

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
LUKE

Introduction (1:1-4)

1 ¹⁻²Most excellent Theophilus, many have written accounts of the events that took place among us, based on the eyewitness evidence of the first disciples who were taught the Word. ³⁻⁴I myself have carefully investigated all these accounts of what took place from the very beginning; and it seemed right for me to produce this accurate account for you, so that you may know that what you have been taught is correct and true.

Birth of John the Baptist foretold (1:5-25)

⁵When Herod was king of Judea, there was a certain priest called Zechariah of the priestly order of Abijah, whose wife Elizabeth was also descended from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶Both lived righteous lives in God's eyes, carefully observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷However, they were unable to have children as Elizabeth was infertile, and by then both were very old.

⁸⁻⁹When Zechariah's priestly order was fulfilling its duty before God, he was chosen by lot, according to custom, to burn incense before the presence of the Lord in the temple. ¹⁰While he was doing this the worshippers gathered together outside in prayer.

¹¹While in the sanctuary Zechariah saw an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²⁻¹³He was both surprised and terrified, but the angel told him: "Don't be afraid, Zechariah, for God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son who you are to call John. ¹⁴He will give you great joy and delight, and many others will be thankful because the Lord has a great purpose for him.

¹⁵"He is not to drink wine or any form of alcohol and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time of his birth. ¹⁶He will bring many people of Israel back to the Lord their God. He will prepare the way in the spirit and power of Elijah for the Lord's coming. ¹⁷He will cause the hearts of fathers to be turned to their children and the

disobedient will repent of their sins, and instead will adopt the wisdom of ways that please the Lord. This child is to prepare people for the Lord's coming."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel: "How can I be sure that all this will happen? I am now old and my wife past the age of child-bearing."

¹⁹The angel answered: "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's Presence and He has sent me to give you this good news. ²⁰But because you have disbelieved what I have said, you will now be dumb and unable to speak until the birth of your son, which will surely take place in due time."

²¹While this was happening, the people waiting outside for Zechariah wondered why he remained so long in the sanctuary. ²²So when he finally came out and was unable to speak, but could only make hand gestures, they realised that he must have received a vision.

²³Zechariah returned home when he had completed his service. ²⁴Elizabeth duly became pregnant and remained in seclusion for five months. "Only the Lord could have done this for me," she said. ²⁵"This is evidence that His favour is on me, for He has delivered me from the disgrace of being childless."

Gabriel foretells Mary of Jesus' birth (1:26-38)

²⁶When Elizabeth had been pregnant for six months, God sent His angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. ²⁷⁻²⁸There he appeared to a virgin named Mary, who was to be married to a descendant of David, called Joseph. "Greetings," he said to her. "You are favoured by God and He is with you."

²⁹These words disturbed Mary greatly, for she could not understand what they meant. ³⁰But the angel assured her: "There is no need to fear, Mary, for God is pleased with you. ³¹You are to become pregnant and will give birth to a Son who you are to call Jesus. ³²He will be great and will become known as the Son of the Most High God, who will place Him on the throne of His ancestor David. ³³His reign over Israel will be eternal and His Kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How could such a thing happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am still a virgin."

³⁵He replied: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High God will overshadow you. So the child you bear will be Holy and called the Son of God. ³⁶Your relative Elizabeth is already six months pregnant despite her age and her former inability to bear children. ³⁷For nothing is impossible for God."

³⁸Mary answered: "I am the Lord's servant. So I submit willingly to what you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-56)

³⁹⁻⁴⁰Mary then went as soon as possible to the town in the hill country of Judea where Zechariah lived. ⁴¹When she greeted Elizabeth, the baby leaped in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²With joy she cried out: "Among all women you are the most blessed and the child you bear is truly blessed. ⁴³But why should I be treated with such favour, that the mother of my Lord should come to visit me? ⁴⁴As soon as I heard your greeting, the child within me leaped with joy. ⁴⁵You are blessed because you believed that what the Lord said to you shall surely come to pass."

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷Then Mary said:

"I glorify the Lord with all my soul, and my spirit rejoices in God, for He is my Saviour. ⁴⁸⁻⁴⁹He knows that I am only His humble servant. Yet every future generation will consider me blessed, for the Mighty One has done such great things for me. And His name is Holy!

⁵⁰"He extends His mercy to those who fear Him in every generation. ⁵¹For He has done mighty deeds through His power, and yet has scattered those whose hearts are proud. ⁵²⁻⁵³He has dethroned rulers and has exalted the humble. He has supplied plentifully for the hungry, but the wealthy He has sent away with nothing.

⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵"He has helped His people Israel, for He has continued to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants, just as He promised our forefathers."

⁵⁶Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months before returning home.

John is born (1:57-63)

⁵⁷In due time Elizabeth gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸When her neighbours and relatives heard the news they shared her joy that the Lord had shown her such great mercy.

⁵⁹On the eighth day after his birth, when it was time for him to be circumcised, it was assumed that he would be named after his father Zechariah. ⁶⁰But Elizabeth intervened: "No! He is to be called John."

⁶¹"But you have no relatives that bear that name," they objected.

⁶²So using signs they asked Zechariah what he should be called. ⁶³Asking for a writing tablet, to their astonishment he wrote: 'His name is John.'

Zechariah prophesies over John (1:64-80)

⁶⁴Immediately Zechariah was freed from his dumbness and began to speak by praising God. ⁶⁵Everyone was filled with such awe that soon they were talking about these events throughout the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶And all who heard wondered, 'What is going to become of this child?' For clearly the hand of the Lord was upon him. ⁶⁷His father Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied:

⁶⁸"May the Lord, the God of Israel, be praised! For He has come to His people and has redeemed them. ⁶⁹⁻⁷⁰He has raised up a mighty Saviour in the line of His servant David, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets. ⁷¹He has saved us from our enemies and from the power of all who hate us. ⁷²⁻⁷³And so He has mercifully fulfilled what He promised to our forefathers, remembering to fulfil the holy covenant He made with the oath He swore to our Father Abraham. ⁷⁴⁻⁷⁵This was His plan to rescue us from our enemies and so enable us to serve Him throughout our lives in holiness and righteousness, and without any need to be afraid.

⁷⁶⁻⁷⁹"And you, my child, will be known as a prophet of the Most High God, for you are called to prepare the way for the Lord; to show God's people that they can be saved through the forgiveness of their sins because of God's tender mercy towards them. From heaven the sun will rise to shine on those living in darkness and the fear of death, and to guide us so that we can walk in peace with God."

⁸⁰And the child, John, became strong in his spirit as he grew, living in the desert until it was time to begin his public ministry to Israel.

Jesus born in Bethlehem (2:1-7)

2 Around that time, the emperor Caesar Augustus decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ²(This was the census to be taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³⁻⁴Everyone had to go to his town of origin to register; so Joseph travelled from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem, the town of David

his forefather. ⁵There he registered, together with Mary who was engaged to be married to him and was expecting the baby.

⁶⁻⁷While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son, who she wrapped in a cloth and laid in a manger, because no room in any inn was available.

Angels appear to the shepherds (2:8-20)

⁸⁻⁹Nearby, some shepherds were in the fields watching over their flocks during the night, when one of the Lord's angels appeared to them. The Lord's glory shone all around them. ¹⁰They felt scared but the angel told them: "Don't be afraid. I have come to bring you good news of tremendous joy for everyone. ¹¹Today a Saviour has been born in Bethlehem, the Lord's Anointed One, the Christ, the Messiah. ¹²The sign by which you will know Him is this: He is the baby you will find wrapped in a cloth lying in a manger."

¹³⁻¹⁴Then there appeared with the angels a great number of other angels who were all praising God and saying: "Glory to the Most High God in heaven and His peace to men on earth on whom His favour rests."

¹⁵As soon as the angels had returned to heaven the shepherds agreed: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves this wonderful event about which the Lord has told us." ¹⁶They went as fast as possible and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸Having seen Him, they went and told everyone what they had been told about this child, to the utter astonishment of all who heard them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these things in her heart, wondering what they meant. ²⁰The shepherds returned to the fields, giving glory and praise to God because of all they had seen and heard, for everything had been exactly as had been revealed to them.

Jesus consecrated at the temple (2:21-40)

²¹When the child was circumcised on the eighth day He was named Jesus, 'Saviour', the name given by the angel before He was conceived.

²²⁻²³As soon as the purification ceremony required under the law of Moses was completed, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to offer Him to the Lord (for according to the law given by the Lord, 'Every firstborn son is to be consecrated to the Lord'. ²⁴They offered the sacrifice stated in that law: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons.'

2:23 *Exodus 13:2*

2:24 *Leviticus 12:8*

²⁵A righteous and devout man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He longed for the coming of the Messiah and the anointing of the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that before he died he would see the Messiah, God's Son. ²⁷He felt led by the Holy Spirit to go to the temple courts at the very time when Jesus' parents brought Him there to fulfil the requirements of the law. ²⁸Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God saying:

²⁹"Sovereign Lord, now You have fulfilled Your promise, Your servant can die in peace. ³⁰⁻³¹For I have seen Your salvation that You have made available to all people. ³²He will reveal Your light to the Gentile nations and is the glory provided for Your people, Israel."

³³Mary and Joseph were amazed at these words. ³⁴⁻³⁵Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: "This child will cause many in Israel to fall, for He will be rejected by them, exposing the nature of their hearts. Others will rise to new spiritual heights because of Him, but it will be then that a sword pierces your own soul."

³⁶⁻³⁷A prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, was also present in the temple courts. She was eighty years old, having been a widow after only seven years of marriage. She never left the temple precincts, but remained there day and night worshipping, fasting and praying.

³⁸She approached them at the same time and thanked God for the Child before speaking about Him to all those present, who were longing for the Messiah's coming to redeem His people in Jerusalem.

³⁹Having fulfilled all required of them by the law, Joseph and Mary returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰As the Child Jesus grew up, He became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and it was clear that God's grace was upon Him.

The young Jesus in the temple courts (2:41-52)

⁴¹Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²When He was twelve years old they went to the Feast as usual. ⁴³After the Feast His parents set out on their journey home, unaware that Jesus had remained in Jerusalem. ⁴⁴They travelled for a whole day, assuming that He was with others in the group of travellers. When they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends, He was nowhere to be found. ⁴⁵So they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. ⁴⁶After three days they discovered Him

sitting with the teachers in the temple courts, both listening and asking searching questions, to the amazement of all who heard Him. ⁴⁷They were struck by His understanding and the way He answered their questions.

⁴⁸Jesus' parents were also astounded. His mother said to Him: "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been worried about You and have been searching everywhere for You."

⁴⁹"Why did you have to search for Me?" Jesus asked. "Wasn't it obvious that I would be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they failed to understand what He meant.

⁵¹Then Jesus travelled to Nazareth with them, and His mother kept all these matters in her heart. ⁵²As Jesus continued to grow, He increased in wisdom and in the esteem both of God and all who knew Him.

John prepares the way (3:1-6)

3 ¹⁻²While he was living in the desert, God's Word came to John, the son of Zechariah, during the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea, Herod ruled in Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler of Iturea and Tracónitis and Lysanias ruled in Abilene. ²This was during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas.

³John travelled to the areas around the river Jordan, preaching a baptism for the forgiveness of sins for those who turned to God in repentance. He fulfilled the words written by the prophet Isaiah:

⁴"He is a voice crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord's coming; get ready to receive Him. ⁵Every valley shall be filled and every mountain levelled. The crooked ways will be straightened and the rough ways made smooth. ⁶Then everyone will see the Saviour sent by God."

John preaches to the crowds (3:7-20)

⁷John spoke to the crowds that came to be baptised by him: "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to run from the impending judgment? ⁸Produce the lifestyle that demonstrates you have truly repented, that you have turned away from your sins and have turned to God. It is no use saying to yourselves, 'We are safe because Abraham is our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up

children for Abraham from among these stones. ⁹His axe is poised, ready to strike at the very roots of the trees that fail to produce good fruit. They will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What are we to do then?” the people asked.

¹¹John replied: “He who has two sets of clothes should give to the one who has nothing to wear, and the one who has plenty to eat should give to the hungry.”

¹²Tax collectors, known for being corrupt, also came to be baptised asking: “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³“Only collect what is due, nothing more,” John replied.

¹⁴Some soldiers asked him: “What is expected of us?”

John answered: “Don’t use your authority to extort money from people and don’t bring false accusations against them. Be content with your wages.”

¹⁵Because people were eager for the coming of the Messiah, they wondered whether he might indeed be the one for whom they were waiting. ¹⁶But John made it clear: “I only baptise you with water. But the One who will come after me is far more powerful than I am. I am not even worthy to do the job of a slave for Him. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and the fire of God. ¹⁷He is ready to thresh the wheat and gather the grains into His barn, but burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be extinguished.”

¹⁸John often gave the people such warnings but also preached the good news to them. ¹⁹However John spoke against Herod Antipas because he had married his brother’s wife, Herodias, and was guilty of many other evils. ²⁰So later Herod had John thrown into prison, adding this to his many other sins.

John baptises Jesus (3:21-22)

²¹⁻²²When Jesus came to the place where the people were being baptised, He also was baptised by John. Afterwards, while He was praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove. A heavenly voice was heard saying: “You are my Son whom I love; I am delighted with You.”

Jesus’ genealogy (3:23-38)

²³Jesus was about thirty years old when this happened, marking the beginning of His ministry. He was considered to be the son of Joseph, who was the son of Heli, ²⁴who was the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son

of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, ³²the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, ³³the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ³⁵the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, ³⁶the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, ³⁷the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, ³⁸the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Jesus tempted by Satan (4:1-13)

4 Being full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus went from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit to go into the desert. ²There He remained for forty days, being tempted by the devil. During that time He ate nothing and so was very hungry. ³It was there that the devil said to Him: "If You really are God's Son, use Your power to command these stones to turn into bread."

⁴Jesus replied: "It is written in God's Word, 'Man needs more than bread to live.'"

⁵⁻⁷Then the devil gave Him an aerial view of all the nations of the world and said to Jesus: "I will give You authority over the whole earth and You can have the glory of these nations, if only You worship me. For all this has been given to me and I can put anyone I choose in charge of them."

⁸But Jesus answered: "It is written in God's Word, 'You are to worship only the Lord your God and He is the only one you are to serve.'"

⁹⁻¹⁰Then the devil took Jesus to the highest part of the temple in Jerusalem.

4:4 Deuteronomy 8:3

4:8 Deuteronomy 6:13

“If You really are God’s Son,” he said, “You can jump from here without harming Yourself, for the scripture says, ‘God will order His angels to guard You and keep You safe. ¹¹They will keep hold of You so that You will not even strike Your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus replied: “The scriptures also say, ‘You are not to test the Lord your God.’”

¹³Having finished trying to tempt Jesus, the devil left Him to await another opportunity to try and destroy Him.

Jews react angrily to Jesus (4:14-30)

¹⁴Jesus then returned to Galilee filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Soon news about what He said and did spread throughout the whole province. ¹⁵Everyone praised Him for the teaching He gave in the synagogues.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷When He came to His home town of Nazareth, He went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath. When He stood to read from the scriptures He was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled it to the place where it reads:

¹⁸⁻¹⁹‘The Lord’s Spirit is on Me because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to tell the prisoners they can be set free and to tell the blind they will be able to see; to free people from the oppression that has crushed them and to announce that the year of God’s favour has arrived.’

²⁰⁻²¹He then rolled up the scroll, returned it to the attendant and sat down (to indicate He was about to speak with authority). Everyone in the synagogue was watching Him closely and He began His address by saying: “This scripture is now being fulfilled in your presence.”

²²Everyone spoke well of Jesus and people were astounded at the gracious words He spoke. “Isn’t this the carpenter Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³Jesus said to them: “No doubt you will quote the proverb to Me, ‘Doctor heal yourself.’ Do here in Your home town similar miracles to those You did in Capernaum about which we have heard.

²⁴“I tell you truly, no prophet is accepted in his own town. ²⁵There were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time when no rain fell for three and a half years, causing a severe famine throughout the land.

4:11 *Psalms 91:12*

4:12 *Deuteronomy 6:16*

4:18-19 *Isaiah 61:1-2*

²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a foreign widow in Zarephath in Sidon.

²⁷ "In the time of the prophet Elisha, many in Israel suffered from leprosy, yet none of them were cleansed; only Naaman the Syrian was healed."

²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue reacted angrily. ²⁹ They forcibly took Jesus out of the town to the edge of the cliff-face on which the town was built, with the intention of throwing Him off the cliff. ³⁰ But He walked through the crowd unhindered and unharmed.

Jesus ministers with authority (4:31-37)

³¹ Jesus then returned to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, where He taught the people on the Sabbath. ³² They were amazed because He delivered His message with such authority.

³³⁻³⁴ There was a man in the synagogue who was under the control of a demonic spirit. He shouted at the top of his voice: "Why are you disturbing us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come here to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God."

³⁵ "Silence!" Jesus commanded the demon. "Come out of him!" Immediately the demon threw the man to the ground in front of everyone and then came out of him without harming him.

³⁶ Everyone was astonished and questioned among themselves, 'What is the authority and power behind this man's teaching. He can give orders to evil spirits and they obey Him immediately. They have to leave those they have afflicted!' ³⁷ News of such events spread rapidly throughout the entire region.

Jesus heals many sick people (4:38-41)

³⁸ On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to Simon's house. His mother-in-law had a high fever and they asked Jesus to heal her. ³⁹ So He leaned over her, rebuked the fever and it left her. She was able to get up immediately and prepare a meal for them all.

⁴⁰ At sunset the people brought to Jesus all those suffering from a variety of sicknesses. He laid hands on each one and healed them. ⁴¹ Demons came out of many shouting, 'You are God's Son!' because they knew He was the Christ. Jesus commanded them to be silent.

Jesus preaches throughout Judea (4:42-44)

⁴² Early on the following morning Jesus went alone to a deserted place. The people were looking for Him everywhere and when they found Him they tried to persuade Him not to leave. ⁴³ But He told

them: "I have to preach the good news of God's Kingdom to the other towns and villages also. This is the reason that God sent Me."

⁴So He kept travelling and preached in the synagogues throughout Judea.

Simon Peter to fish for men (5:1-11)

5 On one occasion, Jesus was standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and the people were pressing close to Him to hear God's Word. ²He noticed two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen who were cleaning their nets. ³He boarded the boat belonging to Simon and asked him to push away from the shore. Then Jesus taught the people as He sat in the boat.

⁴When He had finished speaking, He told Simon: "Row out into deeper water and cast your nets for a catch."

⁵"Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night without catching anything. But I will let down the nets again only because You say so."

⁶Having done so, the catch was so great that the nets were in danger of tearing. ⁷So they called to their partners in the other boat to come to their aid. When they did, they filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸Seeing this, Simon Peter fell to his knees before Jesus and said: "Please forgive me, Lord; for I am such a sinner." ⁹⁻¹⁰He and all his crew were amazed at the size of the catch, as were his partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

Then Jesus replied to Simon: "There is nothing to fear; in the future you will be catching men!" ¹¹So they beached their boats, left everything and followed Jesus.

A Leper is healed (5:12-16)

¹²In one town a man approached Jesus in the advanced stages of leprosy. He fell to the ground on His face before Jesus and pleaded with Him: "Lord, You can make me clean if You want to."

¹³Jesus reached out and laid His hand on the man and said: "Of course I want to: Be healed!" And immediately he was cleansed from his leprosy.

¹⁴Then Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone what had happened, but to go directly to show himself to the priest to have the healing verified. "Make the sacrifice that Moses commanded for those healed of leprosy as a witness to everyone." ¹⁵Nevertheless, the news of this event spread rapidly. As a result, crowds came to hear Jesus preach and to be healed of their afflictions.

¹⁶ Whenever possible Jesus withdrew to lonely places in order to pray.

Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy (5:17-26)

¹⁷ One day while Jesus was teaching, a number of Pharisees and teachers of the religious law were present. They had come from all over Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. The anointing of God's power was obviously present for Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Some men arrived carrying a paralytic on a stretcher. They wanted to bring him into the house where Jesus was speaking, to lay the man before Him; but there was no way through the throng of people. So they carried him onto the roof, removed some tiles and lowered him among the crowd directly in front of Jesus.

²⁰ Seeing their faith, Jesus said: "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The Pharisees and teachers of the religious law were thinking to themselves, 'Who does this man think He is? He speaks blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!'

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and so asked them: "Why do you have such attitudes in your hearts? ²³ Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive those who sin," He said to the paralysed man, "I command you to stand up, pick up your stretcher and go home." ²⁵ Immediately the man stood up in front of everyone, took his stretcher and went out praising God. ²⁶ Everyone present was amazed and joined in the praise. They were awestruck and said: "We have seen astonishing things today."

Calling of Levi (Matthew) (5:27-28)

²⁷ As Jesus was leaving the town later He saw a tax collector named Levi sitting in his customary place. Jesus said to him: "Follow Me".

²⁸ Levi rose and left everything to follow Jesus.

Jesus questioned about fasting (5:29-39)

²⁹ Then he held a great banquet for Jesus at his house at which a large number of tax collectors and other undesirables sat down to eat with Jesus. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the religious law complained to Jesus' disciples: "How can you eat and drink with tax-collectors and such sinners?"

³¹ To this Jesus replied: "The healthy don't need a doctor, but the sick do! ³² I have not come for those who consider themselves righteous; but to call to repentance those who recognise they are sinners."

³³They said to Jesus: “John’s disciples often fast and pray, as do the disciples of the Pharisees, but your disciples carry on eating and drinking!”

³⁴Jesus replied: “Do you expect the bridegroom’s guests to fast while he is still around? ³⁵The time will come when the Bridegroom will be taken from them. That will be the time to fast.”

³⁶Then He told them this parable: “Nobody would think of tearing a patch from a new garment and sewing it onto an old one. If he did so, not only would he have ruined the new garment, but the patch would not match the old one.

³⁷“Neither would anyone pour new wine into old wineskins. If he were to do so, the fermenting process at work in the new wine would cause the hardened skins to burst, and both the wine and wineskin would be useless. ³⁸No, new wine must be poured into new, flexible wineskins.

³⁹“And no one who has drunk old wine wants to drink new wine, for he says, ‘The old is better!’”

Lord of the Sabbath (6:1-11)

6 As Jesus was walking through some fields of grain on the Sabbath, His disciples picked some heads of wheat, rubbed them in their hands and ate the grains. ²Some Pharisees asked: “Why are you doing this? It is unlawful to work by reaping grain on the Sabbath!”

³Jesus replied: “What about David? You must have read what he did when he and his followers were hungry. ⁴He went into God’s house and ate the consecrated bread that only the priests are allowed to eat; and he gave some to his friends.” ⁵Then Jesus stated: “The Son of Man is Lord even over the Sabbath.”

⁶On another Sabbath day, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when a man with a withered right hand was present. ⁷The Pharisees and teachers of the religious law were seeking an opportunity to accuse Jesus; so they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸Jesus, of course, knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the withered hand: “Come and stand here where everyone can see you.” So the man came forward and stood in front of everybody.

⁹Jesus then put this question to them: “I ask you, according to the religious law, on the Sabbath should you do what is good or what is sinful; should you save life or destroy it?”

¹⁰He looked around at each one and then said to the man: “Stretch out your hand.” When he did so, it was completely healed.

¹¹But the religious leaders were furious and began to discuss among themselves what they could do to Jesus.

The twelve apostles (6:12-16)

¹²About this time, Jesus spent a whole night alone on a mountainside praying to God. ¹³⁻¹⁶The following morning He called His disciples together and chose twelve to be apostles: Simon (to whom He had given the name Peter), his brother Andrew, James and John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the zealot, Judas son of James and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Him.

Jesus demonstrates God's power (6:17-19)

¹⁷When Jesus came down from the hillside with them, He stood on a level area to address a crowd of His disciples and a large number of people who had come from all over Judea, including Jerusalem, and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They went to hear Him preach and to be healed from their various diseases. Those who had been afflicted by evil spirits were set free and healed. ¹⁹Everyone wanted to touch Him because God's power flowed out of Him and healed them all.

Those who are blessed (6:20-26)

²⁰Turning to His disciples Jesus said: "Those of you who are poor are blessed; God's Kingdom is given to you. ²¹Those of you who hunger now are blessed, for your needs will be met. Those of you who weep now are blessed, for the time is coming when you will laugh with joy. ²²You are even blessed when men hate you, throw you out of the synagogue, insult you in other ways and regard you as evil because you believe in Me, the Son of Man. ²³That will be the time to rejoice and leap for joy, because it signifies that your reward in heaven will be great. This is precisely how the prophets of old were treated by your forefathers.

²⁴"But those of you who are rich are in danger of being cursed, because you already have all you want. ²⁵Those of you who gorge yourselves with food are also in danger, for you will be spiritually hungry for all eternity. Those who simply live for their own enjoyment are also in danger of being eternally cursed, for then you will cry with continual grief. ²⁶You are even in danger of curse if you live to be popular now, for that is how your forefathers regarded the false prophets.

Love your enemies (6:27-36)

²⁷“So listen, those of you who take heed to what I say: Love even your enemies and seek to bless those who hate you. ²⁸Yes, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other to him as well. If someone takes your coat, offer him your shirt also. ³⁰Give to anyone who asks you for something, and if someone takes what is yours, do not insist that it is returned to you.

³¹“This is the spiritual principle by which to live: Treat others in precisely the same way you would like them to treat you.

³²“What credit is it to you to love only those who love you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And what do you gain by doing good to those who are good to you? Even sinners behave like that.

³⁴Are you any different if you expect repayment when you lend to others? Sinners expect repayment when they lend to fellow sinners.

³⁵“But you are to love your enemies and seek to do them good. Lend to others without expecting repayment. Then your reward will be great, for you will be acting as sons of the Most High God. You see, He is kind even to the wicked and those who take Him for granted.

³⁶“So act with mercy and compassion just as your heavenly Father does, for He is full of mercy.

Do not judge others (6:37-42)

³⁷“If you do not judge others, you will not be judged yourselves. If you do not condemn others, you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give and see what is given to you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over! The measure you receive is determined by the measure you use when you give!”

³⁹Jesus also told them this parable: “Is it possible for a blind person to lead others who are blind? If he tries, they will all fall into the ditch! ⁴⁰You see, a student does not consider himself more important than his teacher; he wants to be trained to be like his teacher.

⁴¹“Why do you want to take the speck of dust out of your brother’s eye, while you ignore the log that is in your own eye? ⁴²How can you say to him, ‘Brother, allow me to take the speck of dust out of your eye,’ when your vision is distorted by the log in your own eye? What a hypocrite you would be! First, take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly when you remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

The nature of the heart (6:43-45)

⁴³“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit; neither does a rotten tree produce good fruit. ⁴⁴The health of each tree is recognised by the nature of the fruit it bears. People cannot pick figs from thorn bushes, nor can they gather grapes from bramble bushes!

⁴⁵“The good man does good deeds because he has a good heart; the evil man does evil things because of the evil in his heart. What a man says is the product of the nature of his heart!”

Put Jesus’ words into practice (6:46-49)

⁴⁶“Why do you say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and yet you do not put what I say into practice? ⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸The one who comes to Me, hears My words and puts them into practice, is like a man who, when building a house, dug deeply into the ground and laid its foundations on the bedrock. During a flood the stream of water could not shake that house because it was built on the rock.

⁴⁹“But the person who hears what I say but fails to put My words into practice is like someone who built a house without proper foundations. As soon as the floodwaters struck that house it collapsed and everything was lost.”

The centurion’s faith (7:1-10)

7 After saying all these things to the crowd, Jesus went to Capernaum. ²⁻³There, a centurion’s servant was ill and on the point of death. He was highly thought of by his master, who had heard of Jesus and so sent some of the Jewish elders to Him, asking Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴⁻⁵They approached Jesus to plead his case strongly: “This soldier loves our nation and built our synagogue; so he deserves this of You.” Jesus agreed to go with them.

⁶However, He was nearing the house when friends of the centurion gave Jesus this message: “Lord, there is no need for You to take the trouble of coming to my home; I am not worthy of such an honour. ⁷I did not think myself worthy enough to approach You personally. You only have to issue the word of command and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I myself know what it is to be under authority and so be given authority over the soldiers under me. I command this one, ‘Go,’ and he does. I tell this one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I only have to say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

⁹Jesus was amazed at the centurion’s message. Turning to the crowd following He said: “I tell you clearly, nowhere in the whole

of Israel have I found such great faith.” ¹⁰When the messengers returned to the centurion’s house, they found his servant fit and well!

Widow’s son brought to life (7:11-17)

¹¹Soon after this, Jesus visited Nain, together with His disciples and the large crowd that followed Him. ¹²The funeral procession of a widow’s only son was passing through the town gate as Jesus approached. ¹³When the Lord saw the woman, His heart was filled with compassion for her and He said to her: “Don’t cry.”

¹⁴Then He went to the coffin and touched it. Shocked, those carrying it stood still. “Young man,” Jesus said, “I command you to rise up!” ¹⁵Immediately the dead man sat up and began speaking. Then Jesus restored him to his mother.

¹⁶Everyone was filled with wonder and praised God saying, ‘Surely this is a great prophet whom God has sent among us to come to the help of His people.’ ¹⁷The news of what Jesus had done spread throughout Judea and the whole of the surrounding districts.

John the Baptist’s question (7:18-35)

¹⁸⁻¹⁹When some of John the Baptist’s disciples told him about these events, he sent two of them to the Lord asking: “Are you the One sent by God, or should we expect someone else?”

²⁰When they approached Jesus they said: “John the Baptist has sent us to ask you: ‘Are You the One whom God has sent, or should we expect someone else?’ ”

²¹At that time Jesus had cured many of a variety of diseases and sicknesses; He had freed them from evil spirits and restored sight to many who had been blind. ²²So He answered the messengers by saying: “Return to John and repeat what you have just seen and heard: The blind are receiving sight, the lame are now walking, those who had leprosy are healed, the deaf can hear, even the dead are restored to life; and the good news is being preached to the poor.

²³Any man who is not offended by what I do is blessed!”

²⁴When John’s messengers had departed, Jesus spoke to the crowd about John: “When you went to him in the desert what did you expect to see? A reed easily swayed by the wind? ²⁵Obviously not! So what did you see? A man wearing fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and who indulge themselves in luxury live in palaces, not the wilderness. ²⁶So what did you see when you went to him? A prophet? Certainly, but I tell you clearly John was

more than just a prophet. He is the one referred to in scripture where it is written:

²⁷ "I, the Lord, will send My messenger ahead of You. He will prepare the way for Your coming."

²⁸ "I tell you clearly, among all those who have ever lived there is no one greater than John. Even so, the most insignificant person in God's Kingdom is greater than he."

²⁹ Everyone, including the tax collectors who had been baptised by John, agreed with what Jesus said about John, recognising that this was God's plan. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in the religious law had rejected this as God's purpose for them and so had not been baptised by John.

³¹ "To what can I compare the people of this present age?" Jesus asked. "What are they like? ³² They are like the children who sit around the market place, shouting to one another: 'We played the flute for you but you refused to dance. When we sang mournfully you refused to grieve.'

³³ 'John the Baptist neither ate bread nor did he drink wine and you accused him of having a demon. ³⁴ The Son of Man came both eating and drinking and you say, 'He is a glutton and a drunkard. He is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' ³⁵ But those who live by wisdom demonstrate that to be the right way to live!"

Woman with alabaster jar anoints Jesus (7:36-50)

³⁶ A Pharisee invited Jesus to his home for dinner. ³⁷ While reclining at the table, a woman with a sinful past from that town, who had heard where Jesus was eating, entered the house carrying an alabaster jar of expensive perfume. ³⁸ She stood behind Jesus and then knelt weeping at His feet. When her tears fell on His feet, she wiped them with her hair, then kissed them and poured the perfume on them.

³⁹ When the host Pharisee saw this he thought, 'If this man was really a prophet, He would know what kind of a sinful woman this is that is touching Him.'

⁴⁰ Jesus said to him: "Simon, I have a personal word for you."

"What is it, teacher?" he asked.

⁴¹ "Two men owed money to a particular money lender. One owed him five hundred, the other fifty. ⁴² But neither was able to repay him. So he cancelled both their debts. Now which of the two will have the greater love for him?"

⁴³Simon answered: "I suppose the one with the larger debt that was cancelled."

⁴⁴"You have answered correctly," Jesus said. Then He turned towards the woman and said to Simon, the Pharisee: "Do you see this woman? When I came into your house you failed to give Me any water to wash My feet. Yet this woman has washed My feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You didn't greet Me with a welcoming embrace, but from the time I arrived this woman has not stopped kissing My feet. ⁴⁶You didn't anoint My head with fragrant oil, but she has poured expensive perfume on My feet. ⁴⁷So I tell you clearly, the many sins of which she was guilty have all been forgiven, for she has shown such great love for Me. But the one who has only been forgiven superficially will only love superficially."

⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰Then Jesus said to the woman: "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

But the other guests murmured: "Who does He think He is to forgive sins?"

The women who supported Jesus (8:1-3)

8 ¹⁻³Then Jesus travelled around proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom in every town and village. He was accompanied by the twelve disciples and a group of women who had been healed and set free from demonic spirits. This group included Mary Magdalene, who had been delivered from seven demons, Joanna wife of Chuza, who managed Herod's household, Susanna and many others. These women used their personal resources to help support them.

The parable of the sower (8:4-15)

⁴Large crowds from every town gathered around Jesus and He taught them this parable:

⁵"A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the path where it was trodden upon and where the birds came and ate it. ⁶Some seed fell on rocky soil. It began to grow but soon withered because it lacked sufficient moisture. ⁷Some seed fell among thorns which continued to grow and choked the plants that developed from the seed.

⁸But some of the seed fell on good soil and this grew and produced a good crop, a hundred times as much as was sown."

Then Jesus said clearly: “Anyone with ears to hear, let him hear and understand what I say.”

⁹⁻¹⁰When His disciples asked Him to explain this parable, Jesus said: “You have been given revelation about the secrets of God’s Kingdom, but I speak to others in parables to fulfil what was written, ‘Though they have sight, they do not see; though they hear, they do not understand.’

¹¹“This is what the parable means: The seed is God’s Word. ¹²The path represents those who hear, but then the devil comes and steals the Word from their hearts to prevent them from believing and so being saved.

¹³“The rock signifies those who at first receive the Word with joy, but there is no depth to their faith. They believe until their faith is tested, and then they fall away.

¹⁴“The thorns stand for those who hear the Word, but the life within them is choked because they worry and focus on their material possessions and the pleasures the world offers. So they never mature in their faith.

¹⁵“However, the good soil consists of those with good sound hearts. They not only hear the Word but maintain their trust in it and, because they persevere in their faith, they produce a good harvest.

Let your light shine (8:16-18)

¹⁶“It makes no sense to light a lamp and then hide it out of sight under a bed. No, you would put it in a prominent place so people can gain maximum benefit from the light.

¹⁷“Everything that is hidden will in time be exposed, and everything that people can conceal will be revealed and brought out into the open. ¹⁸So it is important that you listen carefully to the truth. For the one who has received what I say will be given further revelation. But whoever does not listen will find that even what he imagines he has will be taken from him.”

Jesus’ mother and brothers (8:19-21)

¹⁹Jesus’ mother and brothers came looking for Him, but were unable to get near Him because of the density of the crowd. ²⁰Someone told Jesus: “Your mother and brothers are outside waiting for You.”

²¹To this Jesus replied: “My mother and brothers are those who not only hear God’s Word, but also put it into practice.”

Jesus calms the storm (8:22-25)

²²One day Jesus said to His disciples: "Let us cross to the other side of the lake." So they boarded a boat and set sail. ²³During the crossing Jesus fell asleep. But a sudden storm hit the lake, causing the boat to be swamped and placing them in great danger. ²⁴The disciples woke Jesus saying: "Master, Master, we are going to drown!"

So Jesus rebuked the wind and the turbulent water and the storm immediately subsided. All was calm. ²⁵"So where is your faith?" He asked the disciples.

Full of awe and amazement they questioned among themselves: "Who is this? He is able to command the winds and the waves, and they obey Him!"

Demoniac delivered (8:26-39)

²⁶They landed in the region of the Gerasenes on the far side of the lake from Galilee. ²⁷As soon as Jesus stepped ashore He was approached by a demon-possessed man. With no home or clothes, he had lived naked among the tombs. ²⁸On seeing Jesus, he fell at His feet and screamed: "What have I to do with you Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please don't torture me!"

²⁹Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to leave the man. This spirit had often taken control of him, so that even though he was shackled with chains and kept under guard, he had broken the chains and was then driven into remote areas by the demon.

³⁰Jesus asked the man for his name. "Legion," he replied, because he had many demons living in him. ³¹And these kept pleading with Jesus not to command them to be sent to the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit.

³²A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside nearby. So the demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter the pigs. ³³When Jesus gave them permission they came out of the man, entered the pigs and the whole herd rushed down the steep hillside into the lake and were drowned.

³⁴When those who cared for the pigs saw what had happened, they ran and spread the news in neighbouring towns and the surrounding countryside. ³⁵People came to see for themselves what had happened. When they arrived at the place they found the man completely set free from the demons, sitting and listening to Jesus. He was now clothed and in his right mind, yet the people felt afraid.

³⁶Those who had witnessed the miracle explained how the demon-possessed man had been completely liberated. ³⁷Then the people

from the local area of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave the area, because they feared what He might do next. So He boarded the boat and left them.

³⁸⁻³⁹ The man who had been delivered begged to go with Him, but Jesus refused, saying: "Go to your home and tell of the wonderful thing that God has done for you." The man obeyed and spread the news all over the town, telling everything that Jesus had done for him.

Woman healed from haemorrhage (8:40-48)

⁴⁰ When Jesus returned to the Galilean side of the lake, a crowd who had anticipated His arrival welcomed Him. ⁴¹⁻⁴² A man named Jairus, who was a leader in the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, begging Him to come to his house where his only daughter was dying. She was twelve years old.

Jesus was being jostled by a crowd of people as He made His way to the house. ⁴³ Among them was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years. Even though she had spent all her money on doctors, no one had been able to heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind Jesus to touch the fringe of His robe and her bleeding stopped immediately.

⁴⁵ "Who touched Me?" Jesus asked.

Everyone denied being responsible and Peter pointed out: "Master, so many in the crowd are pushing to get near You."

⁴⁶ But Jesus insisted: "I know that someone touched Me deliberately because power has flowed out of Me."

⁴⁷ The woman realised that she could not continue to be undetected and, trembling with fear, she came and fell at His feet. She publicly admitted why she had touched Him and told how she had been healed immediately.

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her: "My daughter, it is because of your faith that you have been healed. Now go in peace."

Jairus' daughter healed (8:49-56)

⁴⁹ While Jesus was speaking, a messenger from Jairus' house arrived. "You needn't trouble the teacher any further; your daughter has died," he said.

⁵⁰ When Jesus heard this He said to Jairus: "Don't be afraid; simply go on believing and she will be healed." ⁵¹ On arriving at Jairus' house, Jesus would not allow anyone to go in with Him except for Peter, John, James and the child's parents. ⁵² He told all those who

were wailing and mourning: “Stop crying; she is not dead but is only sleeping.”

⁵³They knew for certain that she had died, so they laughed at Him. ⁵⁴But Jesus went to the girl, took her hand and said: “My child, rise up!” ⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶Her spirit returned to her body and she stood up. Jesus told her astonished parents to give her some food; but He told them not to broadcast what had happened.

The Twelve sent out (9:1-6)

9 On one occasion, Jesus called together the twelve and gave them the power and authority to drive out every demon and to heal people from their diseases. ²⁻³He sent them out to preach the gospel of God’s Kingdom and to heal the sick, telling them: “Do not take a lot of baggage with you. You will not need a staff, nor bread, nor money, nor extra clothing. ⁴In each place stay in only one house. ⁵If you are not welcome, shake the dust off your feet when you leave as a sign against the people who have rejected you.”

⁶So the twelve went from one village to another, preaching the gospel and healing the sick wherever they went.

Herod hears about Jesus (9:7-9)

⁷⁻⁸News of these exploits reached Herod Antipas. He was confused because some claimed that these things were happening because John the Baptist had been raised from the dead, while others said that Elijah had appeared or that one of the prophets from the past had been restored to life. ⁹“I beheaded John,” said Herod, “so who is this that I keep hearing about?” He wanted to meet personally whoever was responsible.

Feeding of the five thousand (9:10-17)

¹⁰When the apostles returned to Jesus, they told Him of the things they had done. Then Jesus took them away quietly towards the town of Bethsaida; ¹¹but news of this spread and crowds followed Him. He welcomed them and preached about God’s Kingdom to them and healed all who were sick.

¹²In late afternoon, the Twelve came to Jesus and said: “Dismiss the crowd so they can find food and shelter in the surrounding villages and countryside, because there is nothing for them here in this remote place.”

¹³To this Jesus replied: “In that case, you give them something to eat!”

They answered: "All we have is five small loaves of bread and two fish, unless we go and buy food for this entire crowd." ¹⁴About five thousand men were present.

But Jesus instructed the disciples to tell the people to be seated in groups of about fifty. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶This they did and then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish in His hands, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God. He then broke them and gave each disciple a portion to set before the people.

¹⁷Everyone ate as much as he wanted and the disciples filled twelve baskets with the remaining pieces!

Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ (9:18-20)

¹⁸On another occasion, although His disciples were with Him, Jesus had been praying privately. He then asked them: "Who do the crowds of people think I am?"

¹⁹They replied: "Some say You are John the Baptist restored to life. Others think You are Elijah or one of the great prophets of the past who has returned."

²⁰"But what do you believe?" Jesus asked them. "Who do you say I am?"

It was Peter who answered: "You are the Christ, God's anointed Son."

Jesus predicts His death (9:21-22)

²¹Jesus then gave them strict orders that they were not to make this known to anyone yet. ²²He told them: "The Son of Man is going to undergo suffering. He will be rejected by the spiritual leaders, the chief priests and teachers of the religious law. He has to be killed, but will be raised back to life on the third day after His death."

Followers of Christ must take up their cross (9:23-27)

²³Jesus then told them all: "If any of you wants to be My follower, he will have to deny doing with his life what he wants. He will have to take up his cross of sacrifice every day in order to follow Me.

²⁴For whoever wants to live his life for himself will lose everything; but whoever is prepared to sacrifice his life for Me will find true salvation.

²⁵"How would it benefit a person if he were to gain everything he wants in the world, but he lost or forfeited his own soul in the process?"

²⁶“Anyone who is ashamed of Me and of what I teach will find that I, the Son of Man, will be ashamed of him when I return in My Father’s glory together with the holy angels. ²⁷I tell you the truth, some of you with Me here will witness the presence of God’s Kingdom before they die!”

Jesus is transfigured (9:28-36)

²⁸About eight days later Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As He was praying, Jesus’ face was transformed and His clothes shone as brightly as a flash of lightning. ³⁰⁻³¹Moses and Elijah stood talking to Him and they, too, looked glorious. They were speaking about how Jesus would fulfil what He had said about His death in Jerusalem.

³²A deep sleepiness came over Peter and the other two disciples. When they awoke they saw Jesus still there in His glory with Moses and Elijah. ³³As these two were leaving Jesus, Peter said to Him: “Master, it is so good for us to be here. But how can we preserve this moment? Shall we erect three shelters, one for You and one each for Moses and Elijah?” Clearly Peter did not understand the significance of what was taking place.

³⁴While He was speaking, a cloud enveloped them causing them to feel afraid as to what would happen next. ³⁵Then a voice spoke from the cloud, saying: “This is My Son, who I have chosen; listen carefully to Him.”

³⁶After hearing this, the cloud disappeared and they found that Jesus was now alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, telling nobody at that time about what they had witnessed.

A boy delivered from an evil spirit (9:37-45)

³⁷When they came down from the mountain on the following day, they were met by a large crowd. ³⁸⁻³⁹A man called out to Jesus: “Teacher, please come and help my son, for he is my only child and an evil spirit takes hold of him. This spirit makes him scream and throws him into convulsions, causing him to foam at the mouth. It hardly ever leaves him alone and is slowly killing him. ⁴⁰I have already asked Your disciples to drive the spirit out of him, but they have been unable to do so.”

⁴¹“What an unbelieving and disobedient generation this is!” Jesus replied. “How much longer do I have to put up with you? Bring your son here to Me.”

⁴²While the boy was being brought forward, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. Jesus immediately commanded

the spirit to leave him. He healed the boy and returned him to his father. ⁴³⁻⁴⁴And everyone was amazed at this display of God's greatness.

While the people were still awestruck at all that Jesus was doing, He said to His disciples: "Listen very carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man will be betrayed and placed in the control of sinful men." ⁴⁵But they could not understand what He meant by this. Its significance was hidden from them and they were afraid to ask Him to explain it to them.

The greatest is the most humble (9:46-50)

⁴⁶Later the disciples began to argue with one another as to who among them was the most important. ⁴⁷Jesus knew well what they were thinking and so brought forward a small child to stand beside Him. ⁴⁸Then He said to the disciples: "Anyone who receives a little child in My Name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me. For the most humble is truly the greatest among you."

⁴⁹John said: "Master, we saw a man who is not one of us driving out demons using Your Name; so we tried to stop him."

⁵⁰"No, don't stop him," Jesus said, "for those who are not against you are on the same side as you."

Jesus sets out for Jerusalem (9:51-56)

⁵¹Jesus now set out for Jerusalem with a determined attitude, for the time was approaching for Him to return to heaven. ⁵²⁻⁵³He sent messengers ahead of Him, who were to prepare for His arrival in a Samaritan village; but the people there did not want to welcome Him.

⁵⁴"Lord, shall we call down the fire of judgment from heaven upon them to destroy them as Elijah did?" James and John, the sons of thunder, asked. ⁵⁵But Jesus rebuked them for such a suggestion and said: "You do not understand what spirit moves you to suggest such a thing. The Son of Man has come to save men not destroy them." ⁵⁶Then they continued their journey to another village instead.

The cost of following Jesus (9:57-62)

⁵⁷On the way, a man approached Jesus and said: "I am ready to follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸Jesus said to him: "Foxes live in holes and birds have their nests; but the Son of Man has no permanent dwelling place."

⁵⁹To another man Jesus said: "Follow Me." But the man answered: "Lord, I must first go and bury my father."

⁶⁰Jesus told him: "Leave the dead to bury those who are dead. But you are to go and preach about God's Kingdom."

⁶¹Yet another man said: "I want to follow You, Lord; but allow me first to go and say farewell to my family."

⁶²Jesus said: "Once a person has begun to plough, he must not look back. Such a one is not fit for service in God's Kingdom."

Other disciples sent out (10:1-24)

10 Later the Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples whom He sent out in pairs. They were to go ahead of Him to prepare for His arrival in every town and place where He was to go. ²Jesus said to them: "There is an abundant harvest waiting to be reaped, but only a few workers. So pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out many more workers into the harvest fields. ³And go yourselves! For I am sending you out, even though you feel like lambs among wolves. ⁴You will not need to take anything with you; neither allow yourselves to be diverted from My purpose by anyone you meet.

"On entering a house, speak these words, 'The blessing of God's peace be upon this house.' ⁶If you are welcomed, that peace will come upon those who are there. But if you are rejected, that peace will come upon you.

"Stay in the same house and eat and drink whatever they give you; the worker deserves to receive. But do not move from one house to another.

"So when you are welcomed in a particular town, eat what is offered to you. ⁹Then heal the sick in that place and tell them, 'God's Kingdom is now within your reach.'

¹⁰⁻¹¹"However, when you come to a place that does not welcome you, say publicly in the streets, 'We wipe the dust of your town off our feet as a sign against you. Understand that you reject God's offer of His Kingdom.' ¹²I tell you clearly," continued Jesus, "on the Day of Judgment the fate of that town will be worse than what happened to Sodom.

¹³"Korazin, you are cursed! Bethsaida, you too are cursed! For Tyre and Sidon would have repented already if I had done there the miracles that I have performed in you. Yes, they would have truly turned away from their sins. ¹⁴As it is, Tyre and Sidon will fare better than you when the time for judgment comes!

¹⁵“And you, Capernaum, will you be honoured and exalted because of all the great things I have done there? Not at all, you will be destroyed and your people condemned.

¹⁶“The one who listens to you disciples listens to Me. And any who reject you reject Me and also the Father who sent Me.”

¹⁷When the seventy-two returned they were filled with joy and told Jesus: “Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we addressed them in Your Name.”

¹⁸To this Jesus replied: “I witnessed Satan being thrown out of heaven as swiftly as a flash of lightning! ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on demonic spirits and to overcome every power the enemy has. Nothing will be able to harm you as you exercise that authority. ²⁰However, your real cause for joy is not that these spirits submit to your authority, but that your names are written in heaven, that you belong to God’s Kingdom. That is why you are given such authority.”

²¹Being full of the joy of the Spirit, Jesus then said: “Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I give You praise for You have hidden these things from those who consider themselves clever intellectuals and have chosen to reveal them to Your humble children. Yes, Father, this has been Your gracious will; this is what You wanted to do!

²²“The Father has entrusted everything into My hands,” Jesus then said. “Only the Father truly knows the Son, and only the Son truly knows the Father, together with those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”

²³Then Jesus said privately to His disciples: “You are blessed because of what you have seen. ²⁴I tell you clearly that many prophets and kings have wanted to see such things but never saw them, to hear what you have heard but never heard them.”

The parable of the Good Samaritan (10:25-37)

²⁵Once an expert in the religious law stood to test Jesus by asking: “Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?”

²⁶Jesus replied: “What does the law say about this? What does this teach you?”

²⁷The man answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind,’ and ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’”

²⁸“You have answered your own question correctly,” Jesus replied. “If you put these words into action you will live.”

²⁹ Knowing he failed to do this fully, he then asked Jesus: “Who is my neighbour?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus used this illustration: “A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by bandits who stripped him of his clothes, beat him up and left him lying half dead on the roadside. ³¹ When a priest came along and saw the man, he crossed to the other side of the road. ³² A Levite reacted in the same way. ³³⁻³⁴ But a Samaritan traveller came to where the man was lying. Seeing him there, he felt sorry for him, went to him and dressed his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then placed the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn to care for him. ³⁵ On the following day he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper with the instructions to look after him. ‘When I return,’ he said, ‘I will cover any other expense you have incurred.’

³⁶ “Now which of these do you consider was the true neighbour to the man who was robbed?”

³⁷ The expert in the religious law replied: “The one who had compassion on him.”

So Jesus told him: “Well, go and follow his example.”

Mary and Martha (10:38-41)

³⁸ On their journey, Jesus and His disciples came to a village where a woman called Martha welcomed them into her home. ³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Her sister Mary sat listening intently to all Jesus said while Martha was busy preparing the meal. Indignant, she said to Jesus: “Lord, does it seem right to you that my sister has left me to do all the work? Why don’t you tell her to help me?”

⁴¹ The Lord replied: “Martha, Martha, you get so easily anxious and upset. ⁴² Only one thing is really important and this is what Mary is doing. So I certainly won’t deprive her of what is most important: to listen to what I say!”

Jesus instructs the disciples how to pray (11:1-13)

11 On one occasion, when Jesus had been praying, one of His disciples said to Him: “Lord, please teach us how to pray, in the same way that John instructed his disciples.” Jesus told them: “You can pray like this:

² “Father in heaven, we worship Your Holy Name. May Your Kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ³ Give us whatever we need day by day. ⁴ Forgive all our sins, as we forgive all those who sin against us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

⁵⁻⁶He then added: "Imagine that one of your friends goes to someone in the middle of the night and says, 'Friend, please lend me three loaves of bread; one of my friends has just arrived after a long journey and I have nothing to give him.'

⁷"But he received the reply, 'Don't trouble me now! I have already locked the door for the night and my family and I are all in bed. I cannot disturb everyone and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you clearly, though the man will not get up and give him the bread on the basis of their friendship, yet because of the man's bold persistence he will stir himself and will give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I tell you: continue to ask and it will be given you; go on seeking and you will find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks in this way receives; he who is determined when he seeks finds; and to him who persistently knocks the door will be opened.

¹¹"Listen, you fathers: if your son asked you for bread, would you give him a stone, or if he asked for a fish would you give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asked you for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? ¹³If you, who are far from perfect, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven, who is perfect, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

A divided kingdom will collapse (11:14-28)

¹⁴After Jesus had driven out a demon that had made a man dumb, he was able to speak, to the amazement of the crowd. ¹⁵Yet some said: "He drives out these demons through Beelzebul, the prince of demons."

¹⁶Others asked Him to give them some heavenly sign that would prove who He was.

¹⁷Jesus knew what they thought so He said to them: "If a kingdom is at war within itself, it will collapse. In the same way, where there is division in a family it is torn apart. ¹⁸So if Satan fights against himself, how could he continue to have any power? I tell you this because you accuse Me of using Beelzebul to drive out demons. ¹⁹If it is true that I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? So they are the judges of what you say.

²⁰"However, if I drive out demons by God's power then that demonstrates that His Kingdom has come among you.

²¹"If a strong man is well armed and guards his house, his property is safe. ²²But if someone who is stronger attacks and overpowers him, he can then rob him of both his protection and possessions.

²³“Anyone who is not on My side is against Me, and anyone who does not gather people into My Kingdom with Me, scatters them instead.

²⁴“When an unclean spirit leaves a man, it travels through dry places looking for another home. When it is unable to find a suitable place, it says, ‘I will return to the place I left.’ ²⁵When it returns it finds the ‘house’ clean and ready. ²⁶So it enters again, together with seven other evil spirits who are even worse. There they remain, so the man’s condition is now far worse than it was in the beginning.”

²⁷While Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out: “Blessed is the mother who gave You birth and nourished You.”

²⁸But Jesus replied: “Those who hear God’s Word and obey it are the truly blessed ones.”

An evil generation (11:29-32)

²⁹More and more people crowded around Jesus and He said to them: “This is an evil generation because it looks for a miraculous sign. It will only be given the sign similar to that of Jonah. ³⁰He was a sign to the Ninevites, and the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. ³¹The Queen of the South will be raised up in the judgment together with the men of this generation and will condemn them. For she came from a great distance to hear Solomon’s wisdom, and now Someone greater than Solomon is here before you.

³²“The Ninevites will also rise up in their judgment of this generation and will condemn it, for they repented in response to Jonah’s message; and now Someone greater than Jonah is here before you.

Be filled with light (11:33-36)

³³“No-one turns a lamp on and then hides it where its light cannot be seen. Instead, he puts it in a prominent place to give light to anyone who enters the room.

³⁴“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your sight is good the whole body is full of light. But when you look at what is evil your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Be careful, therefore, and ensure that you are filled with light, not darkness. ³⁶For if you are full of light there is no room for spiritual darkness, and you then live in the full radiance of the light that shines on you!”

Warnings to the spiritual legalists (11:37-54)

³⁷⁻³⁸As soon as Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus entered his house and reclined at the table, but the Pharisee was surprised that Jesus had not washed before the

meal. ³⁹The Lord said to Him: “You Pharisees wash the outside of the cup and you clean the dish, but inside you are full of selfishness and evil. ⁴⁰What foolish men you are! Is it not true that the same God created your soul as well as your body? ⁴¹If you give yourself to meet the needs of the poor, then you will be completely clean.

⁴²“You Pharisees are in danger of being cursed because you are strict in the giving of the tithe, giving even a tenth of your mint and other garden herbs, while neglecting justice and true love for God. You should have been just in all your actions and devoted to God, as well as being faithful in your tithing.

⁴³“You Pharisees are in danger of being cursed, because you have loved the positions of prominence in the synagogues, and you like to be greeted openly in the market places.

⁴⁴“You are in danger of being cursed because you are like hidden tombs which people walk over without realising that they are doing something that defiles them.”

⁴⁵One of the religious legalists answered: “Teacher, You insult us also by saying such things.”

⁴⁶To this Jesus replied: “You legalists are also in danger of being cursed because you lay burdens on people that are impossible to carry, and you yourselves will do nothing to help them. ⁴⁷You are in real danger because you build tombs for the prophets that your own fathers killed. ⁴⁸This bears witness to the fact that you approve of what they did. They killed the prophets and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹This proves that God was wise in saying, ‘I will send prophets and apostles to My people even though they will persecute and kill them.’ ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹So this generation will be held accountable for all the people killed since the world began, from the murder of Abel to the killing of Zechariah who was slain between the altar and the Holy Place. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for all of this.

⁵²“You are in danger of being cursed, you religious legalists, because you have taken away the key to knowing the truth. You refused to appropriate the truth yourselves and you prevent others from doing so.”

⁵³When Jesus left, the teachers of the religious law and the Pharisees were furious. They drew up a list of their grievances and looked for an opportunity to catch Him out through something He said.

Avoid hypocrisy (12:1-3)

12 By now the crowd had grown to many thousands and was so dense that people were treading on one another. Jesus

spoke first to His disciples: "Make sure you are not in any way influenced by the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. ²There is nothing concealed that will not be exposed, nothing hidden that will not be revealed. ³Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in broad daylight, and what you have whispered privately in the ear will be shouted openly from the rooftops.

Fear God not men (12:4-12)

⁴"My friends, I assure you that you do not need to fear those who can kill the body but have no further power over you. ⁵I warn you about the One you should fear: He who has the power to throw you into hell once the body is dead. Yes, I tell you clearly, fear Him!

⁶"Five sparrows are sold for next to nothing, aren't they? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷He even knows the number of hairs you have on your head. So there is nothing to fear, for you are far more valuable than many sparrows.

⁸"I tell you clearly that anyone who openly confesses faith in Me before others, I, the Son of Man, will openly acknowledge before God's angels, as one who belongs to Me. ⁹But anyone who disowns Me before others will be disowned by Me before God's angels. ¹⁰Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven. But anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

¹¹⁻¹²"And when you are hauled before the synagogue leaders or before other rulers and authorities, do not be fearful about what to say or how to answer the accusations they bring against you; for the Holy Spirit will show you what to say at that time."

Guard against covetousness (12:13-21)

¹³Someone from the crowd called out: "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with Me." ¹⁴But Jesus replied: "Man, who appointed Me to be your judge or arbiter?"

¹⁵Then He said to them all: "Be careful! Guard against any form of greed. You do not assess the value of a man's life by what he owns."

¹⁶He then told them this parable: "A certain rich man's land was very productive. ¹⁷So he thought to himself, 'What am I to do, for I don't have sufficient storage for such a harvest?' ¹⁸I know, I will pull down my present barns and will build larger ones. Then I will be able to store all the wheat, as well as the other crops. ¹⁹Then I shall be able to say to myself, 'You have everything you need for many

years to come. So now you can ease up, eat and drink as much as you want and be fully satisfied.'

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'What a fool you are! For tonight you will die; then what will you do with everything you stored up for yourself?'

²¹ "This is what it will be like for anyone who looks after himself, but is not rich in his attitude towards God."

Seek first the Kingdom of God (12:22-34)

²² Then Jesus told His disciples: "So I tell you clearly, do not be concerned about yourself, what you will eat. Neither be concerned about the clothes you wear. ²³Life is far more important than worrying about what to eat or wear. ²⁴You only have to think about the ravens to understand this. They neither sow nor reap; they have no storehouse or barn, and yet God feeds them. Think how much more valuable you are than the birds! ²⁵And who among you can add to his significance by being anxious? ²⁶If you are unable to do that, why be worried about anything at all?

²⁷ "Think of the lilies you see growing. Although they neither weave nor spin, not even Solomon in his most splendid robes could compare with one of these lilies. ²⁸If God causes the growth of natural things that are here today and gone tomorrow, will He not care for you? Your faith is so weak!

²⁹ "So do not set your focus on what to eat or drink. Don't be worried about such things. ³⁰You would expect pagan unbelievers to have such concerns, but your heavenly Father knows your every need. ³¹So put God's Kingdom first in your life, then everything else you need will be given you as well.

³² "Don't be afraid, little flock, for it has already pleased the Father to give you His Kingdom. ³³Sell the possessions you don't need and give the money to the poor. Then make lasting 'purses' for yourselves, for you have an eternal treasure stored in heavenly places, where no thief can come to rob you or moth destroy what is yours. ³⁴For your treasure is wherever you choose to set your heart – in this world or the next!

Be ready for Christ's coming (12:35-40)

³⁵⁻³⁶ "Be dressed properly and ready, with your light shining brightly; for you are to be like those waiting for their master to return from a wedding feast. As soon as he arrives and knocks, they are ready to open the door to him. ³⁷Such servants are blessed, because their

master finds them ready for his coming. I tell you truly, he will then reverse the roles. He will dress himself ready to serve and will make them recline at the table where he will then wait on them. ³⁸So such servants will be truly blessed, for the master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or at the crack of dawn.

³⁹“However, be clear about this: If the owner of the house had prior knowledge about when the thief was coming, he would not have let him break into the house. ⁴⁰So you must be ready at all times because you do not know when to expect the coming of the Son of Man!”

Wise and wicked servants (12:41-48)

⁴¹Peter asked: “Lord, are You addressing this parable to us disciples or to everyone?”

⁴²The Lord answered: “Who is the wise and faithful servant, to whom the master can entrust the management of his other servants, ensuring they are fed and cared for properly? ⁴³The servant he finds doing this when he returns will be truly blessed! ⁴⁴I tell you the truth, he will place such a faithful servant in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁵“But what if the servant says to himself, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and so begins to mistreat the other servants and indulges himself in eating and drinking to the point of drunkenness?

⁴⁶His master will return when he least expects him, at a time that surprises him. He will then punish him severely and will place him with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷“The servant who knows his master’s will, but who neither prepares nor puts his master’s will into action, will be punished with many blows. ⁴⁸The person who was ignorant of his purposes will receive only a few blows, even though he is guilty and deserves to be punished.

“Therefore much is expected of everyone to whom much has been given. And those entrusted with much responsibility will find that even more is expected of them.

Division on earth (12:49-53)

⁴⁹“I came to bring fire on the earth, and I wish that this fire had already started to burn. ⁵⁰I have to suffer a baptism and I am under pressure until it has taken place.

⁵¹“Do you imagine that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you clearly, I came to bring division. ⁵²From now on if there are

five in a house they will be divided three against two and two against three. ⁵³A father will be against his son and the son against his father. A mother will be against her daughter and the daughter against her mother. A daughter-in-law will be against her mother-in-law.”

Understand the times (12:54-56)

⁵⁴Jesus then said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say immediately that a storm is brewing and it duly arrives. ⁵⁵When the south wind blows, you say that it is going to be hot and it accordingly becomes hot. ⁵⁶What hypocrites you are! You know how to discern the weather on earth from the appearance of the sky, but how is it that you cannot discern the spiritual significance of what is happening now?”

Settle disputes (12:57-59)

⁵⁷“Why are you not able to judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸Before going to court about a dispute with your adversary, do all you can to settle the matter with him first, or he may drag you before the judge who in turn will deliver you to the official who will then throw you into prison. ⁵⁹I tell you clearly, there is no way that you will then be released until you have settled the debt in full.”

Repent or die (13:1-5)

13 Some of those present told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their pagan sacrifices. ²Jesus answered: “Do you imagine that these Galileans were worse sinners than others because they suffered such things? ³No, I tell you! However, you will all perish unless you repent! ⁴What about those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell and crushed them? Do you think they were any more guilty than all those living in other parts of Jerusalem? ⁵Not at all, I tell you. But you will also die eternally if you do not repent.”

Parable of the fig tree (13:6-9)

⁶Jesus told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree that had been planted in his vineyard. When he went to see how much it would produce he could not find any fruit at all. ⁷So he told his vine-dresser, ‘I have been looking for fruit from this tree for three years but have found none. Cut it down. Why should it take up valuable space?’

⁸“Leave it alone for one more year, Sir,” the man replied. “I will care for it and feed it. ⁹If there is still no fruit next year, then cut it down.”

Woman healed on the Sabbath (13:10-17)

¹⁰⁻¹¹One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in a synagogue when a woman was present who had been the victim of a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent double and was unable to stand straight. ¹²When Jesus noticed her, He called her forward and said to her: “Woman, you have been set free from your infirmity.” ¹³Then He laid hands on her and immediately her back was straightened and she praised God.

¹⁴The leader of the synagogue was angry that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath and said to the people: “We are allowed to work on six days of the week. Those are the days when you should come to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵But the Lord responded: “What hypocrites you are! Isn’t it true that each of you unties his or her ass and leads him from the stable to the drinking water on the Sabbath? ¹⁶So this woman, one of Abraham’s descendants, who has been locked up by Satan for eighteen years should surely be freed from her bondage on the Sabbath!”

¹⁷Such words stunned those who opposed Jesus, but the crowd rejoiced over all the glorious things He did.

The Kingdom of God (13:18-21)

¹⁸Then Jesus asked: “How can you describe God’s Kingdom? To what shall I compare it? ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed which a man planted in his garden. It grew into a tree large enough for the birds to come and perch in its branches.”

²⁰He added: “What is God’s Kingdom like? ²¹It is like yeast which a woman added into a large amount of flour until it affected the whole lump of dough, causing it to rise.”

The narrow door (13:22-30)

²²Then Jesus travelled to Jerusalem, teaching in the towns and villages on the way there. ²³Someone asked Him: “Lord, are only a few going to be saved?”

²⁴Jesus replied: “Struggle to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you clearly that many who will try to enter will be unable to do so. ²⁵Once the owner of the house has risen and shut

the door, those on the outside will bang on it saying, 'Lord, open up for us.' But He will answer you: 'I don't recognise you.' ²⁶ Then you will reply: 'We ate and drank with You, and You taught in our streets.' ²⁷ And He will answer you, 'I don't acknowledge you or where you belong. Keep away from Me, you ungodly people.'

²⁸ "There will be tears and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with all the prophets in God's Kingdom, but you are excluded. ²⁹ Others will come from the east, west, north and south and will take their places at the feast in God's Kingdom. ³⁰ And you will see that those considered to be the most humble now will be honoured then, and those regarded as the most important now will be the least significant then."

Jesus' heart for Jerusalem (13:31-35)

³¹ It was then that some Pharisees approached Jesus to warn Him: "Leave here, for Herod is planning to kill You!" ³² He replied: "Go and tell that fox: 'I cast out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will fulfil My purpose. ³³ Of course I must continue today, tomorrow and the third day, for no prophet can die outside Jerusalem.

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you killed the prophets and stoned those sent to you. Yet I have often wanted to gather your children to Myself as a bird gathers her young ones under her wings; but you would not allow Me to do so. ³⁵ Now look! Your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will have no way of seeing Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Lord's Name.'"

Man with dropsy healed on the Sabbath (14:1-6)

14 Jesus went to the house of a prominent Pharisee to eat on a Sabbath day. Those present watched closely everything He did. ²⁻³ A man with dropsy stood in front of Him; so Jesus asked the religious lawyers and Pharisees: "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" ⁴⁻⁵ But they remained silent. Then Jesus healed the man and dismissed him, and then asked them: "If any of you have a son or an ox that falls into a pit, would you not immediately pull him out, even if it was the Sabbath?" ⁶ They had nothing to say in reply.

The one who humbles himself will be exalted (14:7-14)

⁷ He noted that those who had been invited chose the best seats for themselves and so told them this parable: ⁸⁻⁹ "When you are invited to a wedding feast don't take the best place for yourself in case

someone more important than you has also been invited by the host, who will then come and say to you: 'Make room for this other guest.' Then in embarrassment you will have to take an inferior place.

¹⁰"So when invited take the lowest place, for then your host will come to you and say: 'My friend, please take a more distinguished place.' Then you will feel honoured before all the other guests. ¹¹So everyone who seeks honour for himself will be humbled, while the one who humbles himself will be honoured."

¹²Then Jesus said to the host: "When you prepare a meal, don't invite your friends, relatives or your wealthy neighbours, for they will only invite you back in return, so repaying you. ¹³No, when you have a party invite the poor, the crippled, those who are lame or blind. ¹⁴Then you will be blessed because they are unable to repay you. Instead you will be rewarded when God's children are raised from the dead."

Give up all to follow Jesus (14:15-24)

¹⁵On hearing this, one of those at the table with Jesus said to Him: "He who has a place at God's Kingdom feast is truly blessed!"

¹⁶Jesus replied: "A certain man prepared a great feast to which he invited many people. ¹⁷When everything was ready he sent his servants to them all saying: 'Come, everything has been prepared.'

¹⁸But they each began to make their excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a farm and I must go and see it. I ask you to excuse me.'

¹⁹Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²²And another said, 'I have just been married, so I cannot come.'

²¹⁻²²"The servant came and reported these responses to his master, which made him angry. So he ordered his servant, 'Quickly, go out into the streets and pathways of the city and bring the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame to the feast.' Later the servant said, 'Master, I have done what you ordered and there is still room for more guests.'

²³"Well go into the country roads and make others come so that my house is full. ²⁴For I tell you clearly that none of those who were originally invited shall taste any of the feast!"

The cost of following Jesus (14:25-35)

²⁵⁻²⁶Turning to the crowds that followed Him, Jesus said: "If anyone comes to Me but does not hate the very idea of placing his father

and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters and even himself above His love for Me, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷Whoever is not prepared to carry his own cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸Would any of you decide to build a tower without first considering what it would cost to do so, thus ensuring he can afford to complete the task? ²⁹⁻³⁰Otherwise he might lay the foundation but be unable to finish the work. All those who saw this would laugh at him saying, 'What he began he couldn't finish!' ³¹Or what king would go to war against another king without calculating if he was able with his ten thousand men to conquer the one with twenty thousand? ³²If he was unable to do so, he would send a delegation to make peace instead. ³³So, in the same way, anyone who holds onto what he has for himself cannot be My disciple.

³⁴⁻³⁵"Salt is good unless it loses its taste, then it is useless, for how can you restore its taste? It is fit for nothing and may as well be thrown away.

"If you have any spiritual understanding, then listen carefully to what I am saying!"

Parable of the lost sheep (15:1-7)

15 A group of tax gatherers and sinners came close to Jesus to listen to Him. ²But both the Pharisees and the teachers of the religious law murmured against Him. "This man receives sinners and even eats with them," they said.

³⁻⁴So Jesus taught them this parable: "If anyone owned a hundred sheep but lost one of them, would he not leave the ninety-nine to fare for themselves while he went searching for the lost one until he found it? ⁵Then he would return carrying it on his shoulders, full of joy. ⁶And when he arrived home he would gather his friends and relatives and tell them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the sheep I had lost.'

⁷"I tell you clearly, there is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine godly men who do not need to repent.

Parable of the lost coin (15:8-10)

⁸"Or what woman with ten valuable coins, if she lost one, would not take a lamp and search everywhere in the house until she found it? ⁹Having done so, she would gather her friends and neighbours saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the coin I lost.'

¹⁰“So I tell you clearly, there is more joy before God’s angels in heaven over every sinner who repents.”

Parable of the father with two sons (15:11-32)

¹¹Then Jesus said: “There was a father who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to him, ‘Father, please give me the share of the inheritance that is due to me.’ So he divided the property between them.

¹³“A few days later, the younger son gathered his possessions together and left for a distant country, where he wasted his inheritance by indulging himself with an immoral life-style. ¹⁴But a severe famine struck that land when he was broke, leaving him destitute. ¹⁵In desperation he found a job locally with a farmer, who sent him into the fields to feed his pigs. ¹⁶The son longed to eat the pig-swill, but no-one gave him anything. ¹⁷This brought him to his senses and he thought, ‘How many of my father’s servants have more than enough to eat, but I am starving with hunger. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹I will return to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I sinned before heaven and you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired servants.”

²⁰“So he set out for home. His father saw him in the distance and, filled with compassion for him, ran to welcome him with a big hug and a kiss.

²¹“The son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and you and I am no longer worthy to be your son.’ ²²But the father immediately said to his servants, ‘Go quickly and fetch the finest robe and put it on him. ²³⁻²⁴Bring a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet. Then kill the fattened calf so we can celebrate because this son of mine was dead and now he is alive again, he was lost but now he is found.’ So they began the celebration party.

²⁵“Meanwhile the older son returned home from the fields. As he approached the house he heard the sound of the music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked what was happening. ²⁷The servant replied, ‘Your brother has returned home and your father has killed the fattened calf in celebration because he has received him back safely.’

²⁸“But the older son was angry and refused to join the feast. So the father went to persuade him to join the celebration. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Look, for years I have served you faithfully and have never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a goat for a feast with my friends. ³⁰But now this son of yours who

has wasted your money with prostitutes comes home and you kill the fattened calf for him!

³¹“The father replied: ‘My son, you are always with me and everything that is mine is yours. ³²Come and rejoice because this is your brother who was dead but has now come to life; he was lost but now is found.”

Parable of the unjust manager (16:1-12)

16 Jesus said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his master’s possessions. ²So he called him and asked, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account for the way you have managed my affairs, for I have decided to dismiss you.’

³“The manager thought: ‘What can I do if the master sacks me? I am not used to manual labour and I would be ashamed to beg. ⁴I have an idea so that when I am no longer manager, others will readily employ me.’

⁵“So he called each of his master’s debtors and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶‘Eight hundred gallons of oil,’ he replied. So the manager told him, ‘Pay me now and we will settle for four hundred.’

⁷“To another he said, ‘How much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he answered. Then the manager said, ‘Pay me now and we will settle for eight hundred.’

⁸“The master congratulated the unrighteous manager for his astuteness, because the worldly people of this generation act more wisely than the sons of the light. ⁹And I tell you clearly, make friends for yourselves by the way you use the things of this world so that when it ends, you will be welcomed into your eternal home. ¹⁰For the one who proves faithful in small things will also prove faithful when given greater responsibilities, and whoever proves he cannot be trusted in small ways will not be trusted in more important matters. ¹¹So if you have not proved trustworthy in handling worldly things, why should you be entrusted with true riches? ¹²And if you do not handle other people’s property with care, who will give you property of your own?

More principles of the Kingdom (16:13-18)

¹³“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be faithful to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money!”

¹⁴Now when the Pharisees heard all these things they treated Jesus with disdain, for they loved money. ¹⁵So Jesus told them: "You try to justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what men value highly God hates. ¹⁶The law and the prophets were needed until John began his ministry. But then it was preached that God's Kingdom was available and everyone is pushing to enter into it. ¹⁷For it is easier for the earth to come to an end than for a tiniest part of the law to disappear.

¹⁸"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery. And if the woman who was divorced marries again she also is guilty of adultery.

Parable of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31)

¹⁹"There was a rich man who wore an expensive purple robe and the finest linen and who enjoyed a luxurious life-style. ²⁰And there was a poor man named Lazarus who was laid at his gate. ²¹He was covered with sores and longed to receive the scraps remaining from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²⁻²³"Now the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be close to Abraham in paradise. The rich man also died, was buried and cast into hell where he was in torment. But he could see Abraham far away with Lazarus close to him. ²⁴So he called out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus that he might dip the tip of his finger in water to cool my tongue, for I am suffering terribly in this fire.'

²⁵"But Abraham answered, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you had everything you wanted and Lazarus had nothing. Now he is comforted here and it is your turn to suffer. ²⁶Besides all this, there is a great immovable gulf between us and you. It is impossible to cross that gulf, no matter how much you wish to do so; neither can any of us cross it to come to you.'

²⁷"The man replied, 'If this is the case, father, please send Lazarus to my relations. ²⁸Let him warn my five brothers so they can avoid ending up in this place of torment.'

²⁹"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to what they say.'

³⁰"He replied, 'No Abraham, they will repent if someone who has died appears to them.'

³¹"But Abraham answered, 'If they refuse to listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone from the dead appears to them.'"

Dealing with sin (17:1-4)

17 Jesus said to His disciples: "It is inevitable that things will happen which will cause people to sin, but the one who causes others to sin is in danger of being cursed. ²It would be better if a millstone were placed around his neck before being thrown into the sea than to be guilty of causing one of my little ones to sin. So be warned!

³"If your brother sins, correct him; and if he repents then forgive him. ⁴Even if he sins against you seven times in a single day and comes to you seven times saying, 'I am really sorry,' you must forgive him."

Faith the size of a mustard seed (17:5-10)

⁵The apostles said to the Lord: "Please enable our faith to increase and be stronger."

⁶Jesus answered: "You only need faith the size of a tiny mustard seed to be able to say to this sycamore tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

⁷"If one of you had a slave who had been busy ploughing or tending the sheep and who then returned home, would you say to him: 'Come and have a good rest'? ⁸Would you not say instead, 'Now prepare my dinner and then serve me while I eat and drink; after that you can have something yourself.' ⁹Would he even thank the slave for simply obeying his orders?

¹⁰"This is how it should be with you. When you have done everything you are commanded to do, you should say, 'We are only unworthy slaves who have done what was expected of us!'"

Ten lepers cleansed (17:11-19)

¹¹On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus had to pass along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²⁻¹³When He entered a particular village ten lepers met Him. They remained a safe distance away but called out to Him: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

¹⁴When He noticed them, Jesus said to them: "Go and show yourselves to the priests (to have your healing verified)." On the way they were cleansed of their leprosy! ¹⁵When he realised that he had been healed, one of them returned to Jesus shouting God's praises. ¹⁶He fell on his face before Him and thanked Him. He was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus said: "Ten were healed; so where are the other nine? ¹⁸Is this outsider the only one who has returned to give God the glory?"

¹⁹Then He said to the Samaritan: “Stand up and go on your way; your faith has saved you.”

The coming of the Kingdom (17:20-37)

²⁰⁻²¹Some Pharisees asked Jesus when God’s Kingdom would come. He answered them: “God’s Kingdom does not come by looking for it, neither will you be able to say, ‘It is here’ or ‘It is over there.’ For God’s Kingdom is within you.”

²²Then Jesus said to His disciples: “The time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not be able to do so. ²³Others will say to you, ‘See, it is here’ or ‘See, it is there.’ Do not follow such people. ²⁴For on His Day the Son of Man will come like lightning that flashes from one side of the skies to the other. ²⁵Before then He has to suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶“As it was in Noah’s time, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. ²⁷They were eating and drinking, getting married and carrying on as usual right up until the day when Noah entered the ark. But then the flood came and they were all destroyed. ²⁸It was the same in Lot’s time. People were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting and building as usual. ²⁹But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur fell from heaven and they were all destroyed.

³⁰“It will be just like this on the Day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹At that time, if someone is on the roof he should not go into his house to gather his belongings. Nor should anyone in the fields go home to retrieve his possessions. ³²Remember what happened to Lot’s wife. ³³Whoever tries to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will preserve it.

³⁴“I tell you clearly, on that night if two are in bed together one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵If two women are grinding corn together, one will be taken but the other will be left behind.”

³⁷They asked Him: “Lord, when and where will all this happen?”

He answered: “Wherever there is a dead body the vultures will gather!”

Parable of the persistent widow (18:1-8)

18 ¹⁻²Jesus told them a parable to explain that they should pray with perseverance and not give up: “A judge in a certain city neither feared God nor had any concern for others. ³A widow from that city came and said, ‘Give me justice against my opponent.’

⁴⁻⁵For some time the judge paid no attention to her, but after a while he thought, 'Although I fear neither God nor man, I will give this woman the justice for which she asks because she wearies me with her constant demands.'"

⁶Then the Lord said: "Listen carefully to what the unrighteous judge says! ⁷So will not God, who is right in all He does, be sure to give justice to His chosen ones who cry out to Him in prayer day and night? Will He keep refusing them? ⁸I tell you clearly, He will ensure that they receive justice, and quickly! However, when the Son of Man returns, will He find such faith on the earth?"

Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (18:9-14)

⁹⁻¹⁰Then Jesus used this parable to address the self-righteous, those who placed their confidence in themselves and despised others: "Two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹⁻¹²The Pharisee prayed about himself saying, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortionists, corrupt, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give the tithe of everything I receive.'

¹³"The tax collector stood some way off and would not even lift his eyes towards heaven when he prayed, but beat his breast and said, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.' ¹⁴I tell you clearly, this man went home acceptable before God rather than the other one. For everyone with exalted ideas about himself will be humbled, but the humble one will be exalted by his God!"

Become like children to inherit the Kingdom (18:15-17)

¹⁵The people brought their babies to Jesus so He would touch them and bless them; but the disciples tried to prevent them from doing this. ¹⁶Jesus told Him: "Let the children come to Me; don't stop them. For God's Kingdom belongs to those who are like little children. ¹⁷I tell you truly that unless a person receives God's Kingdom like a child, he or she will never be part of it!"

How to inherit eternal life (18:18-30)

¹⁸A certain leader asked Jesus: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹Jesus replied: "Why do you call Me 'good'? Only God Himself is good! ²⁰You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery; do not kill; do not steal; do not testify falsely; honour your father and mother.'"

²¹"I have kept all these things from my youth," the man said.

²²On hearing his reply Jesus told him: "You still lack one thing. Sell your possessions and give money to the poor; then you will have riches in heaven and will be free to follow Me."

²³The man appeared sad when he heard this because he was very wealthy. ²⁴Seeing this, Jesus said: "How hard it is for the wealthy to enter God's Kingdom. ²⁵It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter God's Kingdom."

²⁶Those who heard Him say this asked: "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷He answered: "Whatever is impossible for men is possible for God!"

²⁸Peter said: "We have left everything behind to follow You."

²⁹⁻³⁰Jesus told them: "I tell you truly, that no one can leave his home, wife, brothers, parents or children for the sake of My Kingdom, without receiving much more in return while on earth, and eternal life in the age that is to come."

Jesus predicts His death again (18:31-34)

³¹Taking the twelve aside, Jesus said to them: "Now we are going up to Jerusalem and everything written in the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²⁻³³He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked, insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged Him, they will then kill Him; but on the third day after His death He will rise to life again." ³⁴But none of this made sense to them, for the meaning of His words was hidden from them; so they could not grasp the significance of what He said.

Jesus restores sight to a blind man (18:35-43)

³⁵As He approached Jericho, there was a blind man begging by the roadside. ³⁶Hearing a crowd passing he asked what was happening.

³⁷"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," he was told. ³⁸So the blind man shouted: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." ³⁹Those in the front of the crowd rebuked him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly: "Son of David, have mercy on me."

⁴⁰Jesus paused and ordered that the man be brought to him. When he was close enough Jesus asked him: "What do you want Me to do for you?"

⁴¹He replied: "Lord, I want to see again."

⁴²So Jesus said to him: "Receive your sight. You are healed because of your faith." ⁴³Immediately he was able to see again and then he followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all those who witnessed this praised the Lord.

Zacchaeus the tax collector (19:1-10)

19 ¹⁻³As He was passing through Jericho, a man called Zacchaeus, who was chief tax collector and very wealthy, wanted to see Jesus; but being very short he was unable to do so because of the crowd of people. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to catch sight of Jesus who was about to pass along that way. ⁵When He came to that place, Jesus looked up and said to him: "Zacchaeus, quickly come down from there. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he climbed down immediately and welcomed Jesus with joy.

⁷When others saw this they complained: "He has gone to stay in the house of a sinner."

⁸Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said: "Lord, I give half my possessions to the poor and if I have made false claims against anyone, I will restore four times the amount to him." ⁹Jesus said to him: "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man is a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Parable of the diligent servants (19:11-27)

¹¹He then told a parable to those listening to all He said, for He was nearing Jerusalem and there was speculation that God's Kingdom was about to appear. ¹²He said: "A nobleman was about to travel to a distant country to inherit a kingdom, before returning home. ¹³So he called ten of his servants and gave each of them a thousand, telling them, 'Use this money to trade while I am away.' ¹⁴But he was hated by the citizens who sent a delegation after him saying, 'We don't want this man to rule over us.'

¹⁵"In due course the nobleman returned, having received the kingdom, and summoned the servants to whom he had entrusted the money to discover how much profit they had made. ¹⁶The first came and said, 'Lord, I have increased the thousand to ten thousand.' The nobleman said to him, 'You have done well and are a good servant. Because you have proved faithful in this small matter I am giving you authority over ten cities.'

¹⁷⁻¹⁹"The second servant came and said, 'I have turned the one thousand into five.' So the nobleman said to him, 'I am giving you authority over five cities.'

²⁰⁻²¹"A third servant came and said, 'Lord, here is the thousand you gave me. I have kept it hidden safely because, knowing how demanding you are, I feared you. I know you expect a return with-

out making a deposit and you reap where you have not sown any seed.'

²²"The nobleman said, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You were aware that I am a demanding man, expecting a return when I have not made a deposit and reaping where I have not sown. ²³Then why did you not at least put the money in a bank to gain interest for my return?'

²⁴"He then said to the others standing nearby, 'Take the thousand from him and give it to the one with ten thousand. ²⁵'But sir,' they replied, 'he already has ten thousand!'

²⁶"The master replied, 'I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has nothing, everything he has will be taken away. ²⁷However, bring here to me my enemies who did not want me to reign over them and execute them in front of me.'"

Triumphal entry (19:28-40)

²⁸After saying these things, Jesus set out for Jerusalem. ²⁹⁻³⁰As He drew near to Bethphage in Bethany near the mount of Olives, He sent two of the disciples on ahead telling them: "Go to the village ahead of you where you will find tethered a colt on which no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you why you are untying the colt, you are to answer, 'Because the Lord needs it.' ³²So the two disciples went and found the colt exactly as Jesus had said. ³³As they were untying the colt its owners asked: "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They replied: "Because the Lord needs it." And they brought it to Jesus.

³⁵Then they threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As He went along, people threw their cloaks onto the road in front of Him. ³⁷As He approached the Mount of Olives, the great crowd of disciples were rejoicing and shouting to God for all the powerful works they had seen, saying:

³⁸"Blessed is the King who comes in the Lord's name!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus: "Teacher, tell Your disciples to stop this." ⁴⁰But He answered: "I tell you clearly, if all the people were to remain silent even the stones would cry out."

Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem (19:41-44)

⁴¹⁻⁴²When Jesus was near enough to see the city, He wept over it and said: "If you only listened today to what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from you and you cannot see it. ⁴³The time will

come when your enemies will build a rampart and will surround you on every side. ⁴⁴They will throw you to the ground, both you and your children within you, and will not leave one stone upon another, because you did not recognise the time of God's visitation."

Jesus dispels traders from the temple (19:45-48)

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶When He entered the temple courts, Jesus threw out the traders telling them: "It is written: 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a robber's den!'"

⁴⁷Daily He taught in the temple courts, but the chief priests, the teachers of the religious law and the leaders of the people planned to kill Him. ⁴⁸However they could not find a suitable opportunity as the people hung upon every word He spoke.

Jesus' authority questioned (20:1-8)

20 ¹⁻²On one of those days, as He was teaching and preaching the good news to the people in the temple courts, the chief priests, together with the teachers of the religious law and the elders, came and said to Him: "Tell us by whose authority You do these things. Who gave You such authority?"

³Jesus replied: "I will also ask you a question. ⁴Tell me, John's baptism, was this of God or man?" ⁵⁻⁶They discussed among themselves how to answer. "If we say it is of God, He will ask us why we did not believe what John said, and if we say it was of man the people will stone us for they are convinced that John was a prophet." ⁷So they said: "We cannot tell."

⁸Then Jesus told them: "Then neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Parable of the wicked tenants (20:9-18)

⁹He then told the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants before going away for a considerable time.

¹⁰At harvest, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his portion of the fruit. ¹¹But the tenants beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. So he sent another servant, but they also beat and abused him, giving him nothing! ¹²They also wounded a third servant before throwing him out.

¹³"So the owner of the vineyard said: 'What can I do? I will send my own son whom I love dearly. Surely they will respect him!' But when the tenants saw him they decided among themselves, 'This is

the heir; let's kill him and then we can claim the inheritance.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ "What will the owner of the vineyard do to these tenants? He will come and destroy them and will lease the vineyard to other tenants."

¹⁶ When the people heard this they said: "May it never be so!"
¹⁷ But Jesus looked at them and said: "What does this scripture mean then, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone?'"
¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be smashed to pieces, but the one on whom it falls will be crushed to powder."

Paying taxes to Caesar (20:19-26)

¹⁹ Immediately the teachers of the religious law and the chief priests wanted to grab Him, but they were afraid of the people. ²⁰ They knew He directed this parable against them. ²¹ So they sent spies who pretended to be honest people to watch Jesus carefully, hoping He would say something that would give them just cause to arrest Him and hand Him over to the authority of the governor. They put a trick question to Him: "Teacher, we know that You speak what is right and are impartial in the way You treat everyone, that You teach the true way of God. ²² So tell us, is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

²³⁻²⁴ Jesus immediately saw through their duplicity and said: "Show Me a coin. Whose image does it bear?"

²⁵ "Caesar's," they said.

Then Jesus told them: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God."

²⁶ So they were unable to trap Him when He spoke publicly to the people. They were astonished at His answer, which reduced them to silence.

Sons of the resurrection (20:27-40)

²⁷ Then some Sadducees, who do not believe there is any resurrection from the dead, approached Jesus. ²⁸ They put this question to Him: "Teacher, Moses wrote that if a man dies leaving his wife childless, then his brother must marry the widow and have children on his behalf. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first died leaving his wife childless. ³⁰⁻³¹ The second and third brothers married her in turn but she remained without children. ³² In the end all seven married the woman but all died without producing any children. Then the

20:17 Psalm 118:22

woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, whose wife will she be, for all seven married her?"

³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus answered them: "The people of this present age marry and are given in marriage, but those considered worthy of taking part in the age to come when the dead will be raised, neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ They will be immortal like the angels. They are God's own children because they are sons of the resurrection.

³⁷ "In the account of the burning bush, Moses made it clear that the dead are raised, for he called the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ And God is not the God of the dead but of the living! And He sees them all living!"

³⁹ Some of the teachers of the religious law remarked: "Well said, Teacher!" ⁴⁰ But no one dared to question Him further.

Be careful of the teachers of religion (20:41-47)

⁴¹ Jesus asked them: "Why do people say that the Christ is the Son of David? ⁴²⁻⁴³ For David himself said in the book of Psalms, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool on which to place Your feet.' ⁴⁴ Therefore if David calls Him 'Lord', how can he be His Son?"

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ Within earshot of all the people Jesus said to the disciples: "Be very careful of the teachers of the religious law. They love to walk about in their robes and to be greeted by everyone in the market-places. They want the important places in the synagogues and the best seats at banquets. ⁴⁷ They devour widows' houses and pray long pretentious prayers. The judgment they shall receive will be severe."

The widow's offering (21:1-4)

21 Looking up, Jesus watched the wealthy people putting their gifts into the treasury. ²⁻⁴ Then He noticed a poor widow who gave two tiny coins and He said: "I tell you truly, this poor widow has given more than all the others; for they gave out of their abundant wealth, but this woman gave all that she had to live on."

Signs of the last days (21:5-38)

⁵⁻⁶ Some disciples were admiring the temple building, how beautifully the stones were dressed and how lovely the gifts that adorned it. Jesus said to them: "The days are coming when what you see now will be destroyed. Not one stone will be left on another."

20:43 *Psalm 110:1*

⁷They asked Him: “Teacher, when will these things take place? And what will be the sign that will warn they are about to happen?”

⁸Jesus replied: “Be very careful that you are not deceived, for many will come claiming to come in My Name, saying: ‘I am he’ and ‘The time is now near.’ Do not follow them.

⁹“And when you hear of wars and revolutions do not be afraid. Such things must happen first, but they do not indicate that the end is imminent.”

¹⁰Then He added: “One nation will rise against another, and one kingdom will oppose another kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and some places will experience plagues and famines.

¹¹There will be cataclysmic events and great signs from heaven.

¹²⁻¹³But before all these things take place, people will lay hold of you and will persecute you. They will hand you over to the synagogue authorities and have you thrown into prison. You will be brought before kings and governors because you believe in My Name, giving you the opportunity to testify to them.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵“Decide now, that you will not have to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves, for I will give you wisdom and the right words to speak, so that those who oppose you will not be able to stand against you or contradict what you say.

¹⁶“You will also be betrayed by parents, brothers, other relatives and friends who will even be responsible for the death of some of you. ¹⁷⁻¹⁹You will be hated by everyone because of your faith in Me, but not one hair of your head will perish eternally, for by enduring all this you will gain life for yourselves.

²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem being surrounded by the enemy’s camps then you will know that the time of its destruction is near.

²¹⁻²²Then those who live in Judea should flee to the mountains, and the inhabitants of the city should leave at once. Those who live in the country districts should not enter the city because the time of retribution must take place, to fulfil what has been written.

²³“Pregnant women and those breast-feeding their little ones will feel cursed at that time, for there will be much distress everywhere in the land and all will consider themselves the victims of great anger and judgment. ²⁴They will be killed by the sword and taken as prisoners to other nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by foreigners until the time of the Gentile nations is fulfilled.

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. Fear will grip the earth and there will be great confusion like the raging of a tempestuous sea. ²⁶People will feel faint for fear of what will happen to them next, for it will be seen that even the heavens are being shaken.

²⁷“Only then will they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory! ²⁸When you see these things begin to happen, stand and lift up your hands, because the time of your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus then told them a parable: “When you see a fig tree, or some other tree, burst into leaf you know that summer is coming. ³¹In the same way, when you see these things happen, know that God’s sovereign reign is near. ³²I tell you truly that this generation will not end until all that God intends has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth as you know them will end, but My words will never end; they are eternal.

³⁴⁻³⁵ “Be careful that your hearts are not put into bondage because of excessive drinking or because you are full of anxiety. For this Day will come on you suddenly like a trap; yes it will come upon every-one who lives on the face of the earth.

³⁶“So always be on the alert, praying that you will be able to escape all that is going to happen, and that you will be able to stand accepted before the Son of Man.”

³⁷Jesus taught in the temple courts every day, but He spent the nights on the Mount of Olives. ³⁸Crowds would gather to hear Him teach in the mornings.

Judas agrees to betray Jesus (22:1-6)

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, known as the Passover, was approaching. ²The chief priests and the teachers of the religious law were trying to figure out how they could destroy Jesus, but they feared the reaction of the people. ³⁻⁴Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, and he went to discuss with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard how he could betray Jesus into their hands. ⁵They were delighted and agreed to give him money in exchange for Jesus. ⁶Accordingly, Judas looked for a suitable opportunity to betray Him, when crowds of people were not around.

The Last Supper (22:7-23)

⁷⁻⁸On the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed, Jesus sent Peter and John telling them: “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, that we may eat it together. ⁹They asked Him: “Where do You want us to prepare it?” ¹⁰Jesus replied: “When you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him to the house to which he goes. ¹¹Then say to the owner of the house: ‘The Teacher says, Where is the guest room that I and My

disciples can eat the Passover meal together?' ¹²He will show you to a large upper room already furnished and there you are to prepare for the meal."

¹³When they went they found everything exactly as Jesus had said, and so prepared for the Passover.

¹⁴At the appointed time Jesus and the apostles came and reclined around the table. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶He told them: "I have longed to eat this Passover meal with you before I have to suffer, for I tell you clearly that I shall not eat it again until what it signifies is fulfilled in God's Kingdom."

¹⁷Holding up a cup Jesus gave thanks to God and said: "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that I shall not drink again from the fruit of the vine until God's Kingdom rule is established." ¹⁹Then He held up a loaf of bread, spoke God's blessing over it and gave it to them saying: "This is My body given for you; do this to remember Me." ²⁰And after supper He took the cup in similar fashion and said: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood that is being shed for you. ²¹However, the hand of the one who is about to betray Me is on this table with Me. ²²For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined He must. Nevertheless the man by whom He is betrayed is cursed." ²³They began to discuss who among them who would do such a thing.

The servant is the greatest (22:24-30)

²⁴They began to argue among themselves as to who was the most important. ²⁵So Jesus said to them: "Kings rule oppressively over their nations and those with authority claim to exercise it for the good of others. ²⁶But this is not how you are to behave. Among you, the most important will be the most humble, and the one with authority will behave as a true servant.

²⁷"Who do you think is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves him? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸⁻³⁰"You have remained with Me through My testing times, and I give you the Kingdom that the Father gave Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus predicts Peter will deny Him (22:31-38)

³¹⁻³²"Simon, Simon, Satan has longed to sift you as wheat, but I prayed for you all so that your faith will not fail. When you have turned back to Me, support your brothers."

³³Peter answered: "Lord, I am ready to go to prison or even die for You."

³⁴But Jesus replied: "Peter, I tell you clearly today, before cock-crow you will deny three times that you know Me!"

³⁵Then He said to them all: "When I sent you out without money or footwear, did you have any needs?"

They replied: "None."

³⁶So He told them: "But now let he who has a purse or wallet take it with him and let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you clearly that what was written about Me must be completed, 'And He was counted with the sinners.' Yes, this was written about Me and must be fulfilled."

³⁸Then they said: "Lord, look we already have two swords." And He replied: "That's enough!"

Jesus prays on the mount of Olives (22:39-44)

³⁹He then went to the Mount of Olives as usual, together with His disciples. ⁴⁰When He arrived there He told them: "Pray that you will not be tempted." ⁴¹⁻⁴²And He went apart by Himself, about a stone's throw away from them, knelt down and began to pray, saying: "Father, you are able to take this cup of suffering away from Me, but only do so if it is Your will and not My own." ⁴³And an angel from heaven appeared to Him to strengthen Him.

⁴⁴He grew even more distressed and prayed more earnestly, so that His sweat fell to the ground as drops of blood.

Judas betrays Jesus (22:45-53)

⁴⁵After He had prayed, He returned to the disciples and found them asleep, exhausted by their grief. ⁴⁶He said to them: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not be tempted." ⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸But even as He was speaking, a crowd approached led by Judas who was one of the twelve. He was about to kiss Him, when Jesus said: "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

⁴⁹When those around Him saw what was happening they said: "Lord, shall we use our swords?" ⁵⁰One of them did so and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹Jesus answered: "Stop that," and He touched the servant and healed his ear.

⁵²Then Jesus addressed the chief priests, officers of the temple guard and elders who were among the crowd: "You have come with swords and clubs as if you were coming to arrest a criminal. ⁵³I was

with you every day in the temple and you never raised so much as a finger against Me. But this is your time, when darkness rules.”

Peter denies Jesus (22:54-62)

⁵⁴They arrested Jesus and took Him to the high priest’s house, and Peter followed at a safe distance. ⁵⁵A fire had been lit in the courtyard and Peter went and sat with those gathered around it. ⁵⁶One of the maids stared at him in the firelight and said: “This man was with Him.” ⁵⁷But Peter denied it saying: “I don’t know Him, woman.” ⁵⁸Shortly afterwards another noticed him and said: “You are one of them.” But he said: “No, I am not!”

⁵⁹About an hour later another man said emphatically: “This man was definitely with Him, and he is from Galilee.”

⁶⁰But Peter said: “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” As soon as he had said this the cock crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter and he remembered the Lord’s word to him that he would deny Him three times before the cock crowed. ⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Jesus on trial before the Jewish Council (22:63-71)

⁶³Those in charge of Jesus mocked Him and hit Him. ⁶⁴They taunted Him saying: “Prophesy. Tell us who hit You!” ⁶⁵And they said many other blasphemous things to Him.

⁶⁶At daybreak the leaders of the people, both chief priests and the teachers of the religious law, gathered together and brought Him before the whole council.

⁶⁷⁻⁶⁸They said to Him: “Tell us if You are the Christ.”

He replied: “Even if I told you, you would still not believe Me, and you will not answer anything I ask you. ⁶⁹However, from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of God in power.”

⁷⁰So they all said: “Then You are God’s Son, are You?”

He answered them: “You say that I AM!”

⁷¹They said: “What further evidence do we need? We have heard it from His own mouth!”

Pilate finds no fault in Jesus (23:1-7)

23 Then the whole Council rose and led Him to Pilate. ²They began to accuse Him by saying: “We have found that this man is perverting our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar and calling Himself Christ the King!”

³Pilate questioned Him: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

And Jesus answered: "That is what you say."

⁴Then Pilate told the chief priests and those with them: "I do not find this man guilty of any crime."

⁵But they persisted, claiming: "Throughout Judea and all over the country from Galilee to here, He has stirred up the people with His teaching."

⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if He was a Galilean. ⁷Hearing that He was, and was therefore under Herod's authority, he sent Him to Herod who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod mocks Jesus (23:8-12)

⁸Herod was really pleased to see Jesus. For a long time he had wanted to meet Him because of all that he had heard about Him, and he hoped to see Him perform a miracle. ⁹Herod questioned Jesus at length, but He said nothing in reply. ¹⁰⁻¹¹The chief priests and teachers of the law accused Him aggressively, while Herod and His soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him. They dressed Him in a splendid robe and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends, although before they had been enemies.

Jews urge Pilate to crucify Jesus (23:13-25)

¹³⁻¹⁴Pilate called together the chief priests and other leaders and told them: "You brought this man to me accusing Him of stirring rebellion among the people. I have questioned Him in your presence and have found no evidence to substantiate these accusations you have brought against Him. ¹⁵Nor could Herod find Him guilty, for He returned Him to our jurisdiction, having found He has done nothing deserving of the death penalty. ¹⁶Therefore I will have Him flogged and will then release Him."

¹⁷⁻¹⁸It was customary for Pilate to release one prisoner to the people at the feast so they all shouted: "Condemn this man and give us Barabbas instead." ¹⁹Barabbas had been thrown into prison for causing an insurrection in the city and for murder.

²⁰⁻²¹Again, Pilate made it clear to them that he wanted to release Jesus. But they shouted: "Crucify, crucify Him."

²²For a third time Pilate said to them: "Why? What crime has He committed? I have found He has done nothing that deserves the death penalty. So I shall have him flogged and will then release Him."

²³⁻²⁴But the crowd persisted, shouting even more loudly and demanding that Jesus be crucified. Finally their voices prevailed

and Pilate decided to give in to their demands. ²⁵He released the man who was in prison, guilty of rebellion and murder, and for whom they had asked; Jesus he surrendered to their wishes.

Simon of Cyrene assists Jesus carry the cross (23:26-31)

²⁶As they led Him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene who had come from a country district and made him walk behind Jesus carrying the cross. ²⁷A great crowd of people followed, including some women who mourned and grieved for Jesus. ²⁸⁻²⁹Turning to them He said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for Me. Weep for yourselves and your children because the time is coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰⁻³¹Then people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us', because if they do such things when the tree is full of sap what will they do when it is dried wood?"

King of the Jews crucified (23:32-43)

³²Two others, who were criminals, were also taken to be crucified with Him. ³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him together with the two criminals, one on either side of Him.

³⁴And Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not understand what they are doing."

They divided His clothes between them by casting lots for them.

³⁵People stood by, staring and ridiculing Him. The leaders taunted: "He saved others, now let Him save Himself! If this man really is the Christ, God's Chosen One!"

³⁶⁻³⁷The soldiers also mocked Him. They came near and offered Him vinegar, saying: "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." ³⁸And a sign was placed above Him on which was written: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹⁻⁴⁰One of the criminals cursed Him, but the other one rebuked him and said: "Have you no fear of God; you are under the same judgment. ⁴¹We are being punished justly for we deserve the sentence passed against us; but this Man has done nothing wrong!"

⁴²Then he said: "Jesus, please think of me when You enter Your Kingdom."

⁴³And Jesus answered: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Jesus' death (23:44-49)

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵By now it was about midday and darkness fell all over the land and persisted until three o'clock; it was as if the sun had gone out. And the curtain concealing the Holy of holies in the temple was torn apart. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out in a loud voice: "Father, I commit My Spirit into Your hands." And then He died.

⁴⁷Seeing what had happened, the centurion glorified God saying: "This was truly a righteous man."

⁴⁸Those in the crowd that had been watching saw what happened and returned to their homes, beating their breasts in anguish.

⁴⁹All those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these events.

Jesus buried in Joseph's tomb (23:50-56)

⁵⁰⁻⁵²A member of the council called Joseph, from a Judean city named Arimathea, came to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body. Joseph was a good and godly man who had not agreed with the decision or actions taken by the council. He was awaiting the coming of God's Kingdom.

⁵³He took the body down from the cross, wrapped it in a linen shroud, and placed Him in a new tomb that had been cut out of the rock, where no-one had been laid to rest. ⁵⁴It was the day of preparation and the Sabbath was about to begin.

⁵⁵The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus, saw the location of the tomb and watched His body being placed there. ⁵⁶So they went to prepare spices and perfume, but rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

The Resurrection (24:1-12)

24 Very early on the Sunday morning, the women brought the spices they had prepared to the tomb. ²They discovered that the stone that had covered the entrance to the tomb had been rolled aside. ³So they entered, but the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. ⁴While they were pondering where He could be, two men in clothes that shone like lightning suddenly appeared and stood beside them. ⁵Frightened, the two women fell to the ground on their faces. The man asked them: "Why look for the living among the dead? ⁶⁻⁷He is not here; He is risen! Remember what He told you while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men to be crucified, but on the third day He will be raised back to life.'" ⁸Then the women remembered.

⁹They told all this to the eleven and the others with them as soon as they returned from the tomb. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the others with them that brought this news to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe what the women said; it seemed to make no sense to them.

¹²However, Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. He bent over, looked into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying to one side. He left perplexed at what He had seen.

The road to Emmaus (24:13-32)

¹³On that same day, two disciples were travelling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were discussing everything that had taken place. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶While they were deep in conversation, Jesus Himself came and walked beside them; but they did not recognise Him.

¹⁷He asked them: "What are you talking about?"

¹⁸They stopped walking and appeared grief stricken. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him: "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who has no idea about the events that have taken place here during the past few days?"

¹⁹"What events?" He asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet who spoke powerfully and performed mighty deeds in God's Name before all the people. ²⁰However, the chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to the Romans to be sentenced to death; so they crucified Him. ²¹We had hoped that He was the One who would save Israel. And now it is the third day since this took place. ²²⁻²³What is more, some of our women have amazed us by saying that when they went to the tomb early this morning, they could not find His body. And they came to tell us that angels had appeared to them, who said that He is alive. ²⁴When some of our friends went to the tomb themselves, they found it just as the woman had said, and there was no sign of Jesus."

²⁵⁻²⁶He said to them: "You are so foolish and slow to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have said. The Christ had to suffer these things before entering into His glory, did He not?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He revealed to them all that was written in the scriptures about Himself.

²⁸As they neared their destination, Jesus appeared to be continuing further. ²⁹But they begged Him: "Stay with us here, for it is getting dark and the daylight has almost gone." So He agreed to stay with them.

³⁰ While at table with them, Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God. Then He broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly their eyes were opened and they realised that this was Jesus: but then He immediately disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other: "While He talked with us on the journey and explained the scriptures to us, did it not seem that our hearts were on fire?"

Jesus appears to the disciples (24:33-44)

³³⁻³⁴ At once they rose from the table and returned to Jerusalem. The eleven disciples gathered together with the other believers and said: "It is really true! The Lord has risen from the dead and has appeared to Simon."

³⁵ Then the two disciples explained what had happened to them on the way to Emmaus, and how they had recognised Jesus when He broke the bread.

³⁶ While they were still explaining this, Jesus Himself suddenly stood among them and said: "Peace be with you!"

³⁷ They were amazed and frightened, thinking this must be a ghost. ³⁸ But He said to them: "What are you worried about and why do you doubt in your minds? ³⁹ Look at My hands and feet. It really is Me! You can touch Me and see that I am real. A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

⁴⁰ Then He showed them His hands and feet. They could still hardly believe what was happening, for they were so amazed and full of joy.

⁴¹ Jesus asked them: "Do you have anything to eat here?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and He took it and ate it before their eyes. ⁴⁴ Then He said to them: "This is what I predicted while I was still with you. Everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms, must be fulfilled."

Jesus' departing instruction (23:45-53)

⁴⁵ Then He explained the scriptures to them so that they could understand. ⁴⁶ He said: "This is what is clearly written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ In His Name, repentance and the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all this. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you the gift promised by My Father. But you are to stay here in the city until you have received the power that will be poured out on you from heaven."

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹ Then Jesus led them out to a place near Bethany. There He raised His hands and blessed them, and then He left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² They worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem, overflowing with joy. ⁵³ And they remained in the temple, giving praise to God.