**The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah**

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

**2**Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, and Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers. **3**Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, and Hezron fathered Ram. **4**Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, and Nahshon fathered Salmon. **5**Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, and Obed fathered Jesse. **6**Jesse fathered David the king.

David fathered Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah. **7**Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, and Abijah fathered Asa. **8**Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram, and Joram fathered Uzziah. **9**Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, and Ahaz fathered Hezekiah. **10**Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, and Amon fathered Josiah. **11**Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

**12**After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, and Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel. **13**Zerubbabel fathered Abihud, Abihud fathered Eliakim, and Eliakim fathered Azor. **14**Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, and Achim fathered Eliud. **15**Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, and Matthan fathered Jacob. **16**Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

**17**So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

**Conception and Birth of Jesus**

**18**Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. **19**And her husband Joseph, since he was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. **20**But when he had thought this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21**She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” **22**Now all this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: **23**“Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall name Him Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” **24**And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, **25**but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he named Him Jesus.

**The Visit of the Magi**

**2**Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, **2**“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” **3**When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4**And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5**They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

**6**‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;  
For from you will come forth a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

**7**Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. **8**And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” **9**After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over *the place* where the Child was *to be found*. **10**When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11**And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12**And after being warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, *the magi* left for their own country by another way.

**The Escape to Egypt**

**13**Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him.”

**14**So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. **15**He stayed there until the death of Herod; *this happened* so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

**Herod Slaughters Babies**

**16**Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent *men* and killed all the boys who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. **17**Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

**18**“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
And she refused to be comforted,  
Because they were no more.”

**19**But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, **20**“Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” **21**So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22**But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, **23**and came and settled in a city called Nazareth. *This happened* so that what was spoken through the prophets would be fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

**The Preaching of John the Baptist**

**3**Now in those days John the Baptist \*came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **2**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” **3**For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

“The voice of one calling out in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
Make His paths straight!’”

**4**Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5**At that time Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan; **6**and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

**7**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8**Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance; **9**and do not assume that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham *as our* father’; for I tell you that God is able, from these stones, to raise up children for Abraham. **10**And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire.

**11**“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12**His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**The Baptism of Jesus**

**13**Then Jesus \*arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, *coming* to John to be baptized by him. **14**But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have *the* need to be baptized by You, and *yet* You are coming to me?” **15**But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he \*allowed Him. **16**After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* settling on Him, **17**and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**The Temptation of Jesus**

**4**Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2**And after He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. **3**And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” **4**But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.’”

**5**Then the devil \*took Him along into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, **6**and he \*said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written:

‘He will give His angels orders concerning You’;

and

‘On *their* hands they will lift You up,  
So that You do not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

**7**Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written: ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

**8**Again, the devil \*took Him along to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; **9**and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” **10**Then Jesus \*said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” **11**Then the devil \*left Him; and behold, angels came and *began to* serve Him.

**Jesus Begins His Ministry**

**12**Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; **13**and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. **14***This happened* so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled:

**15**“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
By the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
**16**The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light,  
And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death,  
Upon them a Light dawned.”

**17**From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**The First Disciples**

**18**Now as *Jesus* was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. **19**And He \*said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.” **20**Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **21**Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets; and He called them. **22**Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

**Ministry in Galilee**

**23**Jesus was going about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**24**And the news about Him spread throughout Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them. **25**Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and *the* Decapolis, and Jerusalem, and Judea, and *from* beyond the Jordan.

**The Sermon on the Mount; The Beatitudes**

**5**Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. **2**And He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

**3**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**5**“Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth.

**6**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

**7**“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**8**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

**10**“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11**“Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **12**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Disciples and the World**

**13**“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people.

**14**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15**nor do *people* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16**Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

**17**“Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. **18**For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished! **19**Therefore, whoever nullifies one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**20**“For I say to you that unless your righteousness far surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Personal Relationships**

**21**“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.’ **22**But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell. **23**Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, **24**leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. **25**Come to good terms with your accuser quickly, while you are with him on the way *to court*, so that your accuser will not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will not be thrown into prison. **26**Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last quadrans.

**27**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; **28**but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29**Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30**And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to go into hell.

**31**“Now it was said, ‘Whoever sends his wife away is to give her a certificate of divorce’; **32**but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

**33**“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ **34**But I say to you, take no oath at all, neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God, **35**nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. **36**Nor shall you take an oath by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. **37**But make sure your statement is, ‘Yes, yes’ *or* ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil *origin*.

**38**“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ **39**But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also. **40**And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **41**Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. **42**Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

**43**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44**But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45**so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. **46**For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same? **47**And if you greet only your brothers *and sisters*, what more are you doing *than others*? Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same? **48**Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Charitable Giving to the Poor and Prayer**

**6**“Take care not to practice your righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

**2**“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, so that they will be praised by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **3**But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4**so that your charitable giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

**5**“And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they will be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **6**But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

**7**“And when you are praying, do not use thoughtless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. **8**So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**9**“Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father, who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
**10**Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
**11**Give us this day our daily bread.  
**12**And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
**13**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’

**14**For if you forgive *other* people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15**But if you do not forgive *other* people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.

**Fasting; The True Treasure; Wealth**

**16**“Now whenever you fast, do not make a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they distort their faces so that they will be noticed by people when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **17**But as for you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, **18**so that your fasting will not be noticed by people but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

**19**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **21**for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**22**“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. **23**But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

**24**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**The Cure for Anxiety**

**25**“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26**Look at the birds of the sky, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather *crops* into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than they? **27**And which of you by worrying can add a single day to his life’s span? **28**And why are you worried about clothing? Notice how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin *thread for cloth*, **29**yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30**But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! **31**Do not worry then, saying, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear for clothing?’ **32**For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

**34**“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Judging Others**

**7**“Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. **2**For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. **3**Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4**Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and look, the log is in your own eye? **5**You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye!

**6**“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

**Prayer and the Golden Rule**

**7**“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. **9**Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? **10**Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? **11**So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**12**“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**The Narrow and Wide Gates**

**13**“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14**For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**A Tree and Its Fruit**

**15**“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16**You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes*, nor figs from thistles, are they? **17**So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **18**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. **19**Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20**So then, you will know them by their fruits.

**21**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. **22**Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ **23**And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

**The Two Foundations**

**24**“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25**And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. **26**And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27**And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great.”

**28**When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; **29**for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**Jesus Cleanses a Man with Leprosy**

**8**When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. **2**And a man with leprosy came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” **3**Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. **4**And Jesus \*said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

**The Centurion’s Faith**

**5**And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, begging Him, **6**and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, terribly tormented.” **7**Jesus \*said to him, “I will come and heal him.” **8**But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9**For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it*.” **10**Now when Jesus heard *this*, He was amazed and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. **11**And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; **12**but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **13**And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that *very* moment.

**Peter’s Mother-in-law and Many Others Healed**

**14**When Jesus came into Peter’s home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. **15**And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. **16**Now when evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. **17***This happened* so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: “He Himself took our illnesses and carried away our diseases.”

**Discipleship Tested**

**18**Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side *of the sea*. **19**Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” **20**And Jesus \*said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” **21**And another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.” **22**But Jesus \*said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

**Jesus Calms the Storm**

**23**When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. **24**And behold, a violent storm developed on the sea, so that the boat was being covered by the waves; but *Jesus* Himself was asleep. **25**And they came to *Him* and woke Him, saying, “Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!” **26**He \*said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. **27**The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

**Jesus Sends Demons into Pigs**

**28**And when He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men confronted Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. **29**And they cried out, saying, “What business do You have with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” **30**Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding at a distance from them. **31**And the demons begged Him, saying, “If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” **32**And He said to them, “Go!” And they came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. **33**And the herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. **34**And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they pleaded with Him to leave their region.

**A Paralyzed Man Healed**

**9**Getting into a boat, *Jesus* crossed over *the Sea of Galilee* and came to His own city.

**2**And they brought to Him a paralyzed man lying on a stretcher. And seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man who was paralyzed, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.” **3**And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming!” **4**And Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? **5**For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? **6**But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He \*said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, pick up your stretcher and go home.” **7**And he got up and went home. **8**But when the crowds saw *this*, they were awestruck, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

**Matthew Called**

**9**As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting in the tax collector’s office; and He \*said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

**10**Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and *began* dining with Jesus and His disciples. **11**And when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” **12**But when *Jesus* heard *this*, He said, “*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. **13**Now go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion, rather than sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**The Question about Fasting**

**14**Then the disciples of John \*came to Him, asking, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?” **15**And Jesus said to them, “The attendants of the groom cannot mourn as long as the groom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the groom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. **16**But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results. **17**Nor do *people* put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

**Miracles of Healing**

**18**While He was saying these things to them, behold, a *synagogue* official came and bowed down before Him, and said, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will become alive again.” **19**Jesus got up *from the table* and *began to* accompany him, along with His disciples.

**20**And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years came up behind Him, and touched the border of His cloak; **21**for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch His cloak, I will get well.” **22**But Jesus, turning and seeing her, said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.” And at once the woman was made well.

**23**When Jesus came into the official’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd in noisy disorder, **24**He said, “Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep.” And they *began* laughing at Him. **25**But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. **26**And this news spread throughout that land.

**27**As Jesus went on from there, two men who were blind followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” **28**And after He entered the house, the men who were blind came up to Him, and Jesus \*said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They \*said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” **29**Then He touched their eyes, saying, “It shall be done for you according to your faith.” **30**And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows *about this*!” **31**But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout that land.

**32**And as they were going out, behold, a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to Him. **33**And after the demon was cast out, the man who was *previously* unable to speak talked; and the crowds were amazed, *and were* saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” **34**But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

**35**Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

**36**Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. **37**Then He \*said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. **38**Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

**The Twelve Disciples; Instructions for Service**

**10***Jesus* summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every sickness.

**2**Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; and James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; **3**Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4**Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who also betrayed Him.

**5**These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go on a road to Gentiles, and do not enter a city of Samaritans; **6**but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **7**And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ **8**Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse those with leprosy, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. **9**Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, **10**or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is deserving of his support. **11**And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave *that city*. **12**As you enter the house, give it your greeting. **13**If the house is worthy, *see that* your *blessing of* peace comes upon it. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of* peace. **14**And whoever does not receive you nor listen to your words, as you leave that house or city, shake the dust off your feet. **15**Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for *the* land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment, than for that city.

**A Hard Road Ahead of Them**

**16**“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves. **17**But be on guard against people, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and flog you in their synagogues; **18**and you will even be brought before governors and kings on My account, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. **19**But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you in that hour. **20**For it is not you who are speaking, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who is speaking in you.

**21**“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **22**And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

**23**“But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

**The Meaning of Discipleship**

**24**“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. **25**It is enough for the disciple that he may become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they insult* the members of his household!

**26**“So do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27**What I tell you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim on the housetops. **28**And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. **29**Are two sparrows not sold for an assarion? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30**But even the hairs of your head are all counted. **31**So do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows.

**32**“Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33**But whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

**34**“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35**For I came to turn a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36**and a person’s enemies *will be* the members of his household.

**37**“The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38**And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39**The one who has found his life will lose it, and the one who has lost his life on My account will find it.

**The Reward for Service**

**40**“The one who receives you receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. **41**The one who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and the one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person shall receive a righteous person’s reward. **42**And whoever gives one of these little ones just a cup of cold *water* to drink in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

**John’s Questions**

**11**When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

**2**Now *while* in prison, John heard about the works of Christ, and he sent *word* by his disciples, **3**and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?” **4**Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: **5***those who are* blind receive sight and *those who* limp walk, *those* with leprosy are cleansed and *those who are* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. **6**And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me.”

**Jesus’ Tribute to John**

**7**As these *disciples of John* were going *away*, Jesus began speaking to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **8**But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces! **9**But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and *one who is* more than a prophet. **10**This is the one about whom it is written:

‘Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of You,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

**11**Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12**And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been treated violently, and violent men take it by force. **13**For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. **14**And if you are willing to accept *it, John* himself is Elijah who was to come. **15**The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.

**16**“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces, who call out to the other *children*, **17**and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a song of mourning, and you did not mourn.’ **18**For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ **19**The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a heavy drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ And *yet* wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

**The Unrepenting Cities**

**20**Then He began to reprimand the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. **21**“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that occurred in you had occurred in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. **22**Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on *the* day of judgment than for you. **23**And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades! For if the miracles that occurred in you had occurred in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. **24**Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on *the* day of judgment, than for you.”

**Come to Me**

**25**At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to infants. **26**Yes, Father, for this way was well pleasing in Your sight. **27**All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal *Him*.

**28**“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

**Sabbath Questions**

**12**At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads *of grain* and eat. **2**Now when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath!” **3**But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions— **4**how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? **5**Or have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath, and *yet* are innocent? **6**But I say to you that *something* greater than the temple is here. **7**But if you had known what this means: ‘I desire compassion, rather than sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.

**Lord of the Sabbath**

**8**For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

**9**Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. **10**And a man *was there* whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might bring charges against Him. **11**But He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? **12**How much more valuable then is a person than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” **13**Then He \*said to the man, “Stretch out your hand!” He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. **14**But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.

**15**But Jesus, aware of *this*, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all, **16**and warned them not to tell who He was. **17***This happened* so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled:

**18**“Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen;  
My Beloved in whom My soul delights;  
I will put My Spirit upon Him,  
And He will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
**19**He will not quarrel, nor cry out;  
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.  
**20**A bent reed He will not break *off*,  
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish,  
Until He leads justice to victory.  
**21**And in His name the Gentiles will hope.”

**The Pharisees Rebuked**

**22**Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and unable to speak was brought to Jesus, and He healed him so that the man who was unable to speak talked and could see. **23**And all the crowds were amazed and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” **24**But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

**25**And knowing their thoughts, *Jesus* said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will stand. **26**And if Satan is casting out Satan, he has become divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? **27**And if by Beelzebul I cast out the demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore, they will be your judges. **28**But if I cast out the demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **29**Or, how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first ties up the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

**The Unpardonable Sin**

**30**The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters.

**31**“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. **32**And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

**Words Reveal Character**

**33**“Either assume the tree *to be* good as well as its fruit good, or assume the tree *to be* bad as well as its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. **34**You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, express *any* good things? For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart. **35**The good person brings out of *his* good treasure good things; and the evil person brings out of *his* evil treasure evil things. **36**But I tell you that *for* every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on *the* day of judgment. **37**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**The Desire for Signs**

**38**Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” **39**But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign; and *so* no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet; **40**for just as Jonah was in the stomach of the sea monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. **41**The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, *something* greater than Jonah is here. **42***The* Queen of *the* South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, *something* greater than Solomon is here.

**43**“Now when the unclean spirit comes out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find *it*. **44**Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds *it* unoccupied, swept, and put in order. **45**Then it goes and brings along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they come in and live there; and the last *condition* of that person becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

**Changed Relationships**

**46**While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. **47**[Someone said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to You.”] **48**But Jesus replied to the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” **49**And extending His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold: My mother and My brothers! **50**For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother, and sister, and mother.”

**Jesus Teaches in Parables**

**13**On that day Jesus had gone out of the house and was sitting by the sea. **2**And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

**3**And He told them many things in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; **4**and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. **5**Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and they sprang up immediately, because they had no depth of soil. **6**But after the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7**Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. **8**But others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty *times as much*. **9**The one who has ears, let him hear.”

**An Explanation for Parables**

**10**And the disciples came up and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” **11**And Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. **12**For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. **13**Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14**And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘You shall keep on listening, but shall not understand;  
And you shall keep on looking, but shall not perceive;  
**15**For the heart of this people has become dull,  
With their ears they scarcely hear,  
And they have closed their eyes,  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
Hear with their ears,  
Understand with their heart, and return,  
And I would heal them.’

**16**But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. **17**For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

**The Sower Explained**

**18**“Listen then to the parable of the sower. **19**When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand *it*, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown *with seed* beside the road. **20**The one sown *with seed* on the rocky places, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21**yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he falls away. **22**And the one sown *with seed* among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, and the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **23**But the one sown *with seed* on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty *times as much*.”

**Weeds among Wheat**

**24**Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25**But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. **26**And when the wheat sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also became evident. **27**And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ **28**And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves \*said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ **29**But he \*said, ‘No; while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30**Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

**The Mustard Seed**

**31**He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a person took and sowed in his field; **32**and this is smaller than all the *other* seeds, but when it is *fully* grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches.”

**The Leaven**

**33**He spoke another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three sata of flour until it was all leavened.”

**34**All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak anything to them without a parable. **35***This was* so that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

“I will open My mouth in parables;  
I will proclaim things hidden since the foundation of the world.”

**The Weeds Explained**

**36**Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” **37**And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, **38**and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the evil *one*; **39**and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. **40**So just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. **41**The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, **42**and they will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43**Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear.

**Hidden Treasure**

**44**“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy *over it* he goes and sells everything that he has, and buys that field.

**A Costly Pearl**

**45**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, **46**and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it.

**A Dragnet**

**47**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered *fish* of every kind; **48**and when it was filled, they pulled it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. **49**So it will be at the end of the age: the angels will come forth and remove the wicked from among the righteous, **50**and they will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**51**“Have you understood all these things?” They \*said to Him, “Yes.” **52**And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure new things and old.”

**Jesus Revisits Nazareth**

**53**When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. **54**And He came to His hometown and *began* teaching them in their synagogue, with the result that they were astonished, and said, “Where *did* this man *acquire* this wisdom and *these* miraculous powers? **55**Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is His mother not called Mary, and His brothers, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? **56**And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *acquire* all these things?” **57**And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and in his *own* household.” **58**And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

**John the Baptist Beheaded**

**14**At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, **2**and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he himself has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

**3**For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. **4**For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” **5**Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.

**6**But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before *them* and pleased Herod, **7**so *much* that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. **8**And after being prompted by her mother, she \*said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.” **9**And although he was grieved, the king commanded *it* to be given because of his oaths and his dinner guests. **10**He sent *word* and had John beheaded in the prison. **11**And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother. **12**John’s disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

**Five Thousand Men Fed**

**13**Now when Jesus heard *about John*, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard *about this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities. **14**When He came ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

**15**Now when it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This place is secluded and the hour is already past *to eat*; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” **16**But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go; you give them *something* to eat!” **17**They \*said to Him, “We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish.” **18**And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” **19**And ordering the crowds to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looked up toward heaven. He blessed *the food* and breaking the loaves, He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave them* to the crowds. **20**And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces: twelve full baskets. **21**There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

**Jesus Walks on the Water**

**22**Immediately *afterward* He compelled the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. **23**After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. **24**But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. **25**And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. **26**When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. **27**But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

**28**Peter responded and said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” **29**And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. **30**But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” **31**Immediately Jesus reached out with His hand and took hold of him, and \*said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” **32**When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. **33**And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are truly God’s Son!”

**34**When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. **35**And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent *word* into all that surrounding region and brought to Him all who were sick; **36**and they pleaded with Him that they might just touch the border of His cloak; and all who touched *it* were cured.

**Tradition and Commandment**

**15**Then *some* Pharisees and scribes \*came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, **2**“Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” **3**And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves also break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? **4**For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘The one who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.’ **5**But you say, ‘Whoever says to *his* father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,” **6**he is not to honor his father *or mother*.’ And *by this* you have invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. **7**You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you, by saying:

**8**‘This people honors Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far away from Me.  
**9**And in vain do they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

**10**After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, “Hear and understand! **11***It is* not what enters the mouth *that* defiles the person, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles the person.”[**New American Standard Bible**](https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-American-Standard-Bible-NASB/)**(NASB)**

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