

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
JOHN

The Word and Light (1:1-5)

1 Jesus is the Word. He existed in the beginning, before time began. This Word was with God and, indeed, the Word was God. ²He was the Word that God spoke in the beginning. ³By this spoken Word, through Jesus, everything was created. Nothing could exist if it were not for Him. ⁴In Jesus, in this Word, was the life that brought God's light into people's lives. ⁵This Light came and shone into the spiritual darkness of the world; but the darkness did not want the Light, and so did not receive Him.

John prepares the people (1:6-9)

⁶Before Jesus came, God sent another man, called John, to His people. ⁷God called him to be a witness, to prepare people for the coming of the light, for He wanted everyone to believe in Jesus. ⁸But John was not the Light, only the one preparing for the coming of the Light. ⁹Jesus Himself was the true Light, able to give spiritual light and understanding to all men; and He was coming into the world.

The Word became a man (1:10-18)

¹⁰So Jesus came from heaven into this world, and although the world was created through Him, people did not recognise who He was when He came. ¹¹Even though He came among those who rightly belonged to Him, they still did not accept Him.

¹²⁻¹³However, some did welcome Him and they came to believe that He was God's Son. To them He gave the right to become God's children, those who were not only born naturally with a human mother and father, but given a second birth by God.

¹⁴The Word, then, became a Man and came to live among us. Those of us who knew Him have seen His glory, the glory that could only belong to the One and Only Son of God. He came from the Father in heaven and was full of grace and truth. He was constantly giving to people and always taught what was right.

¹⁵John taught about Jesus. He openly proclaimed: "He is the One of whom I spoke when I said, 'The One who comes after me is much greater than I, because He existed long before I was born.'"

¹⁶Jesus was full of grace and we all received from Him one act of grace after another. He constantly blessed us in ways we could never deserve. ¹⁷God gave us the law through Moses, but grace and truth came when He sent Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No-one has ever seen God in His Majesty and glory, but Jesus, the One and only Son who is Himself God and who is One with the Father, came to make Him known to us.

A voice of one crying in the desert (1:19-28)

¹⁹While John was testifying to the imminent coming of Jesus, the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent a deputation of priests and Levites to ask Him who He was. ²⁰John made it abundantly clear to them: "I am not the Christ, the Messiah."

²¹So they asked him: "Well, who are you? Are you Elijah?"

"No, I am not," said John.

"Are you the Prophet we have been expecting?"

"No," John answered.

²²Exasperated, they said: "Tell us who you are! Give us an answer we can relay to the leaders who sent us. How do you describe yourself?"

²³John quoted some words of the prophet Isaiah in response: "I am the voice of someone crying in the desert, 'Prepare for the coming of the Lord!'"

²⁴Some of those sent to John belonged to the Pharisee party.

²⁵They questioned John: "If you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, then why do you baptise people?"

²⁶John replied: "I only immerse them in water; but Someone is living among us whom you do not recognise. ²⁷He is the One who comes after me, and I am not worthy even to do the work of a slave for Him."

²⁸All this took place at Bethany which is on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising people.

God's Lamb (1:29-34)

²⁹On the following day, John saw Jesus approaching him and said: "Look, this is God's Lamb who takes away the world's sin!" ³⁰This is

He to whom I was referring when I said, 'The One who comes after me is much greater than I, who existed long before I was born!'

³¹Although I did not personally know of whom I spoke, He is the reason I came baptising with water, to prepare the way for Him to be revealed to Israel."

³²Then John proclaimed: "I saw God's Spirit descend from heaven like a dove that came and rested upon Him! ³³I would not have recognised Him but for the fact that the One who sent me to baptise with water had told me, 'The man on whom you see My Spirit descend and remain is He who will baptise in the Holy Spirit.'

³⁴Now I have seen Him and I can say assuredly that this is God's Son."

The first disciples (1:35-42)

³⁵John was again in the same place on the following day, together with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus walking by he said to them: "Look, this is God's Lamb!"

³⁷On hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. ³⁸When He saw them Jesus asked: "What do you want?"

"Teacher, where are You staying?" they replied.

³⁹Jesus said to them: "Come and you will see."

So they went with Jesus, saw where He was staying and spent the rest of the day with Him, from four o'clock onwards.

⁴⁰Simon Peter's brother, Andrew, was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said about Jesus and followed Him.

⁴¹Andrew went and found His brother Simon and told him: "We have found the Messiah," (that is the Christ, God's Anointed Son).

⁴²Then he took Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said: "You are Simon, son of John. From now on you will be called Peter, a rock."

Philip and Nathaniel (1:43-51)

⁴³On the following day, Jesus decided to return to Galilee. He discovered Philip and said to him: "Follow Me." ⁴⁴Like Andrew and Peter, Philip came from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip in turn found Nathaniel and told him: "We have found the One we have been waiting for, who Moses spoke about in the law, the One of whom the prophets also wrote! He is Jesus of Nazareth, Joseph's son."

⁴⁶"Nazareth!" Nathaniel gasped, "How can anything good come from there?"

"Come and see for yourself," said Philip.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, He said to him: "This is a true Israelite and there is nothing false about him."

⁴⁸"How can You know anything about me?" Nathaniel asked.

"I noticed you before Philip called you. You were sitting under the fig tree," Jesus answered.

⁴⁹Then Nathaniel exclaimed: "Teacher, You are God's Son, the King of Israel."

⁵⁰"You believe in Me simply because I told you that I noticed you under the fig tree! You shall see far greater things in the future,"

⁵¹Jesus said. "I tell you the truth, you shall see the heavens open and God's angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Jesus turns water into wine (2:1-11)

2 ¹⁻²Three days later, Jesus, together with His mother and disciples, was invited to a wedding that took place at Cana in Galilee.

³The wine ran out, which was a social disaster, and so Jesus' mother said to Him: "They have no more wine."

⁴"Dear woman, why involve Me in such a matter? It is not time for Me yet," Jesus replied.

⁵However His mother told the servants: "Do whatever He tells you." ⁶Six large water jars, each holding between twenty and thirty gallons, were standing nearby. These were normally used for the ceremonial washing that Jews performed. ⁷"Fill the jars with water," Jesus told the servants. They did so, filling them to the brim.

⁸⁻¹⁰"Now draw some out and give it to the master in charge of the banquet to taste," Jesus told them. They did this and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now been turned into wine. Although the servants knew its origin, the master had no idea where it had come from. After tasting it, he took the bridegroom aside and said to him: "People usually serve the choicest wine first and then, when the guests have drunk well, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have kept the best back until now!"

¹¹This miracle that Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee was the first of the miraculous signs that revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him as a result.

Jesus clears the temple (2:12-25)

¹²Jesus, His mother, brothers and disciples went from there to Capernaum, where they stayed for a few days. ¹³When the Jewish Passover drew near, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the feast. ¹⁴When

He went to the temple He discovered men selling cattle, sheep and doves in the temple court. Others had set up stalls to exchange money.

¹⁵Jesus made a whip of cords and drove all the cattle and sheep out of the temple precincts. Then He overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins. ¹⁶“Take these out of here,” He said to those selling doves. “How dare you turn My Father’s house into a market!”

¹⁷This prompted the disciples to recall that it is written, ‘Zeal for Your house will overwhelm Me.’

¹⁸Then the Jewish leaders confronted Jesus and asked Him: “How can You prove to us that You have the authority to do these things? What miraculous sign will You perform?”

¹⁹“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again,” replied Jesus.

²⁰“It took forty-six years to build this temple,” the Jewish leaders replied. “How are You going to rebuild it in three days?”

²¹Jesus had been speaking of His own body as the temple. ²²After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this. They believed what the scriptures said about Him and the words Jesus Himself had spoken.

²³Many people witnessed the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast, and so believed in Him. ²⁴⁻²⁵However, Jesus was wise in not trusting anyone, for He could perceive what was in each person’s heart.

The need to be born again (3:1-15)

3 ¹⁻²Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees and a member of the Jewish ruling council, came to Jesus secretly during the night and said to Him: “Master we know You are a teacher sent by God. You could not perform all these miraculous signs if God were not with You.”

³Jesus responded: “I tell you the truth, it is impossible for anyone to see God’s Kingdom unless he is born again.”

⁴“How can it be possible for an old man to be born again?” asked Nicodemus. “Can he really enter his mother’s womb for a second time and be born all over again?”

⁵“I tell you the truth, nobody can enter God’s Kingdom unless he is first born not only of water, but of the Spirit as well,” Jesus explained. ⁶“The natural flesh can only give birth to natural flesh; and God’s Spirit alone can give birth to the human spirit. ⁷So you do not need to be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again!’

⁸The wind blows wherever it chooses. You can hear its sound, but you cannot see where it comes from, nor where it is going. It is just like that with everyone who is born of God's Spirit."

⁹"How can this happen?" asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰Jesus said in reply: "You are Israel's teacher and you do not understand these spiritual truths? ¹¹I tell you the truth, I know what I am speaking about and I can testify to what I have actually seen; but still you people will not believe what I say. ¹²I have explained earthly things to you and you do not believe Me; so how will you react if I speak to you about heaven itself? ¹³No-one has ever gone there; but I, the Son of Man, have come from there!

¹⁴⁻¹⁵"Moses lifted up the snake in the desert that the people might be healed; in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him might be saved and receive eternal life as a gift."

John explains (3:16-21)

¹⁶In the same way, because God loved the people of the world, He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not die eternally, but have God's gift of eternal life instead. ¹⁷So God did not send His Son into the world to condemn everyone, but to save people from condemnation through faith in Him. ¹⁸So whoever believes in Him is not condemned; but the one who refuses to believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son is already condemned by his own unbelief.

¹⁹This is the evidence: Light has come into the spiritual darkness of the world, but men loved the darkness instead of the Light because they loved the evil deeds of darkness. ²⁰Those who want to do what is evil hate the Light and will not come near the Light for fear that their evil deeds will become exposed. ²¹However, the man who wants to live by the truth comes readily into the Light. He has nothing to be ashamed of, for the Light shows clearly that it is God who has inspired and enabled what he does.

John the Baptist exalts Jesus (3:22-4:2)

²²Later, Jesus and His disciples left the city and went into the Judean countryside, preaching and baptising people. ²³John was continuing his ministry, baptising at a place called Aenon, near Salim, where the water was deep enough to immerse the people who constantly came to him. ²⁴(This, of course, was before John was imprisoned).

²⁵A Jew provoked an argument with some of John's disciples over a question of ceremonial washing. ²⁶So they came to John and com-

plained: "Teacher, the man you referred to when on the other side of the Jordan and spoke so well of, He is now baptising and everyone is turning to Him!"

²⁷"Any man can only receive what is gifted to him from heaven," replied John. ²⁸"You know that I made clear, 'I am not the Christ, but have been sent to prepare the way for Him!' ²⁹The bride is for the bridegroom. His friend only serves him, anticipates his coming and is full of joy on hearing the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I now have, and my mission is complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less important.

³¹⁻³²"He who has come from heaven is greater than all others. I am a mere man who belongs to the earth and can speak only as a man. The One from heaven is far greater than all others, for He can speak of what He has seen and heard in heaven itself. Even so, not everyone believes what He says. ³³Anyone who does accept what He reveals can verify that God is the Truth! ³⁴For this One He has sent speaks the very words of God, and to Him God has given the Holy Spirit in an unlimited way.

³⁵"The Father loves His Son and has now placed everything in His hands. ³⁶Whoever believes that He is God's Son is given eternal life; but whoever rejects Him as God's Son will never see heaven nor receive that life; for he remains under God's wrath."

4 The Pharisees were aware that more people were becoming disciples of Jesus than of John, for more were being baptised through faith in Him. ²Jesus Himself did not immerse them; He gave that responsibility to His disciples.

Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman (4:3-30)

³When the Lord heard about the unrest among the Pharisees, He left Judea and returned to Galilee. ⁴To do this He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵He came to a town there known as Sychar, which was near to the area of land given by Jacob to his son Joseph. ⁶Jesus was tired from His journey and sat down by Jacob's well that was in that place. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well, an unusual thing to do at that time of day. Jesus spoke to her and asked: "Please give Me a drink." ⁸(Jesus was alone as His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman was surprised and replied: "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me to give You

a drink?" (For Jews will normally have nothing to do with Samaritans, and it was most unusual for a man to address a strange woman in public.)

¹⁰Jesus answered: "If you only understood who it is that is asking you for a drink and the gift that God wants to give you, then you would have asked Me and I would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir, You have no jar with which to draw water from the well, and it is deep," the woman said. "Where can You obtain this living water? ¹²Are You someone even greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well? Jacob drank from this well himself as did his sons, his flocks and herds."

¹³"Anyone who drinks the water from this well will only become thirsty again," Jesus answered. ¹⁴"However, whoever drinks of the water I will give him, will never thirst again, for the water will become a spring of water within him, a fountain of eternal life."

¹⁵"Sir, give me that kind of water," the woman said to Jesus, "then I won't keep getting thirsty and have to return to this well every day to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her: "Go and return with your husband."

¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied.

"You are correct in saying you have no husband," Jesus said.

¹⁸"The truth is that you have already had five husbands and the man you are now living with is not your husband. Yes, what you have said is right."

¹⁹⁻²⁰"Sir, it is obvious that You are a prophet," the woman replied. Then she tried to change the subject: "Our fathers worshipped here on this mountain, but you Jews say that we must go to Jerusalem to worship."

²¹Jesus told her: "Dear woman, believe what I say to you. There will come a time when you will neither worship the Father here nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans do not know the One you worship. We do know Him; so salvation has to come from the Jews. ²³A time is coming, in fact it has already come, when those who worship in a true way will worship the Father in the power of His Spirit and in the truth of His Word. These are the kind of worshippers that the Father wants. ²⁴God is Spirit. This is why those who worship Him must do so in Spirit and truth."

²⁵The woman replied: "I don't understand everything, but I do know that the Messiah is coming and when He does, then He will explain everything to us."

²⁶"He is speaking to you right now," Jesus told her.

²⁷At this point the disciples returned and were amazed to see Jesus talking alone with a woman. None of them dared to ask Him:

“What do you want with her?” or “Why talk to a Samaritan woman?”

²⁸The woman left her water jar, returned to the town and said to everyone: ²⁹“Come with me. I want to show you a man who knew all about me and told me all that I have done. I wonder, could this be the Christ?” ³⁰So the people came from the town to the well, to see the man for themselves.

The fields are ripe for harvest (4:31-38)

³¹Meanwhile, Jesus’ disciples encouraged Him: “Teacher, have something to eat.”

³²“I have food to eat about which you know nothing,” Jesus replied.

³³The disciples questioned among themselves, “What does He mean? Has someone already given Him some food?”

³⁴But Jesus explained: “My food is to do the will of My Father who sent Me and to complete the work He has given Me to do. ³⁵It is a common saying, ‘The harvest will come in four months time,’ but I tell you clearly that you should open your eyes and look around you! There are fields of people already ripe for harvest. ³⁶⁻³⁷Already the reaper can draw his wages and gather a crop of people for eternal life. Both the one who sows God’s Word and the one who reaps the results will then rejoice together. So this is a true saying, ‘One sows, another reaps!’

³⁸“I send you to reap where you have not done the hard work of sowing. Others have done that, and you are simply reaping the benefit of their labour.”

Jesus recognised as Saviour (4:39-42)

³⁹Because of the woman’s testimony that Jesus knew all about her, many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him. ⁴⁰So they encouraged Jesus to remain with them, and for two days He did so.

⁴¹What He taught them caused many more to become believers.

⁴²Then they told the woman: “No longer is it because of your testimony that we believe. Now we know that this Man is the world’s Saviour, because we have heard Him for ourselves.”

Royal official’s son healed (4:43-54)

⁴³⁻⁴⁴After those two days, Jesus continued His journey to Galilee (Jesus had warned the disciples that a prophet is not respected in

his own country.) ⁴⁵However, when He arrived in Galilee, He was welcomed there. Those from that region had seen the mighty things He had done in Jerusalem, when He had gone there for the Passover Feast.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷Jesus visited Cana in Galilee again, the place where He had turned the water into wine. There a royal official who had a sick son in Capernaum came to Him as soon as he heard that Jesus had arrived back in Galilee. He pleaded with Him to come and heal his son, who was on the point of dying.

⁴⁸“Unless you actually see Me performing miraculous signs and wonders, you people will never believe in Me,” Jesus told the royal official. ⁴⁹But the man persisted: “Lord, come with me before my child dies.”

⁵⁰“You can go in peace,” Jesus replied. “Your son will live.”

The man believed what Jesus had said and left. ⁵¹While still on his way to Capernaum, his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. ⁵²When he asked the servants when his healing had taken place, they replied: “The fever lifted yesterday at one o’clock.” ⁵³The father realised that was precisely the time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and all who belonged to his household became believers.

⁵⁴This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed there, on His return to Galilee from Jerusalem.

Lame man healed at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-9)

5 Some time later, Jesus went to Jerusalem for another Jewish festival. ²⁻³Near the Sheep Gate is a pool called Bethesda, which is surrounded by five covered colonnades where a great many blind, lame and paralysed people used to lie waiting for the water to be moved. ⁴(It was believed that at times one of the Lord’s angels would come and stir the water. The first person to get into the pool when this happened would be healed.)

⁵One man there had been lame for thirty-eight years. ⁶Jesus noticed him and on discovering that he had been an invalid for so long, He asked the man: “Do you want to be healed?”

⁷The man replied: “Sir, there is no one here to help me get into the pool when the water is moved. Someone else always gets there before me, no matter how hard I try.”

⁸“Stand up!” Jesus said to him, “Pick up your mat and walk.”

⁹Immediately he was healed. He jumped to his feet, picked up his mat and walked away.

Jewish leaders infuriated (5:10-18)

¹⁰This took place on the Sabbath day. Some Jewish leaders challenged the man who had been healed: "This is the Sabbath; according to the law you are forbidden from working by carrying your mat." ¹¹He replied: "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

¹²The leaders asked him: "Who dared to tell you to do this?"

¹³The man had no idea who had healed him, for Jesus had quietly merged into the crowd around the pool.

¹⁴Later, however, Jesus saw him in the temple and said to him: "Look, you are now healed. Turn from your life of sin, or something worse could happen to you." ¹⁵The man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

¹⁶Because Jesus did such things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders were outraged and persecuted Him. ¹⁷Jesus told them: "My Father never stops working, even on Sabbath days; so I, too, work when He does!"

¹⁸This only infuriated these leaders still further and they became even more determined to kill Jesus. It was bad enough that in their understanding He was breaking the Sabbath rules. It was even worse that He called God His Father, so making Himself equal with God.

Jesus' submission to the Father (5:19-47)

¹⁹Jesus continued: "I tell you the truth, the Son is incapable of doing anything on His own; He can do only what He sees His Father doing. Whatever the Father does, His Son also does. ²⁰Because the Father loves the Son, He shows Him all He does. You will be amazed when He shows Him even greater things than I am doing at present. ²¹The Father raises the dead and restores them to life. In the same way, the Son is able to give life to those to whom He wants to give it!

²²⁻²³ "What is more, it is not the Father who judges anyone, for He has entrusted all judgment to His Son because He wants everyone to honour the Son in the same way that they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour Me does not honour the Father who sent Me.

²⁴ "I tell you the truth, anyone who hears what I say and believes that it is God who sent Me, has eternal life and will not be condemned for ever. He has already crossed over from living in death to real life. ²⁵I tell you most emphatically, the expected time has now

arrived when the dead will hear the voice of God's Son and will come to life. ²⁶ This is because the Father, who is Himself eternal life, has granted that same life to His Son. ²⁷ Accordingly, He has also given the Son the authority to judge because He has become the Son of Man.

²⁸⁻²⁹ "You should not be surprised at this, for a time will soon come when even those in their graves will hear the Son's voice and will rise. Those who have done what is good in God's sight will rise to enjoy His life eternally. But those who have done what is evil in God's eyes will rise only to be condemned eternally.

³⁰ "I can do nothing on My own. When I judge, I do so correctly because I hear what My Father is saying; for I have no desire to please Myself, but only Him; for He sent Me.

³¹ "If I simply witnessed about Myself, My testimony would not be valid. ³² However, someone else bears witness in My favour and I know that what He says about Me is true.

³³ "You questioned John the Baptist and he told you the truth. ³⁴ I do not depend on human testimony for My authority; but I remind you of this so that you can receive salvation. ³⁵ For John was like a lamp that shone brightly, and for a time you chose to think well of this light.

³⁶ "But I bear witness in much greater ways than John. The work I am doing is what My Father is giving Me to do and I intend to finish His work. These things bear witness to the truth that the Father sent Me. ³⁷ Even the Father Himself, therefore, bears witness as to who I am.

³⁸ "You have never heard Him speak nor seen Him, nor does His Word have any place in your hearts. This is plain because you do not believe in Me, even though He sent Me. ³⁹⁻⁴⁰ You spend hour upon hour studying the scriptures that actually speak about Me, yet still refuse to come and receive from Me the life I have come to give.

⁴¹ "Praise from men means nothing to Me. That is not what I am looking for. ⁴² I know you have no love for God in your hearts. ⁴³ This is why you do not accept Me even though I have come in My Father's Name and with His authority. You accept others readily enough, even if they come only on their own authority. ⁴⁴ How can you believe the truth if you are only interested in accepting praise from one another, while making no attempt to obtain the only praise that really matters, that which comes from the only God?

⁴⁵ "Do not imagine that it will be He who will accuse you before the Father. No, your accuser is Moses, the one you say you revere. ⁴⁶ But if you truly believed what Moses said, you would believe in

Me, for He wrote about Me. ⁴⁷But if you do not really believe what He wrote, how will you ever believe what I say?"

Feeding the five thousand (6:1-15)

6 Some time later, Jesus crossed to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, otherwise known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²Because of the miraculous signs He performed in healing the sick, a great crowd of people followed Him.

³⁻⁵It was near the time for the Jewish Passover feast. Together with His disciples, Jesus went into the hills in order to teach the crowd that followed Him. Jesus asked Philip: "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" ⁶This He said to test his faith, for Jesus had already decided what He needed to do.

⁷Philip answered: "Even if we had a year's wages we still would not be able to buy enough to give each just a scrap!" ⁸⁻⁹Andrew, another of His disciples, who was Simon Peter's brother, said: "A boy here has five small barley loaves and two small fish; but they won't go far amongst such a crowd."

¹⁰Jesus said: "Tell the people to sit down." As there was plenty of grass there the crowd of about five thousand men sat. ¹¹Jesus took the five barley loaves and gave thanks to God for His provision and then oversaw the distribution to all who were seated. And each received as much as he wanted. Jesus then did the same with the two small fish.

¹²When all of them were fully satisfied, Jesus told His disciples: "Gather up the remains of the meal. Nothing is to be wasted."

¹³When they did so, they filled twelve baskets with remnants of the five barley loaves left by all who had eaten.

¹⁴When the people saw this miraculous sign that Jesus performed, they responded by saying: "This must be the prophet who is expected to come to the world." ¹⁵Jesus could tell that they intended to force Him to be crowned as their king; so He withdrew still further up the mountainside by Himself.

Jesus walks on water (6:16-21)

¹⁶⁻¹⁷When evening came, His disciples returned to the lakeside, boarded their boat and set out across the lake for Capernaum. It was now dark and Jesus had not joined them. ¹⁸It was a very windy night and the water was becoming rough. ¹⁹They had already rowed nearly three and a half miles, when they saw Jesus coming towards them, walking on the water. They were scared. ²⁰So Jesus

called out to them: “Don’t be afraid. It is I.” ²¹When they realised that this was indeed Jesus Himself and not some ghost, they welcomed Him into the boat. Immediately the boat reached their destination!

Jesus: The Bread of Life (6:22-59)

²²On the following day, the crowd that had remained on the far side of the shore realised that Jesus had not boarded the only boat along with His disciples; they had left Him behind. ²³Then some boats that had crossed from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread over which the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴As soon as they realised that neither Jesus nor any of the other disciples were still there, they boarded the boats and went to Capernaum, looking for Jesus.

²⁵Having crossed the lake they found Him and asked Him: “Teacher when did you arrive here?”

²⁶Jesus told them: “I tell you the truth, you are looking for Me not because you saw a miracle, but because you had plenty of bread to eat. ²⁷Don’t work for food that rots, but for the kind of food that lasts for eternity, which I, the Son of Man, will give you. For on Me God the Father has set His seal of approval.”

²⁸So they asked Him: “If we are to do the works that God wants of us, tell us what to do.”

²⁹“This is God’s work,” Jesus replied, “to believe in Me, the One He has sent.”

³⁰Then they asked Him: “Well, what miraculous sign will You perform so that we may see it and believe in You? Show us what You can do. ³¹After all, our forefathers ate the manna in the desert every day for years, not just once. It is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³²Jesus replied: “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven; it is only my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³I am this Bread of God, for I have come from heaven.”

³⁴“Lord,” they said, “give us this bread from now on.”

³⁵“I, I AM the Bread of Life,” proclaimed Jesus. “The one who comes to Me will never be hungry; he who continues to believe in Me will never be left thirsty. ³⁶Yet, as I have told you already, although you have seen Me you still do not believe in Me. ³⁷Everyone who the Father wants to belong to Me will come to Me, and I would never drive away anyone who turns to Me. ³⁸The reason I have come from heaven is not to do what I want, but to fulfil the purpose My Father had in sending Me. ³⁹His purpose is this, that I should

not lose a single one of those He gives to belong to Me, but ensure that they are all raised to glory on the last day. ⁴⁰Yes, this is My Father's will, that all who turn to the Son and continue to believe in Him shall receive the gift of eternal life; and I will surely raise them up on the last day."

⁴¹The Jewish leaders grumbled and complained among themselves when Jesus said, 'I, I AM the Bread that has come from heaven.'

⁴²They said, "This Jesus, is He not merely Joseph's son? We know well who His father and mother are! So how can He claim, 'I came from heaven?'"

⁴³Jesus said: "Stop complaining among yourselves. ⁴⁴It is impossible for anyone to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him to Me. Yes, such a one I will raise up on the last day. ⁴⁵In the prophetic scriptures it is written, 'They will all be taught by God Himself!'. So everyone who listens to what the Father has said and is ready to learn from Him, will come to Me. ⁴⁶No-one has ever seen the Father except for Me, for I have come from Him. I am the only One who has ever seen the Father.

⁴⁷"I tell you the truth, he who believes in who I AM, already has eternal life. ⁴⁸I, I AM the Bread of Life. ⁴⁹Even though your forefathers ate the manna every day in the desert, they still died. ⁵⁰But here now is the Bread that has come from heaven itself. If a man eats of this Bread, he will never die.

⁵¹"I, I AM the living Bread that has come from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. This Bread is My body, which I will give for the salvation of all mankind."

⁵²Then the Jewish teachers reacted angrily saying: "How can this man give us His body to eat?"

⁵³Jesus said to them: "I tell you the truth, if you do not eat of the Son of Man's body and drink His blood, you do not have God's life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats of My body and drinks My blood already has eternal life, and I will surely raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵My body is the true food, and My blood the true drink.

⁵⁶"Anyone who eats of My body and drinks of My blood remains at one with Me and I with him. ⁵⁷⁻⁵⁸The living Father sent Me; that is why I am here on earth now. Anyone who feeds on Me because He believes who I am, the Bread that has come from heaven, he will have My life.

"I repeat, your forefathers ate manna and died: but anyone who feeds on Me, the living Bread, he will live forever!"

Some disciples turn away from Jesus (6:59-71)

⁵⁹Jesus said all this while teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰But it was too much for some of the disciples who said: "This is such hard teaching to accept. Who can believe it?"

⁶¹Aware of their discontent, Jesus asked them: "Does this offend you? ⁶²What would your response be if you could see the Son of Man ascend back to heaven, where He was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives you life. Your natural life counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you contain the life of God's Spirit. ⁶⁴Yet there are still some among you who do not believe what I say."

He said this because Jesus had known from the outset who among them did not believe. He was even aware of which disciple would betray Him! ⁶⁵This is why He told them that, "No-one can come to Me unless the Father enables him to do so."

⁶⁶This was the point of departure for many of His disciples. They turned away from Jesus and stopped following Him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve: "It is not your intention to leave Me as well, is it?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered: "Lord, to whom could we turn? You are the One with the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe and are certain that You are God's Holy Son!"

⁷⁰Then Jesus declared: "I chose you, all twelve of you. Yet one of you is a devil!" ⁷¹(He referred to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, even though he was one of the twelve.)

Jesus' brothers disbelieve in Him (7:1-14)

7 Then Jesus travelled around Galilee, deliberately avoiding Judea where the Jewish leaders were longing to kill Him.

²⁻³When it was nearly time for the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, His own brothers suggested to Him: "You should leave now and go to Jerusalem; then Your disciples there will be able to see the miracles You performed. ⁴You cannot expect to become famous by hiding away here. Let everyone everywhere see what wonderful things You do." ⁵They spoke sarcastically like this because, although they were His brothers, they did not believe in Him.

⁶⁻⁷But Jesus said to them: "This is not the right time for Me to do what you say. You consider any time to be right because the world doesn't hate you; but it does hate Me because I expose the evil in the world. ⁸So you go to the Feast yourselves. I will go at the appropriate time, which is not immediately." ⁹Having said this, Jesus stayed longer in Galilee.

¹⁰However, when His brothers had left to go to the Feast, Jesus also made His way to Jerusalem, but secretly as He did not want

any public attention. ¹¹Of course the Jewish leaders were on the lookout for Him and were asking around: "Have you seen Him? Do you know where He is?"

¹²Among the people generally there was wide-spread speculation about Jesus. Some said, "He is a good man." But others disagreed. "No," they said, "He deceives everyone." ¹³However, everyone was careful not to say anything publicly about Him, for fear of getting into trouble with the Jewish authorities.

Jesus' teaching originates from the Father (7:14-24)

¹⁴Midway through the Feast, Jesus went into the temple courts and began to teach publicly. ¹⁵The Jewish leaders were amazed and questioned: "Where did this man obtain so much learning when He has never been to any of our schools?"

¹⁶Jesus answered them: "This teaching is not My own. It originates from the Father who sent Me. ¹⁷Anyone who wants to do God's will will discover for Himself whether My teaching comes from My Father or if I am merely speaking for Myself. ¹⁸Anyone who speaks for himself does so because he wants honour for himself. But He who is concerned to honour the One who sent Him is a Man of truth and He has no false motives.

¹⁹"Moses gave you the law, didn't he? You are proud of this and yet none of you keeps the law! So why judge Me and why do you want to kill Me?"

²⁰The crowd of leaders tried to cover up their intentions; so they responded by saying: "You must be possessed by a demon if You think anyone wants to kill You!"

²¹Jesus said to them: "I performed one miracle and you are all astounded. ²²Yet because Moses said you must be circumcised you are prepared to do such 'work' on the Sabbath." (Circumcision did not originate with Moses but with the patriarch Abraham.) ²³Jesus continued: "If you can circumcise a child on the Sabbath to keep the law of Moses, why be angry with Me for healing people and making them whole in spirit, soul and body on the Sabbath? ²⁴Stop judging in such superficial ways. It is time for you to make right judgments according to God's will."

Jewish leaders disbelieve Jesus (7:25-36)

²⁵It was then that some of the general population of Jerusalem began questioning their leaders' motives: "Is this really the man they want to kill? ²⁶He is speaking openly and they cannot say any-

thing to refute what He says. Have they come to the conclusion that He really is the Christ, the Messiah? ²⁷Yet it doesn't seem to make sense. We know where this Man is from. But when the Messiah comes He will suddenly appear and no one will know where He has come from."

²⁸⁻²⁹As He taught in the temple courts, Jesus shouted out: "Yes, you know Me and you know where I have come from at one level. But I am not here on My own authority, but the one true God has sent Me. You do not know Him, but I do because I have come from Him and it is He who sent Me."

³⁰This was too much for the leaders and they wanted to seize Him immediately. Strangely, no-one was able even to lay hold of Him because it was not yet the right time for Jesus to place Himself in their hands.

³¹At the same time, many in the crowd were persuaded by what He said and put their faith in Him. They said, "Surely when the Christ comes, He will not do any more miraculous signs than this man!"

³²The Pharisees became aware that some of the crowd were quietly saying such things about Jesus. So with the authority of the chief priests, they sent temple guards to arrest Him.

³³Jesus continued with His teaching: "I am here with you for only a brief period and then I shall return to the Father who sent Me.

³⁴You will search for Me then but will be unable to find Me, for where I am going you are not able to come."

³⁵The Jewish leaders continued to question among themselves: "Where does He intend to go so that we will not be able to find Him? Will He go to the Jewish people that have been dispersed among the nations? Will He go and teach in these other nations?"

³⁶What on earth did He mean by saying, 'You will search for Me, but you will not be able to find Me?' Why does He say, 'Where I am going to be, you cannot come?'"

Rivers of living water (7:37-40)

³⁷The last day of the Feast was the greatest. It was then that Jesus stood and shouted aloud: "Anyone who is thirsty, come to Me and drink. ³⁸For from deep within anyone who believes in Me will flow out rivers of living water, as the scripture says."

³⁹Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit. Later those who believed in Him would be filled with God's Spirit. Until then, His Spirit had not been given to live within anyone. This would not happen until Jesus had returned to heaven in glory!

⁴⁰Some who heard Jesus speak said: "This Man must be the Prophet who is to come." Others actually said: "He is definitely the Christ."

People divided about Jesus (7:41-53)

⁴¹Yet there were still those who questioned: "How is it possible for the Messiah to come from Galilee? ⁴²Surely the scripture says that the Christ will come from David's family, from Bethlehem where David lived!" ⁴³So the people were divided about Jesus. ⁴⁴But even though some wanted to seize Him, no-one was able to touch Him!

⁴⁵When the temple guards returned to the chief priests and the Pharisees who had sent them, they demanded: "Why haven't you arrested Him?"

⁴⁶"No one has ever spoken the way this Man does," the guards responded.

⁴⁷"Do you mean to say that you have allowed Him to deceive you as well?" The Pharisees declared. ⁴⁸"Have any of our rulers or us Pharisees believed in Him? ⁴⁹Of course not! This mob that accepts Him knows nothing of the law in comparison with us. They are under a curse."

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹Nicodemus was present, the one who had gone to Jesus earlier by night. Because he was one of them he could ask: "Does our law condemn someone before he has first been tried, to find out the truth about him?"

⁵²The others retorted: "Are you also from Galilee? If you study the matter you will find that no prophet comes from Galilee!"

⁵³Then they dispersed.

An adulterous woman brought before Jesus (8:1-11)

8 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early the next day He was back in the temple courts. Again the people gathered around Him and He sat to teach them. ³However, He was interrupted when some teachers of the law and Pharisees brought a woman and made her stand in front of Jesus. She had been caught in the act of adultery. ⁴They said to Jesus: "Teacher, this woman was caught committing adultery. ⁵Under the law Moses ordered that we should stone such women to death. What do You say we should do?" ⁶This, of course, was a trap question. They hoped He would say something against the law, and so have a reason for accusing Him.

Jesus bent over and with His finger began to write on the ground. ⁷But they kept questioning Him, so He sat up and said to them: "Let

the one among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”⁸ Then He bent over again and continued to write on the ground.

⁹ Those who heard what Jesus said drifted away one by one, the older ones first. Only Jesus, the One without sin, was left with the woman standing there in front of Him. ¹⁰ He sat up straight again and asked her: “Dear woman, where have they all gone? Has no-one remained to condemn you?”

¹¹ “No-one, sir,” she replied.

“Well, I do not condemn you either,” Jesus said. “Now go, but leave your life of sin.”

Jesus and the Father are one (8:12-30)

¹² Then Jesus addressed the crowd again and said: “I, I AM the Light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in spiritual darkness because he has the life that gives him light.”

¹³ Again the Pharisees challenged Him: “Your testimony about Yourself is not valid because You claim to be Your own witness.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied: “Even if I did bear witness to Myself, what I say would be valid because I know where I have come from, the place to which I shall also return. ¹⁵ You judge everything from a purely human perspective. Yet I do not judge anyone. ¹⁶ If I were to do so, My judgment would be correct because I would not judge on My own, but together with My Father who sent Me.

¹⁷ “For a testimony to be valid under your law there have to be two witnesses. ¹⁸ Well, I Myself am one witness and My Father, who sent Me, is the other!”

¹⁹ So they asked Him: “Where is this Father of yours?”

Jesus replied: “None of you know Me or My Father. For if you knew who I am, this would demonstrate that you know My Father as well.”

²⁰ Jesus said this while teaching in the temple, near to the place where people place their offerings. However, none of them could lay a hand on Him because it was not the right time for Jesus to give Himself over to them.

²¹ Jesus continued: “I am going to leave you; you will search for Me, yet each of you who does not believe in Me will die in your sin. This is why you cannot come where I am going!”

²² So the Jewish leaders asked among themselves: “Does He intend to kill Himself? Is that why He says we cannot go where He is going?”

²³Jesus explained: "You belong to the earth; I came from heaven. You belong to the world but I belong to another Kingdom. ²⁴I have warned you that you will die with your sins unforgiven if you refuse to believe that I am who I have said I am. You will indeed die in your sins."

²⁵"Who are You?" they demanded.

"I am who I have said I am," Jesus replied. ²⁶"I could say so much in judgment against you. He who sent Me is faithful and true, and I only tell the world what I hear from Him."

²⁷⁻²⁹They still did not understand that Jesus was speaking of His heavenly Father. So He said: "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I really am who I claim to be and that what I say does not originate with Me, but comes from My Father. He tells Me what to say for He is always with Me. He never leaves Me because I always do what pleases Him."

³⁰When He said this, many in the crowd put their faith in Him.

Freedom in the Son (8:31-36)

³¹Jesus then addressed those among the Jewish leaders who had believed what He said. "You will really be my disciples only if you continue to believe the words I speak. ³²For then you will know the truth, and knowing the truth about Me will set you free."

³³To this they said: "As Jews, we are descendants of Abraham. We have never been in bondage to anyone. So how can You say that we need to be set free?"

³⁴Jesus replied: "I tell you the truth, all those who sin are in bondage; they are slaves of sin. ³⁵A slave does not belong to the family he serves, but a son has a permanent position in the family. ³⁶So if God's Son sets you free from your bondage to sin, you will be really free.

Children of God or the devil? (8:37-59)

³⁷"I am well aware that you are descended from Abraham. And yet you want to kill Me, which proves that in your hearts there is no room for My Word. ³⁸I speak to you about what I have seen in My Father's presence; but you act on what you hear from your father."

³⁹"Abraham is our father," they retorted.

"If you were true children of Abraham, then you would act in the same way as Abraham did. ⁴⁰But you don't, for you want to kill Me, even though I have told you the truth I have received directly from

God. Abraham never did such things. No, you do the things that your father does," replied Jesus.

⁴¹At this they protested: "We are not illegitimate children. We only have one father and that is God Himself."

⁴²Jesus told them: "If God was truly your Father, you would love Me because I have come from God. This is why I am here. I have not come on My own initiative; it was the Father who sent Me. ⁴³Why do you not hear what I tell you, even though I repeat these truths to you again and again? ⁴⁴Because you are unable to hear what I say because you belong to the devil. He is really your father and you want to kill Me to carry out your real father's desires. The devil has always been a murderer from the very beginning. He does not believe in the truth because there is no truth in him. He is a liar and the father of lies. So when he lies, he is speaking his own language.

⁴⁵"By contrast, I tell you the truth. Yet you do not believe Me! ⁴⁶Who among you can show that I am guilty of any sin? So if I tell you the truth, why is it you do not believe in Me? ⁴⁷After all, anyone who truly belongs to God will hear what God says. So it is clear why you cannot hear: you do not belong to God."

⁴⁸In fury the Jewish leaders responded: "You are a Samaritan. You are demon possessed. We are certainly right about that!"

⁴⁹"No demon possesses Me," answered Jesus. "I honour My Father and you dishonour Me. ⁵⁰It is not as if I am seeking glory for Myself. There is someone else who wants to see Me glorified, and He is the true Judge. ⁵¹I tell you the truth, anyone who believes My Word and lives by it will never die eternally."

⁵²To this the Jews retorted: "This proves You are demon possessed! Abraham died. The prophets died. And yet You claim that anyone who lives by Your words will never die. ⁵³Are You saying that You are greater than our father, Abraham? He died and so did the prophets. So who do You think You are?"

⁵⁴Jesus replied: "If I was to seek glory for Myself, that glory would mean nothing. It is My Father, who you claim is your God, who wants to see Me glorified. ⁵⁵You do not know Him, but I certainly do! If I were to deny that I knew Him, I would be a liar like you. I not only know Him, but I obey every word of His. ⁵⁶In fact, your father Abraham was happy at the thought of seeing My day. And when he saw it, he rejoiced."

⁵⁷"How can You have seen Abraham?" the Jewish leaders responded. "You are not even fifty years old!"

⁵⁸Jesus answered: "I tell you the truth, even before Abraham was born, I AM!"

⁵⁹This statement of Jesus' divinity was too much for them. They picked up stones ready to kill Him. But Jesus merged into the crowd and slipped out of the temple area.

Jesus heals a blind man (9:1-12)

9 As He was walking along, Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth. ²"Teacher, why was this man born blind?" His disciples asked. "Was it the result of his own sins or those of his parents?"

³Jesus answered: "This was not the direct consequence of sin in either this man or his parents. Although this has happened, God can work a miracle in his life. ⁴For while we have the opportunity we must continue to do the work of My Father who sent Me. It is now the daytime, but night is coming spiritually and then no-one will be able to do such works. ⁵Yet while I am here in the world, I am the Light of the world."

⁶After saying this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with His spittle before putting it on the man's eyes. ⁷He told him: "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (meaning 'Sent'). The man went and washed and then went home with his sight restored.

⁸His neighbours and those who recognised him asked: "Is this really the blind man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said it was him, but others said: "No it cannot be, even though he does look something like him."

The man himself said: "Yes, I really am the man that once was blind."

¹⁰"Then how is it that your sight has been restored and you can now see?" they asked.

¹¹He replied: "Jesus made some mud and placed it on my eyes. I then went and washed in Siloam because this is what He told me to do, and then I was able to see!"

¹²"Where is this Jesus?" they asked.

"I don't know where He is now," the man replied.

Pharisees interrogate the healed man (9:13-23)

¹³They then brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees.

¹⁴It was the Sabbath day on which Jesus had made the mud and healed the man's blindness. ¹⁵So the Pharisees questioned him as to how his sight was restored. The man replied: "He put mud on my eyes, I washed and now I am able to see."

¹⁶"This Jesus cannot be from God," some of the Pharisees said, "for He does not keep our Sabbath rules and regulations."

Others asked: "How can a sinner possibly do such wonderful things?" So the issue divided them. ¹⁷In the end they again asked the man who had been blind: "What do you say about this Man, for it was your eyes He healed."

The man responded: "He must be a prophet."

¹⁸The Jewish leaders refused to believe that the man had really been blind and then received his sight. So they sent for his parents. ¹⁹"Is this man your son?" they asked them. "Do you claim that he was born blind? If so, how do you account for the fact that he can now see?"

²⁰The parents answered: "He is certainly our son and he was definitely born blind. ²¹But we have no idea how he is able to see or who opened his eyes. You can ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself."

²²The parents were defensive because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had already decreed that anyone who said that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, would be excommunicated from the synagogue. ²³This is why the parents said that their son was old enough to answer for himself. The Pharisees should put this question directly to him.

Pharisees banish healed man (9:24-34)

²⁴So they summoned the man for a second time and said to him: "Give glory to God. We know that this man who restored your sight is a sinner."

²⁵He replied: "I don't know whether He is a sinner or not, but I am certain that once I was blind and now I can see."

²⁶They asked him again: "What did He do to you? How was He able to open your eyes?"

²⁷"I have already answered these questions," the man replied, "but you did not listen to what I said. Why do you want me to repeat it all over again? Is it because you also want to become His disciples?"

²⁸They reacted angrily to this and started to insult the man. "You must be one of this Man's disciples! ²⁹We are disciples of Moses who gave us the law. As for this Jesus, we have no idea where He came from."

³⁰The man replied: "That is truly astounding. He was able to open my eyes, yet you leaders cannot tell where He came from. ³¹We know for sure that God will not listen to sinners, but He will listen to a godly person who does His will. ³²Nobody has ever heard

before of a man born blind having his eyes opened and his sight restored. ³³If it was true that this Jesus was not from God, He could do nothing like this!"

³⁴Angrily they replied: "You were born in sin and yet you dare to lecture us. Get out!"

Jesus came to give sight to the spiritually blind (9:35-41)

³⁵Jesus heard that the Pharisees had thrown the man out and when He next saw him He asked: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶"Tell me who He is, sir, so that I can believe in Him," the man replied.

³⁷"You have already seen Him," Jesus said. "He is speaking to You right now."

³⁸Then the man worshipped Him, saying: "Lord, I do believe in You!"

³⁹Then Jesus explained: "I came into this world to establish judgment: the blind will see and those who see will become blind!"

⁴⁰Some Pharisees heard Him say this and challenged Him: "What! Are You saying we also are blind?"

⁴¹Jesus replied: "If you were already blind, that would not make you guilty of sin. But because you claim that you can see when you cannot see the truth, this means that you remain guilty!"

The Gate for the sheep (10:1-10)

10 "I tell you the truth," Jesus continued, "anyone who climbs into the sheep pen instead of entering by the gate is a thief and a robber. ²But the man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The one guarding the sheep opens the gate for him and the sheep know his voice. ⁴He calls each of his own sheep by name and leads them out of the pen. Because they recognise his voice, all who are his sheep follow him when he goes ahead of them. ⁵They would never follow a stranger because they do not know his voice; instead, they will run from him."

⁶When Jesus used this illustration the people did not understand what He meant. So He explained:

⁷"I tell you the truth, I, I AM the Gate for the sheep. ⁸All those who came before Me were thieves and robbers; so the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I, I AM the Gate. Whoever enters through Me will be saved from a life of sin and become one of My sheep. He will be able to go in and come out and will always find sufficient pasture.

¹⁰“The purpose of the thief, the devil, is to steal, kill and destroy. But I have come to give the fullness of God’s life to those who believe in Me.

The Good Shepherd (10:11-18)

¹¹“I, I AM the Good Shepherd, the One who gives His life for those who are His sheep. ¹²The one who is only hired to do a job is not like the shepherd who owns the sheep. When the wolf comes to attack the sheep, the hired hand flees and abandons the sheep. ¹³He runs because he is only a hired hand and does not really care for the sheep.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵“I, I AM the Good Shepherd; I know each of My sheep and they know Me, in the same way that the Father knows Me and I know the Father. What is more, I am ready to die for My sheep.

¹⁶“I have other sheep that are not of this particular sheep pen. I must gather them in as well, for they also will respond to My voice. However, there shall only be one flock, belonging to one Shepherd.

¹⁷“My Father loves Me because I am ready to die for the sheep, only then to be restored to life. ¹⁸No-one will be able to take My life from Me; I will give it of My own free will. I have the authority to surrender My life and the authority to be raised again. This is the command given Me by My Father, and I obey Him.”

Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of blasphemy (10:19-39)

¹⁹Again the Jews were divided by Jesus’ words. ²⁰Many said: “He most certainly is possessed by a demon! He must be mad! There is no point in listening to Him!”

²¹However others said: “A man possessed by a demon does not speak like this Man. And how can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

²²⁻²⁴The Feast of Dedication takes place in Jerusalem during the winter. When Jesus was walking in the area of the temple known as Solomon’s Colonnade, the Jewish leaders gathered around Him to challenge Him again: “For how much longer do You intend to keep us in suspense? Tell us clearly if You are the Christ, the Messiah.”

²⁵⁻²⁶Jesus replied: “I have already told you, but you did not believe Me. The miracles I perform in My Father’s Name confirm who I am, but you do not believe in Me because you are not My sheep. ²⁷Those who are My sheep listen to what I say. I know them personally and they follow Me. ²⁸I give them eternal life and they shall not die eternally. ²⁹And no-one is able to snatch them away from Me because My

Father has given them to Me, and He is greater and more powerful than any opposed to Me. Not one of those who belong to Me will be taken away from My Father. ³⁰For I and the Father are one!"

³¹Again the Jewish leaders were so infuriated that they picked up stones and were ready to kill Him. ³²But Jesus said to them: "For which of the many great miracles I have shown you do you want to stone Me?"

³³The Jewish leaders replied: "We do not stone You for the miracles, but for Your blasphemy. You are merely a man and yet You claim to be God!"

³⁴"What about the place in your law where it is written, 'I have called you gods,'" replied Jesus. ³⁵⁻³⁶"If those to whom His word was spoken were called 'gods', and the scripture is certainly trustworthy, what about the One whom the Father has set apart as His own Son and who He has sent into the world? So why accuse Me of blasphemy because I told you, 'I am God's Son?'"

³⁷"However, I would not expect you to believe Me if I did not do what My Father does. ³⁸But if I do His works, even though you do not believe what I say, you should at least believe the miracles. Then you would know and would continue to understand that the Father lives in Me and I live in the Father."

³⁹They were even more determined to seize Jesus, but yet again He escaped from them.

Many across the Jordan believe (10:40-42)

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹Then Jesus went across the Jordan to the place where John was baptising at the beginning of His ministry. He remained there and many people came to Him because they said: "John never performed such miracles, but what He said about this Jesus has certainly proved to be true." ⁴²So many became believers in Jesus there.

Lazarus dies (11:1-24)

11 Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, who lived in the village of Bethany just outside Jerusalem, was sick. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord's body with perfume and wiped His feet with her hair.

³Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, Lazarus who You love is sick." ⁴Jesus' immediate response to this message was to say: "This sickness will not end in death. Rather it is so that God's glory can be revealed and so that His Son may be glorified through what happens."

⁵Jesus loved this family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. ⁶Despite this He did not rush immediately to Bethany, but stayed where He was for another two days. ⁷It was only then that He said to His disciples: "Let us now return to Judea." ⁸They reminded Him: "Master, not long ago the Jewish leaders there tried to stone You. Do You really intend to return there?"

⁹Jesus replied: "There are twelve hours of daylight, are there not? Anyone who walks in the light will not stumble. ¹⁰It is only when he walks at night he is likely to stumble, for then he has no light." ¹¹He continued by explaining: "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to Bethany to awaken him!"

¹²The disciples said: "Lord, if he is only sleeping, he will wake up naturally." ¹³But Jesus had meant that Lazarus had already died, even though the disciples thought He meant natural sleep.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵So then Jesus told them explicitly: "Lazarus is dead, and I was glad not to have been there for your sake, so that when you see what happens you will believe. Come, let us go to him now."

¹⁶Thomas (called Didymus) said to the other disciples: "We may as well go and die with Him!"

¹⁷When Jesus arrived in the area of Bethany, He discovered that Lazarus had been buried four days earlier. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many had come from the city to comfort Martha and Mary because of their brother's death. ²⁰However, when Martha heard that Jesus was nearby she went to meet Him while Mary stayed at home.

²¹When she saw Jesus, Martha said: "Lord, if only You had been here with us, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that, despite the situation, God will give You whatever You ask of Him."

²³Jesus promised her: "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴"I know he will rise again when the resurrection takes place on the last day," Martha replied.

The Resurrection and the Life (11:25-37)

²⁵Jesus said to her: "I, I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in Me will live eternally, even though he dies physically. ²⁶Whoever lives in Me because He continues to believe in Me will never die eternally. Do you believe this?"

²⁷"Oh yes, Lord," she said, "I do believe that You are the Christ, God's Son, the One God promised would come into the world."

²⁸Having said this, Martha went back to her house and took Mary quietly aside: "The Teacher has arrived and wants to see you."

²⁹When Mary heard this, she left immediately to go to Him. ³⁰Jesus had not yet entered the village but had remained at the place where Martha had met Him. ³¹Those who had come from the city to comfort her followed Mary when they saw how quickly she left the house. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

³²When Mary saw Jesus waiting for her, she fell at His feet and said: "Lord, if only You had been here with us, my brother would not have died."

³³Jesus was deeply moved and distressed at the sight of Mary and those who had followed her weeping with grief.

³⁴"Where have you buried him?" He asked.

"Come and we will show You, Lord," they replied.

³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶And the people said: "Look how deeply He loved Lazarus!"

³⁷Yet there were some who questioned: "If He could open blind eyes, could He not have prevented Lazarus from dying?"

Lazarus raised from the dead (11:38-45)

³⁸Jesus was still deeply moved when He arrived at the tomb, which was in a cave with a stone placed across the entrance.

³⁹Jesus said: "Take away the stone."

"But Lord," Martha protested, "by now there will be a terrible smell, for it is four days since he died and was buried."

⁴⁰But Jesus said to her: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?"

⁴¹⁻⁴²So the stone was removed. Then Jesus looked up towards heaven and prayed: "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me and I know that You always hear Me. I say this for the sake of all those standing here, that they might believe that You have sent Me."

⁴³Jesus then shouted: "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The man who had died came out with his hands and feet still wrapped in the strips of linen and with the burial cloth around his face.

Jesus ordered: "Remove his grave clothes and let him walk freely."

Jewish Council plots to kill Jesus (11:45-57)

⁴⁵Many of the Jews from the city who had come to visit Mary put their faith in Jesus when they witnessed this. ⁴⁶But some went and told the Pharisees what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling Council.

⁴⁷"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "This man is still performing many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸If we allow Him to continue,

everyone will believe in Him. And where will that leave us? The Romans will come and take our authority away. He will be the ruin of our nation.”

⁴⁹Then one of them, Caiaphas, who was the high priest at that time, spoke: “You do not understand anything! ⁵⁰Do you not see that it would be better for you if one man was to die for the sake of the people, rather than to have the whole nation perish.”

⁵¹⁻⁵²Because he was high priest for that year, he was not speaking from his own understanding, but was prophesying that Jesus would die for the whole Jewish nation and for all God’s children scattered everywhere in the world, that they may all be brought together in unity through their faith in Jesus.

⁵³The outcome was that the Council now began to plot as to how they could kill Jesus. ⁵⁴It was no longer safe for Jesus to move publicly among the Jews in Jerusalem. So He went instead to Ephraim, a village in the region near the desert. There He stayed with His disciples.

⁵⁵Near the time for the Jewish Passover, many pilgrims went from the country areas to Jerusalem to take part in the ceremonial cleansing before the Feast began. ⁵⁶They kept looking for Jesus in the temple area where He normally taught. They questioned among themselves: “Do you think He would dare to come to the feast at all?” ⁵⁷For the chief priests and Pharisees had issued a decree, that if anyone discovered where Jesus was, it was to be reported to them immediately so they might arrest Him.

Mary anoints Jesus’ feet (12:1-8)

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus returned to Bethany where Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead, lived. ²A dinner was given in Jesus’ honour and Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Jesus. ³Mary took a pint of very expensive perfume, pure nard, poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. The whole house was filled with the perfume’s fragrance.

⁴⁻⁵However, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who was to betray Jesus later, objected: “This perfume is worth so much that it could have been sold and the money distributed to the poor.” ⁶He did not say this out of concern for the poor but because he was a thief. He had the responsibility for keeping the money purse and used to help himself from it.

⁷Jesus replied: “Do not trouble her. She is doing what it was intended that she should do by saving this perfume for the time of

My burial. ⁸The poor will always be with you, but you will not always have Me.”

More Jews put their faith in Jesus (12:9-11)

⁹A large number of Jewish people discovered that Jesus was there at Bethany and so came, not only to see Him but also to see Lazarus who He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰This caused the chief priests to plan to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus. ¹¹Because of the way He was raised from the dead, many Jews were turning to Jesus and putting their faith in Him.

Entrance of the King (12:12-19)

¹²On the following day, the great crowd that had come to the city for the feast heard that Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem. ¹³Taking palm branches they went to meet Him, shouting: “The Lord our Saviour!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the Lord’s Name!”

“Blessed be Israel’s King!”

¹⁴⁻¹⁵Jesus was riding on a young donkey that had been provided for Him, fulfilling what was written, “Daughter of Zion, do not fear. Look, your King comes seated on a young donkey.”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand what was happening at first. It was only after Jesus had been glorified that they realised that these things had been done to Jesus to fulfil what had been written prophetically about Him.

¹⁷All those who had witnessed the way Jesus had called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to tell about what they had seen. ¹⁸Many others, on hearing of such a wonderful miraculous sign, went out to greet Jesus.

¹⁹The Pharisees were exasperated further. “We are getting nowhere,” they said. “Look at what is happening now. The whole world is turning to Him!”

Jesus predicts His death (12:20-36)

²⁰Some Greeks were among those who had come to worship at the feast. ²¹They came to Philip, who was a Galilean from Bethsaida, with a request: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²²Philip told Andrew this and then both went to tell Jesus. ²³He replied: “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴I tell you most emphatically,

unless a seed of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it reproduces itself many times over.

²⁵Anyone who lives his life for himself will lose it, but anyone who hates the idea of living in the world for himself, will inherit eternal life. ²⁶So whoever chooses to serve Me must follow Me. Where I choose to go, My servant will also go. And My Father will honour all who serve Me.

²⁷“Yet now I feel troubled. So what shall I say? ‘Father save me from this hour?’ No, this was the very reason for which I came.

²⁸Father, glorify your Name!”

Then a voice from heaven was heard saying: “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd said that it had thundered, but others said an angel had spoken to Jesus.

³⁰“This voice was for your benefit, not mine,” Jesus said. “The time of judgment on this world has come. ³¹Now the prince of this world, the devil, will be driven out. ³²But when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to Myself.” ³³This was a veiled reference to the way in which He was going to die.

³⁴Then the crowd responded: “In the law we are told that the Christ will be eternal. How can you say, then, that the Son of Man has to be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man to whom you refer?”

³⁵Jesus answered: “The Light is going to be with you for only a little longer. Walk in the Light while it is here with you, before the darkness comes to overtake you. For anyone who walks in the dark cannot see where he is going. ³⁶While the Light is here with you, trust in that Light, and then you will become sons of that Light.”

When He had said this, Jesus left them and went away secretly.

Unbelief in Jesus (12:37-50)

³⁷⁻³⁹Despite the fact that Jesus had performed so many miraculous signs before their eyes, still they would not believe in Him, as was predicted by the prophet Isaiah, “Lord, who has believed the message you gave Me, and to whom has Your arm of power been revealed?” Isaiah explains why the people could not believe: ⁴⁰“God has blinded the eyes of their perception and their hearts are spiritually dead, so they cannot see with their eyes nor can they understand with their hearts and repent, for then they would be healed and set free.”

⁴¹Prophetically Isaiah was shown God’s glory and so could speak about Him hundreds of years before He became man.

12:39 *Isaiah 53:1*

12:40 *Isaiah 6:10*

⁴²Although many did not believe in Jesus, some of their leaders did. But because of the animosity of the Pharisees, they would not express their faith publicly or they would have been excommunicated from the synagogue. ⁴³Being accepted by others meant more to them than doing what was acceptable to God.

⁴⁴Jesus shouted: "When anyone believes in Me, he not only believes in Me, but also in the Father who sent Me. ⁴⁵To look at Me is to look at the Father who sent Me. ⁴⁶I came to bring light into the world, to deliver from darkness those who believe in Me.

⁴⁷"When someone hears what I say but does not act on My words, I do not judge him for his disobedience. My purpose in coming was not to judge people now, but to save them from the judgment they deserve.

⁴⁸"However, anyone who rejects Me and the words I speak will be judged. The Word I have spoken will be his judge and he will finally be condemned because of his unbelief.

⁴⁹"I do not say this as My own opinion. The Father who sent Me has told Me what to say and even how to say it. ⁵⁰I know that whatever He commands people to do will result in eternal life. So you can be sure that I only say what the Father has commanded Me to say."

Jesus washes the disciples' feet (13:1-11)

13 Jesus knew the time for Him to return to the Father had arrived. It was now just before the Passover feast. He had loved all those who belonged to Him while in this world, and now was about to demonstrate how great that love was.

²Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, had already been swayed by the devil to betray Jesus. Jesus and the disciples were together for the evening meal. ³He was well aware that the Father had given Him complete control of the situation. He had come from heaven and was now about to return there to be with God the Father.

⁴During the meal Jesus rose from the table, removed His outer garment and wrapped a towel around His waist. ⁵He poured water into a bowl and began to wash the feet of His disciples. He then dried them with the towel.

⁶When it was Simon Peter's turn, he objected: "Lord, surely You are not going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus told him: "You do not understand the significance of what I am doing now, but later you will understand."

⁸"Never," said Peter. "You shall never wash my feet."

"If I do not wash you, then you do not belong to Me," Jesus said.

⁹“In that case,” Simon Peter replied, “Please wash my hands and head as well as my feet.” ¹⁰Jesus told Him: “If someone has already had a bath, he only has to wash his feet; the rest of his body is already clean. And you disciples are spiritually clean, apart from one of you.” ¹¹For Jesus knew who was going to betray Him; so He could not say they were all clean.

Jesus identifies His betrayer (13:12-30)

¹²After washing their feet, Jesus again put on His outer garment and returned to His place at the table. He asked the disciples: “Do you understand the significance of what I have just done for you? ¹³You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and it is right to do so, for this is what I am.

¹⁴“Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have humbly washed your feet, you should also be ready to humble yourselves and wash each other’s feet! ¹⁵This is an example I have given you, so that you should do for one another what I have done for you. So humbly serve one another. ¹⁶For I tell you the truth, a servant is never greater than his master, nor is the messenger more important than the one who sent him.

¹⁷“You know what I have taught you. You will be blessed by doing what I say!

¹⁸“Sadly I am not referring to every one of you. I know what is in the heart of each person I have chosen. And there is a scripture that has to be fulfilled: “Someone who eats My bread has turned against Me.”

¹⁹“I am warning you now before it happens, so that when it does take place, you will still believe that I am the One sent by God. ²⁰I tell you the truth, anyone who accepts someone I have sent, accepts Me. And anyone who accepts Me, accepts also He who sent Me.”

²¹Having said this, Jesus was clearly troubled and told them: “I tell you truly, one of you is about to betray Me.”

²²This startled the disciples who looked at one another with no idea as to whom He was referring. ²³John, the disciple who had a special relationship of love with Jesus, was next to Him at the table.

²⁴Simon Peter whispered to John: “Ask Him who He means.”

²⁵So being close to Jesus, John asked Him quietly: “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶Jesus answered: “When I have dipped this piece of bread in the dish, I will give it to him.” He dipped the piece of bread and gave it

to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. ²⁷When Judas took the bread, Satan immediately entered into him.

Jesus said to Judas: "What you intend to do, do immediately."
²⁸The others around the table did not understand why Jesus said this to Judas. ²⁹Since he was responsible for the money purse, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and buy what was needed to celebrate the feast, or perhaps to give some money to the poor.

³⁰Judas left immediately and outside it was already dark.

Jesus commands His disciples to love one another (13:31-38)

³¹When he had left, Jesus could now speak in a different way to the other disciples. "The time has now come for the Son of Man to be glorified and for God to be glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in His Son, then He will in turn glorify the Son and will do so immediately.

³³"My children, I am going to be with you for only a little while longer. You will search for Me, and as I told the Jewish leaders, so now I tell you: where I am about to go, you cannot come.

³⁴"I am giving you a new command: love each other. In the same way that I have loved each of you, so you must love each other. ³⁵When you do this everyone will see that you are truly My disciples; they will know this because of your love for each other.

³⁶Simon Peter asked Him: "Lord, where are You going?"

Jesus answered: "You cannot come where I am going now, but you will follow later."

³⁷Peter asked: "Lord, why is it not possible for me to come now? I would do anything for You, even give my life for You."

³⁸Then Jesus said to him: "Are you really prepared to give your life for Me? I tell you truly, before the cock crows at dawn, you will have denied three times that you know Me!"

The Way, the Truth and the Life (14:1-11)

14 "Don't allow your hearts to be gripped by fear. Put your trust in God and therefore also in Me. ²There are many places in My Father's house for those who believe in Me. If this was not the case I would have warned you. ³I am returning there now and will prepare the place appointed for you. So you can see that I prepare your place for you, then I will return for you to ensure that you will be with Me eternally in My heavenly glory. ⁴You now know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to Jesus: "Lord how can we know the way, if we don't know where you are going?"

⁶Jesus replied: "I, I AM the way and I, I AM the Truth and I, I AM the Life. Nobody can come to the Father in heaven except through faith in Me. ⁷To know Me personally is to know My Father as well. So from this time you can say that you both know Him and have seen Him."

⁸"Lord, show us the Father and we shall be satisfied," Philip said.

⁹Jesus answered: "I have been with you all this time, Philip, and still you do not know Me? To see Me is to see the Father. So why ask Me to show you the Father? ¹⁰Simply believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in Me. Even the words I speak to you are not My own; the Father who lives in Me is working through Me. ¹¹So believe Me when I tell you that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. The miracles are the very evidence that what I say is true.

Prayer of faith (14:12-14)

¹²"I tell you the truth, anyone who puts his faith in Me will do the same things that I have been doing. He will be able to do even greater things than these because of what will happen when I return to be with the Father.

¹³"And I give you this promise: I will give you whatever you ask in My Name, and in this way the Son will bring further glory to the Father. ¹⁴Yes, you can ask Me for anything in My Name, that is in My will, and I will surely do it.

Promise of the Holy Spirit (14:15-26)

¹⁵"The evidence that you love Me will be seen in the way you obey what I command you to do. ¹⁶To enable this obedience, when I return to heaven I will ask the Father to replace Me with another Counsellor exactly like Me, who will remain with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of Truth.

"The world cannot receive Him, because those who belong to the world neither see the way He works nor do they know Him. But you know Him, for this Spirit of Truth lives with you and soon will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you alone; I will come to you. ¹⁹Soon the world will not be able to see Me any longer, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will also live filled with My life. ²⁰Then you will know for sure that I am at one with the Father, you are at one with Me and I am living in you.

²¹ "Who really loves Me? The one who not only has My commands but obeys them! Anyone who genuinely loves Me like that will be loved by My Father. I will also love him and will continue to reveal Myself to him."

²² Then the other Judas (not Iscariot) asked: "Lord, why will You reveal yourself to us, but not to everyone in the world?"

²³ Jesus answered: "If anyone genuinely loves Me, he will put My teaching into practice. My Father will love him and both He and I will come and live with him. Yes, we will make our home with him.

²⁴ But anyone who does not love Me will not obey what I have said. What I tell you is not My own teaching; it comes from the Father who sent Me!

²⁵ "I have told you all these things while I am still with you. ²⁶ The Father will send you the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, in My Name. When He comes He will teach you all you need to know and will remind you of everything I have already taught you.

Jesus tells of His departure (14:27-31)

²⁷ "I leave you with the gift of peace. It is My peace that I give to you, the kind of peace the world can never give you. Because you have My peace, there is no need to allow your hearts to become fearful or troubled.

²⁸ "You have heard Me tell you, 'I am about to leave you, but I am going to return to you!' If you really love Me you should be glad about this. You should rejoice that I am returning to be with My Father in heaven, for He is greater in heaven than I am here in My human body! ²⁹ I have warned you of what is about to take place so that when it does happen you will continue to believe.

³⁰ "There is not much more I can say to you now. The devil, the prince of this world, is about to have his way. ³¹ Understand that he has no control whatsoever over Me; but the world needs to see Me demonstrate how I love the Father by doing exactly what He has commanded Me.

"So let us be ready for what is about to happen.

The Vine and the branches (15:1-6)

15 "I, I AM the true Vine and my Father tends this Vine. ² He cuts out every branch in Me that does not produce fruit. Even the fruitful branches He carefully prunes so that in future they will bear even more fruit.

³“You have already been pruned through the words I have spoken to you. ⁴Stay living in Me and I will continue to live in you. It is impossible for any branch to be fruitful if it is separated from the Vine. It has to continue to live in the Vine. In the same way, it would be impossible for you to bear fruit if you were not to remain living in Me.

⁵“I AM the Vine and you are the branches in the Vine. Anyone who continues to live in Me and I in him will be abundantly fruitful. But outside of Me you can do absolutely nothing. ⁶For anyone who does not continue to live at one with Me is like a branch that is thrown away and so withers. All such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

Remain in His love (15:7-11)

⁷“By contrast, if you continue to live at one with Me and My words continue to live in you, you can ask for anything you want and it will be given you. ⁸My Father will be glorified and honoured in your lives because you will bear much fruit and so demonstrate that you are truly My disciples.

⁹“I have loved you in exactly the same way that My Father loves Me. So continue to live in My love. ¹⁰You will remain in My love if you obey what I have commanded you, in the same way that I have remained in My Father’s love by obeying what He commanded Me.

¹¹“I have told you this because I want you to have within you the same joy that is in Me. I want you to be absolutely full of My joy.

Friends of Jesus (15:12-17)

¹²“The command I give you to obey is simply this: love one another in the same way that I have loved you. ¹³No greater love than this exists, and it is expressed in your willingness to lay down your life for your friends. ¹⁴If you obey what I command you, then you will be My friends. ¹⁵I no longer refer to you only as servants, because it is not a servant’s place to know about his master’s business. No, I have called you My friends because I have relayed to you whatever the Father has revealed to Me.

¹⁶“You did not choose Me. No, it was I who chose you. But I not only choose you to belong to Me; I also commission you to go and bear fruit that will be of eternal significance. As you go to do that, the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name, those things that you know to be consistent with My will.

¹⁷“So this is My command: love each other!

Rejection is inevitable (15:18-16:6)

¹⁸“If you experience hatred from worldly people, remember that they hated Me first. If you belonged to the world and lived by its standards, then they would love you as their own. ¹⁹The truth is that you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen to take you out of worldliness to belong to My Kingdom. That is why the world hates you and is opposed to you.

²⁰“Remember what I have already taught you: ‘No servant is greater than the master he serves!’ So if they persecute Me, it is certain that they will also persecute you. On the other hand, those who have obeyed what I have taught them will also obey what you teach them. ²¹In other words, you will be treated by people in the same way that they have treated Me, simply because you speak and act in My Name, on My behalf. What is more, those who oppose you do not know the Father who sent Me.

²²“They would not be guilty in the same way if they were simply ignorant. But the fact that I have come and told them the truth compounds their guilt. They have no excuse for their sin of rejecting Me and what I have said. ²³Anyone who hates Me hates My Father as well. ²⁴In rejecting Me and My teaching, they have clearly rejected what I did among them, the miraculous signs that verified My message. So their guilt is even greater. They have shown their hatred of both Me and My Father despite the miracles.

²⁵“This only shows that what is written in their law is correct and has now been fulfilled, ‘They hated Me without cause.’

²⁶“However, when I send you the Counsellor from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father, He will bear witness to all I have said and done. ²⁷And you also will be My witnesses, for you have been with Me from the beginning of My ministry here.

16 “I have told you all these things to prevent you from wandering away from the truth. ²They will excommunicate you from the synagogue. They will even think that they are serving God’s purposes by killing you. ³And they will do such things because they know neither the Father nor Me.

⁴⁻⁵“I have warned you so that when these things happen you will remember what I said. There was no need for Me to tell you these things while I was still with you; but now I am returning to the Father who sent Me. Yet none of you asks Me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶You are merely filled with grief because of what I have said.

The role of the Holy Spirit (16:7-15)

⁷“But I tell you the truth, it is for your own good that I am now going away. For unless I leave you, the Counsellor cannot come to you. But when I return to the Father, I will send Him to you.

⁸“When the Holy Spirit comes He will reveal to the world what is sinful and what is right in God’s eyes. He will warn people of the judgment that is to come. ⁹People will see they remain bound in sin and guilt because they do not believe in Me. ¹⁰They will see that I have revealed what is true and right by the way I return to the Father, even though this means people will no longer see Me in the flesh. ¹¹They will be faced with the reality of judgment because the prince of this world now stands judged and condemned.

¹²“There is so much more I have to say to you, but you would not be able to take it now. ¹³But when the Spirit of Truth comes He will give you the complete revelation of the truth. He will not speak on His own initiative, but only what He hears from the Father and the Son; and He will prepare you for what lies ahead.

¹⁴“The Holy Spirit will glorify Me because He will take hold of all I have said and done, and will reveal it to you. ¹⁵Everything that the Father has, I also have. And everything I have, the Spirit will take and reveal to you in your experience. So I tell you clearly that everything the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have is yours!

Authority in the Name of Jesus (16:16-24)

¹⁶“Soon you will no longer see Me but then, shortly afterwards, you will see Me again.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁸Some of the disciples questioned among themselves: “What do you think He means by saying, ‘Soon you will no longer see Me, then, shortly afterwards, you will see Me again?’ We don’t understand what He means.”

¹⁹Jesus perceived that they wanted Him to explain further, so He said to them: “Are you discussing what I meant when I said, ‘Soon you will see Me no longer but, shortly afterwards, you will see Me again?’ ²⁰I tell you the truth, you will cry with grief while the world rejoices. But then your grief will be replaced by great joy.

²¹“Immediately prior to the birth of her child a woman experiences pain; but as soon as her baby is born she forgets all her pain and concern; she is so delighted that her child is now safely born. ²²So shall it be with you. Now you are full of grief and concern; but when I see you again all that will be forgotten. You will be overcome with a joy that no one will be able to take away from you.

²³“At that time you will no longer question Me about anything. I tell you the truth, you will speak directly to the Father and He will give you whatever you ask in My Name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything using the authority of My Name, the authority I have given you. But now when you ask in this way you will receive and this will give you great joy.

²⁵“In the past I have spoken to you using parables and illustrations, but the time is about to begin when I will no longer speak with you figuratively, but will tell you about My Father in clear, precise language. ²⁶Then you will pray in My Name. I am not promising to ask the Father on your behalf for what you need. ²⁷This will not be necessary, for the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed who I am, the One who has been sent by God. ²⁸I came from the Father in heaven into this world. Now I am leaving the world and returning to My Father in heaven.”

Disciples have confidence in Jesus (16:29-33)

²⁹At this, Jesus’ disciples said: “Now You are speaking in plain language we can understand. ³⁰Now we realise that You know everything, that You do not need anyone to question You. This encourages our faith, that truly You have come from God.”

³¹“At last you believe!” Jesus replied. ³²“A time is coming and has already come when you will be scattered, each of you to his own home. Yes, you will leave Me all by Myself. Yet I will not be alone, for My Father is always with Me.

³³“All these things I have told you now so that by trusting in Me you will be able to maintain your peace. In this world you are bound to experience trouble. But you do not need to be down-hearted about this, for I have already defeated the world.”

Jesus prays for Himself (17:1-5)

17 After Jesus had said all these things, He looked up towards heaven as He prayed: “Father, now the time has come for You to glorify Your Son so that Your Son might glorify You. ²You gave Him authority over everyone so that He could give eternal life to all those You gave Him. ³And eternal life is to know You personally as the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ whom You sent into the world.

⁴“I have brought You glory while I have been here on earth because I have completed the task You appointed Me to accomplish. ⁵So now, Father, restore Me to the glory of Your presence in heaven with the glory I had with You before the world was created.

Jesus prays for His disciples (17:6-19)

⁶“I have made You known to those You set apart and gave to Me. They were Yours and You chose to give them to Me; and now they have obeyed Your Word. ⁷Now they are sure that You are the source of everything You have given Me.

⁸“I spoke to them the words You gave Me to speak and they received them as the truth. They became certain that I came from You; they believed that You sent Me to be the Saviour of the world.

⁹“So I pray for them, Father. I am not praying for everyone in the world, but for those you have given Me out of the world, for they belong to You. ¹⁰All those who belong to You belong to Me, and I have received glory and honour through them.

¹¹“I will not remain in the world any longer, but they have to remain here, even though I am returning to be with You. So, Holy Father, keep them under the protection of Your powerful Name, the Name You gave Me, so that they may remain united in the same way that we are always one.

¹²“I could protect them while I was with them and keep them safe by the power and authority of the Name You gave Me. Not one of them has been lost along the way, except the one who had to be lost and destroyed so that the prediction of scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³“Now I am returning to You. I say these things while I am still with them in the world, so that they will have the complete measure of My joy in them. ¹⁴I have given them Your Word and the whole world has hated them because they believed what I said. This demonstrated that they do not belong to the world any more than I do. ¹⁵I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but to protect them from the power of the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world any more than I do.

¹⁷“Let their lives be consecrated and made holy by the truth, for the words You have given Me are the truth. ¹⁸In the same way that You sent Me into the world, I have commissioned and sent them into the world as witnesses of the truth.

¹⁹“It is for their sakes that I now consecrate Myself completely to Your will, so that through the shedding of My blood they, too, may be truly consecrated to Your purposes.

Jesus prays for future believers (17:20-26)

²⁰“I do not pray only for them, but for all those who in the future will believe in Me through the truth they shall proclaim. ²¹I pray that they will be one in faith and love, Father, in the same way that

You and I are always in complete harmony and agreement: You in Me and I in You. May they continue to live in Us so that the world will believe who I AM, the One You sent to be their Saviour and Lord.

²²“The glory You gave Me I have given to all who believe in Me that they may be united in faith and love, reflecting the unity that is between Us as Father and Son. ²³I will live in them as You live in Me. Yes, I want them to come to a place of being completely united in faith and love to demonstrate to the world that You sent Me, and that You have loved them in the same way that You have loved Me while I have been here on the earth.

²⁴“Father, My desire is that all those You have given Me, now and in the future, will be with Me where I am going to be, so that they can see My glory for themselves, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me even before We created the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, even though those who belong to the world do not know You, I know You, and those who believe know that You sent Me. ²⁶I have revealed the truth about You to them and I will continue to make You known to them, so that the same love You have for Me will be in them, and that I Myself will be expressed in their lives.”

Jesus arrested (18:1-14)

18 After He had prayed, Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to an olive grove where they had often spent time together. ²Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place. ³He came there now, followed by a group of soldiers and officials sent by the chief priests and Pharisees, carrying both torches and weapons.

⁴Jesus was well aware of everything that was going to happen to Him and went to meet them. “Who do you want?” He asked them.

⁵“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am He,” said Jesus. (Judas was there with the group.) ⁶When He said this, they all fell to the ground.

⁷Jesus repeated the question: “Who do you want?”

They said: “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸Jesus said: “I have already told you that I am He. If it is Me you want, then you can allow these men to go.” ⁹The words that Jesus had spoken had to be fulfilled, ‘I have lost none of those You gave Me.’

¹⁰Simon Peter had a sword which he then drew and used to strike the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear (the man’s name was Malchus).

¹¹ Jesus ordered Peter: “Put away your sword! I have to drink the cup the Father has given Me. Do you think you can prevent that?”

¹²⁻¹³ Then the officers, soldiers and Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound Him and led Him first to Annas. Caiaphas was the high priest at that time and Annas was his father-in-law. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had told the Jewish leaders that it was beneficial for one man to die on behalf of the people.

Peter denies he is Jesus’ disciple (18:15-18)

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Simon Peter and another of the disciples followed at a safe distance. This other disciple knew the high priest and so gained access to the courtyard where Jesus was taken; but Peter had to remain outside until the other disciple who knew the high priest had spoken to the servant girl on duty at the door. Then Peter was also allowed to come into the courtyard.

¹⁷ She said to Peter: “Are you not one of this man’s disciples?”

“No, I am not,” Peter replied.

¹⁸ The servants and officials stood round a fire to keep warm, for it was a cold night. Peter stood with them warming himself.

The High Priest questions Jesus (18:19-24)

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest had begun to question Jesus about His disciples and what He taught.

²⁰ Jesus replied: “I have spoken publicly so everyone could hear. I always went to the synagogues and the temple to teach, places where Jews meet openly. I have not spoken in secret. ²¹ So why do you need to question Me about what I have said? You can ask those who have listened to Me: they know well what I have been teaching.”

²² When Jesus replied in this manner, one of the nearby officials hit Jesus in the face saying: “Is that the right way to answer the high priest?”

²³ Jesus replied: “Tell Me what I said that was wrong. But if what I said was true, then why hit Me?” ²⁴ While still bound, Annas then sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter denies Jesus again (18:25-27)

²⁵ As Simon Peter was warming himself, he was again asked: “Are you not one of this man’s disciples?”

He repeated his denial saying: “No, I am not.”

²⁶ Another of the high priest’s servants, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him: “I saw you with

Him in the olive garden, didn't I?" ²⁷ For the third time Peter denied Jesus, and then the cock crowed!

Jesus before Pilate (18:28-37)

²⁸ Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. By now it was the early hours of the morning and the Jewish leaders did not want to make themselves ceremonially unclean by entering the palace, or they would not have been able to eat the Passover meal. ²⁹ So Pilate came out of the palace to ask them: "What accusations do you bring against this man?"

³⁰ They replied: "We would not hand Him over to you unless we were sure of His guilt. He is a criminal."

³¹ "Well take Him and judge Him according to your own law then," said Pilate.

³² The Jews responded: "But we do not have Roman authority to execute anyone." What Jesus had said about the way He would die had to be fulfilled.

³³ Pilate went into the palace and had Jesus brought before him. "Are You really the king of the Jews?" he asked him.

³⁴ Jesus replied: "Is that what you think, or is this what others have told you about Me?"

³⁵ Pilate answered: "Am I a Jew? This is what Your own people and the chief priests who have handed You over to me, say You claim. What have You done?"

³⁶ "My Kingdom is not a worldly kingdom," Jesus replied. "If that was the case, My followers would have fought to prevent the Jews arresting Me. No, I have an altogether different kind of Kingdom."

³⁷ "So You are a king in that case!" Pilate said.

"Yes, it is correct to say that I am King. I came into this world to reveal the truth; that is why I was born. So I cannot deny that I am King," said Jesus. "Everyone who really wants to know the truth listens to what I say."

Pilate finds no fault in Jesus (18:38-40)

³⁸ "But what is truth?" asked Pilate. He then went outside again to speak to the Jewish leaders: "I do not find Him guilty of any charge.

³⁹ But as it is customary for Me to release one prisoner to you at Passover time, do you want me to release this 'King of the Jews?'"

⁴⁰ "No, no! Not Him!" they shouted in response. "Release Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a terrorist!

Jesus mocked and flogged (19:1-3)

19 So Pilate had Jesus flogged. ^{2,3}The soldiers made a crown out of thorn branches and put it on His head. They placed a purple robe on Him, the colour of royalty, and bowed before Him again and again in a mocking fashion saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they hit Him about the face.

Pilate's dilemma (19:4-16)

⁴Pilate went outside to the Jewish leaders again and said: "Listen, I am bringing this man out to you again because I want to make it clear that I do not find Him guilty of any charge brought against Him." ⁵Then Jesus came out still wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said: "Here He is!"

⁶But as soon as the chief priests and their officers saw Him, they shouted out, "Crucify! Crucify Him!"

Pilate responded: "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him. I have made it clear that I have not found Him guilty of anything."

⁷But the Jewish leaders were insistent: "According to our law He must die because He claimed to be God's Son."

^{8,9}This made Pilate even more fearful and He went back into the palace to question Jesus further. "Where do You come from?" he asked. Jesus stood silent, refusing to answer.

¹⁰"Why do You not speak to me?" Pilate asked Him. "Surely You understand that I have the power to free You or to crucify You!"

¹¹Then Jesus said: "You could have no power over Me unless this was given you from heaven. Those who have handed Me over to you are far more guilty."

¹²That settled it. Pilate now wanted to free Jesus, but the Jews kept up their opposition by shouting: "You are no friend to Caesar if you release this man. It is treason against Caesar for anyone to claim to be king."

¹³This hypocrisy put Pilate in a dilemma. So he sat down on the Seat of Judgment and had Jesus brought before him again at the place known as the Stone Pavement. ¹⁴It was now about noon on the Day of Preparation for the Passover.

Pilate said to the assembled Jews: "Here is your King."

¹⁵They shouted back: "Take Him away. Take Him away! Crucify Him!"

"You want Me to crucify your King?" asked Pilate.

"We have no king apart from Caesar," answered the chief priests.

¹⁶So Pilate finally relented and handed Jesus over to them to be crucified!

King of the Jews crucified (19:17-24)

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Then the soldiers took charge of Him, leading Him to Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, where they were to crucify Him. He had to carry His own cross there. They crucified two others at the same time, one on either side of Jesus.

¹⁹ Pilate had ordered that a sign be nailed to the cross reading: 'JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.' ²⁰ Many people read this sign which was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek, for the place where Jesus was crucified was just outside the city. ²¹ The Jewish chief priests were incensed by this and protested to Pilate: "Do not write 'King of the Jews', but that this man *claimed* to be the king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered them: "What I have written, I have written."

²³ The soldiers who crucified Jesus divided His clothes among the four of them. But His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "We will not tear this," they agreed, "it is too valuable. Let's cast lots to decide who shall have it."

²⁴ This fulfilled the scripture that reads: 'They divided My apparel among them and cast lots for My clothing.' So the soldiers fulfilled what had been predicted.

John to care for Mary (19:25-27)

²⁵ Jesus' mother, her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross where Jesus hung. ²⁶⁻²⁷ When He noticed His mother and also John, the disciple He loved deeply, standing there, He said to His mother: "Dear woman, here is your son," and then to John, "Here is your mother." From that day John took Mary into his home.

It is finished (19:28-37)

²⁸ Jesus now knew that His mission on earth was completed and the scriptures that had prophesied His crucifixion were being fulfilled. So later He said: "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar, used to dull the pain, was nearby. So a sponge was soaked in it, placed on a hyssop stalk and lifted to Jesus' lips.

³⁰ When He had received the drink, Jesus said: "It is finished." Now that everything had been accomplished, He bowed His head and died, giving up His Spirit.

³¹ This was the preparation day before the special Sabbath. The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses on the

Sabbath. So they came to Pilate and asked for the legs to be broken to hasten their deaths, and then their bodies could be taken down.

³²⁻³³ They broke the legs of those crucified alongside Jesus, but found that He had already died. So they did not break His legs. ³⁴ Instead one of the soldiers thrust His spear into Jesus' side and out flowed both blood and water.

³⁵ I, John, personally bear witness to the truth of this, for I saw it myself. I know this is the truth and I testify to this to encourage you to believe.

³⁶⁻³⁷ And so in this way other scriptures were fulfilled: 'Not one of His bones will be broken,' and, 'They will gaze on the One they have pierced.'

The burial of Jesus (19:38-42)

³⁸⁻³⁹ Joseph of Arimathea came to Pilate later and asked him to release Jesus' body. Joseph had become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he had been fearful of the Jewish leaders. Pilate gave permission and together with Nicodemus, who had earlier visited Jesus at night, Joseph came and took the body. Nicodemus had brought about a hundred pounds of a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare the body for burial. ⁴⁰ So the two of them wrapped the body in strips of linen together with the spices, according to the Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹ Near the place where Jesus was crucified was a garden in which was a new unused tomb. ⁴² As it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and time before the Sabbath was short, they laid Jesus in that tomb which was conveniently nearby.

The empty tomb (20:1-9)

20 Very early on the Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and discovered that the stone that had covered the entrance had been removed. ² She ran to find Peter and the disciple who Jesus loved and told them: "They have taken the Lord's body from the tomb and we don't know where He is now!"

³⁻⁵ So Peter and John ran to the tomb, John arriving first. He stooped down and looked into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying there, but no body. However he didn't enter the tomb. ⁶⁻⁷ When Peter arrived he went in and saw the strips of linen lying there

19:36-37 *Psalms 34:20*

19:36-37 *Zechariah 12:10*

along with the burial cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. This was folded neatly by itself, separate from the strips of linen. ⁸⁻⁹ Then John also entered the tomb. He saw and believed for himself that Jesus had risen, (although at that time the disciples did not know that the scriptures predicted that Jesus had to arise from the dead).

Jesus' Resurrection (20:10-18)

¹⁰ Then the two disciples returned home, but Mary remained at the tomb. ¹¹⁻¹² She was weeping as she looked into the tomb. There she saw two angels clothed in white sitting where Jesus' body had been laid, one at the head, the other at the feet.

¹³ They asked Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

"They have taken the Lord's body away and I don't know where they have placed Him." ¹⁴ She then turned round and saw Jesus standing there, although she did not recognise that it was Him.

¹⁵ He asked Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

She thought that this must be the gardener and so said: "Sir, if You have moved Him, please tell me where You have placed His body and I will come and collect it."

¹⁶ "Mary," Jesus said.

She turned back towards Him and cried out: "Teacher!"

¹⁷ Jesus said: "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet returned to be with My Father. Go now to My brothers and give them this message, 'I am about to return to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

¹⁸ So Mary Magdalene went to the disciples and told them: "I have seen the Lord!" And she gave them the message from Him.

Jesus appears to the disciples (20:19-23)

¹⁹⁻²⁰ On the Sunday evening, when the disciples were meeting behind closed doors for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus was suddenly there in the room, standing among them. "Peace be with you," He said, and showed them the wounds in His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed at seeing the Lord.

²¹ Jesus repeated: "God's peace be upon you. I am now sending you, just as the Father has sent Me." ²² He then breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive a person his sins, they are forgiven. Those you do not forgive remain unforgiven."

Thomas believes when he sees Jesus (20:24-31)

²⁴One of the twelve, Thomas (known as Didymus), was not present when Jesus appeared to the other disciples. ²⁵They told him: "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas told them: "Unless I see for myself the wounds made by the nails in His hands and put my finger into the holes and into His side, I will not believe it."

²⁶A week later, the disciples were again meeting together in the house, and this time Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them as before, even though the doors were locked. "Peace be with you," He said.

²⁷He then addressed Thomas: "Place your finger here in the wounds you see in My hands. You can put your hand in My side. Stop doubting and believe!"

²⁸Thomas said to Jesus: "My Lord and My God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him: "You have believed because you have seen Me. Those who have not seen for themselves and yet believe are truly blessed."

³⁰Jesus performed many other miraculous signs when His disciples were present which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But what is recorded here is to encourage you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, God's Son, and so enable you to receive the life He came to give to those who believe in His Name.

Miraculous catch of fish (21:1-14)

21 Jesus later appeared again to His disciples, this time by the Sea of Tiberius. This is what happened. ²⁻³Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael who was from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, together agreed to go fishing when Peter took the lead by saying: "I am going fishing." So they boarded the boat together, fished all night, but caught nothing.

⁴Early in the morning they saw Jesus standing on the shore, but did not recognise that it was Him. ⁵He called to them: "Friends, haven't you caught anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

⁶"Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find fish there," He said. They did so and were unable to haul the net on board because of the large number of fish that had been caught.

⁷Then John, the beloved disciple, said to Peter: "It's the Lord!" When Peter heard this, he took his outer garment, put it on and jumped into the water. ⁸The rest of the disciples followed in the boat

dragging the net laden with fish, for they were only about a hundred metres from the shore. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals with fish being grilled over it, together with a supply of bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them: "Bring some of those fish you have just caught."

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net to dry land. It was full of 153 large fish and yet, despite their weight, the net was not torn.

¹²"Come and have some breakfast," Jesus invited them. None of them dared to ask, "Who are You?" for they knew it was the Lord.

¹³Jesus gave each of them some bread together with the freshly-cooked fish.

¹⁴This was the third occasion on which Jesus appeared to His disciples in His risen body after His resurrection from the dead.

Jesus commissions Peter (21:15-19)

¹⁵When they had all eaten, Jesus addressed Simon Peter: "Simon, son of John, do you truly love Me with God's love? Do you love Me more than all these fish you have just caught?"

"Lord, You know that I love You with my human love," he answered.

"Then feed My lambs," Jesus told him.

¹⁶Then Jesus asked him again: "Simon, son of John, do you truly love Me with God's love?"

Peter answered: "Lord, You know that I love You with my human love."

"Look after My sheep," Jesus said to Him.

¹⁷Then Jesus asked a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love Me with your human love?"

It hurt Peter that Jesus would question his love three times; so he replied: "Lord, You know everything; You must know that I do really love You with my human love."

Jesus said to him: "Then feed My sheep. ¹⁸When you were younger you dressed yourself and went wherever you chose to go; but I tell you truly, when you are old you will stretch out your hands, someone else will dress you and then take you where you would never choose to go." ¹⁹By saying this, Jesus was indicating the kind of death Peter would have to endure for God's glory. Then Jesus said to Peter: "Follow Me!"

Validity of John's testimony (21:20-25)

²⁰As Peter followed he noticed John also following. (John, the disciple who Jesus loved in a special way, was the one who leaned his head

on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper to ask Him who was about to betray Him). ²¹So Peter said to Jesus: "What about John? He is coming too."

²²Jesus answered: "If I want him to remain alive with Me until I come again, of what concern is that to you? You obey Me by following Me yourself."

²³Because of what Jesus said about John, a rumour spread among the believers that he would not die. But Jesus never said that he would not die. He said: "If I want him to remain alive with Me until I return, of what concern is that to you?"

²⁴I am that disciple, John, and I testify to the truth of all I have written here, as someone who was an eyewitness and who therefore can account for the accuracy of this testimony.

²⁵Jesus did so many other wonderful things that are not recorded here. If they were all to be written down, would the world be able to contain so many books?