Father,” He said, “all things [are] possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You [will].”

14:37 Then [Jesus] returned and found them sleeping. “Simon, are you asleep?” He asked, “Were you not able to keep watch for one hour?

14:38 Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit [is] willing, but the body [is] weak.”

14:39 Again He went away [and] prayed, saying the same thing.

14:40 And again He returned [and] found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And they did not know what to answer Him.

14:41 [When] [Jesus] returned the third time, He said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? That is enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

14:42 Rise, let us go. See, My betrayer is approaching!”

14:43 While [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, [accompanied by] a crowd [armed] with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, scribes, and elders.

14:44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The One I kiss is [the man]; arrest Him and lead [Him] away securely.”

14:45 Going directly to [Jesus], he said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

14:46 Then [the men] seized [Jesus] and arrested Him.

14:47 And one of the bystanders drew [his] sword [and] struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

14:48 Jesus asked [the crowd], “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as [you would] an outlaw?

14:49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest Me. But [this has happened] that the Scriptures would be fulfilled.”

14:50 Then all [His disciples] deserted Him [and] fled.

14:51 One young man who had been following [Jesus] was wearing a linen cloth around [his body]. They caught hold of him,

14:52 but he pulled free of the linen cloth and ran away naked.

14:53 They led Jesus {away} to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and scribes assembled.

14:54 Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the officers to warm himself by the fire.

14:55 Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they did not find [any].

14:56 For many bore false witness against [Jesus], but their testimony was inconsistent.

14:57 Then some [men] stood up [and] testified falsely against Him:

14:58 “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple, and in three days I will build another [that is] made without hands.’”

14:59 But even their testimony was inconsistent.

14:60 [So] the high priest stood up before them [and] questioned Jesus, “Have You no answer? What [is it] these [men] are testifying against You?”

14:61 But [Jesus] remained silent and made no reply. Again the high priest questioned Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed [One]?”

14:62 “I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see the Son of Man sitting at [the] right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

14:63 At this, the high priest tore his clothes [and] declared, “Why do we need any more witnesses?

14:64 You have heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?” And they all condemned Him as deserving of death.

14:65 Then some [of them] began to spit on Him. They blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said to Him, “Prophesy!” And the officers received Him with slaps in His face.

14:66 While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the high priest’s servant girls came down

14:67 and saw [him] warming himself [there]. She looked at [Peter] [and] said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.”

14:68 But he denied [it]. “I do not know or even understand what you are talking about,” he said. Then he went out to the gateway, and the rooster crowed.

14:69 [There] the servant girl saw him [and] again said to those standing nearby, “This [man] is [one] of them.”

14:70 But he denied [it] again. After a little while, those standing nearby said once more to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you too are a Galilean.”

14:71 But he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak!”

14:72 And just then, [the] rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before [the] rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he broke down [and] wept.

14:73

15:1 Early in the morning, the chief priests, elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin devised a plan. They bound Jesus, led [Him] away, and handed [Him] over to Pilate.

15:2 So Pilate questioned Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” “You have said so,” [Jesus] replied.

15:3 And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many things.

15:4 Then Pilate questioned Him again, “Do You not answer? Look how many charges they are bringing against You!”

15:5 But to Pilate’s amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

15:6 Now {it was Pilate’s custom} at [the] feast to release to [the people] a prisoner of their choosing.

15:7 And [a man] named Barabbas was imprisoned with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

15:8 [So] the crowd went up [and] began asking [Pilate] to keep his custom.

15:9 “Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

15:10 For he knew [it was] out of envy that the chief priests had handed [Jesus] over.

15:11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

15:12 [So] Pilate asked them again, “What then do you want me to do with the [One] you call the King of the Jews?”

15:13 And they shouted back, “Crucify Him!”

15:14 “Why?” asked Pilate. “What has He done wrong?” But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify Him!”

15:15 And wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. But {he had} Jesus flogged, [and] handed Him over to be crucified.

15:16 Then the soldiers led [Jesus] away into the palace (that is, [the] Praetorium) and called the whole company {together}.

15:17 They dressed Him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, [and] set [it] on His [head].

15:18 And they began to salute Him: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

15:19 They kept striking His head with a staff and spitting on Him. And they knelt down [and] bowed before Him.

15:20 After they had mocked Him, they removed the purple [robe] and put His own clothes [back] on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

15:21 [Now] Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and [the soldiers] forced [him] to carry the cross of [Jesus].

15:22 They brought [Jesus] to a place [called] Golgotha, which means [The] Place of the Skull.

15:23 There they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take [it].

15:24 And they crucified Him. They also divided His garments by casting lots to decide what [each of them] would take.

15:25 It was [the] third hour when they crucified Him.

15:26 And the charge inscribed against Him read: The King of the Jews.

15:27 [Along] with [Jesus], they crucified two robbers, one on [His] right and one on His left.

15:28 And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, and he was reckoned with [the] lawless.

15:29 Those who passed by heaped abuse on Him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild [it] in three days,

15:30 come down from the cross [and] save Yourself!”

15:31 In the same way, the chief priests and scribes mocked [Him] among themselves, saying, “He [who] saved others cannot [even] save Himself!

15:32 {Let} the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” And even those who were crucified with Him berated Him.

15:33 From [the] sixth hour until [the] ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

15:34 At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

15:35 When some of those standing nearby heard [this], they said, “Look, He is calling Elijah.”

15:36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with vinegar. He put [it] on a stick [and] offered it to [Jesus] to drink. “Wait!” he said. “Let us see if Elijah comes to take Him down.”

15:37 But Jesus let out a loud cry [and] breathed His last.

15:38 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

15:39 When the centurion standing there in front of [Jesus] saw [how] He had breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was [the] Son of God!”

15:40 And there were also women watching from a distance. Among them [were] Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

15:41 [These women] had followed [Jesus] and ministered to Him while He was in Galilee, and [there were] many other [women] who had come up to Jerusalem with Him.

15:42 Now it was already evening. Since it was Preparation Day (that is, [the day] before the Sabbath),

15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, [a] prominent Council member who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.

15:44 Pilate was surprised [to hear] that [Jesus] was already dead, so he summoned the centurion to ask if [this was so].

15:45 When [Pilate] had confirmed [it] with the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

15:46 [Joseph] bought a linen cloth, took down [the body of Jesus], wrapped [it] in the cloth, and laid [it] in a tomb that had been cut out of [the] rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

15:47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the [mother] of Joseph saw where [His body] was laid.

15:48

16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go [and] anoint [Jesus’ body].

16:2 Very early on the first [day] of the week, just after sunrise, they went to the tomb.

16:3 They were asking one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?”

16:4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, even though it was extremely large.

16:5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

16:6 But he said to them, “{Do} not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here! See the place where they laid Him.

16:7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.’”

16:8 So they left the tomb and ran away, overwhelmed with shock and amazement. And in their fear they did not say [a word to anyone].

16:9 After [Jesus] had risen, early [on the] first [day] of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had driven out seven demons.

16:10 She went [and] told those who had been with Him, who were [now] mourning and weeping.

16:11 And when they heard that [Jesus] was alive and she had seen Him, they did not believe [it].

16:12 After [this], [Jesus] appeared in a different form to two of them as they walked along in [the] country.

16:13 And they went back and reported [it] to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

16:14 Later as they were eating, [Jesus] appeared to the eleven and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world [and] preach the gospel to every creature.

16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

16:18 they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay [their] hands on [the] sick, and they will be made well.”

16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at [the] right hand of God.

16:20 And they went out [and] preached everywhere, [and] the Lord worked through [them], confirming [His] word by the signs that accompanied [it].

16:21