

Scripture Worksheets

Chapter 1

¹This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See! I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice calling out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord!
Make his paths straight!’”

⁴John was baptizing in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵People from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were flocking to him, being baptized by him while they confessed their sins.

⁶Now John was dressed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He kept proclaiming, “The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am, and I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandal straps. ⁸I baptized you with water, but it is he who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with you!”

¹²At once the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John had been arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and proclaimed the gospel about the kingdom of God. ¹⁵He said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near! Repent, and keep believing in the gospel!”

¹⁶While Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the sea because they were fishermen. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishermen of people!” ¹⁸So immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat repairing their nets. ²⁰He immediately called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

²¹Then they went to Capernaum. As soon as it was the Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were utterly amazed at his teaching, for he was teaching them like one with authority and not like their scribes. ²³Suddenly there was a man in their synagogue who had an unclean spirit. He screamed, ²⁴“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶At this, the unclean spirit shook the man, cried out with a loud voice, and came out of him.

²⁷All the people were so stunned that they kept saying to each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He tells even the unclean spirits what to do, and they obey him!” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹After they left the synagogue, they went directly to the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed, sick with a fever, so they promptly told Jesus about her. ³¹He went up to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began serving them.

³²When evening came, after the sun had set, people started bringing to him all those who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³In fact, the whole city gathered at the door. ³⁴He healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. However, he wouldn't allow the demons to speak because they knew who he was.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went to a deserted place and prayed there. ³⁶Simon and his companions searched diligently for him. ³⁷When they found him, they told him, “Everyone's looking for you.”

³⁸He said to them, “Let's go to the neighboring towns so that I can preach there, too. For that is why I came out here.” ³⁹So he

went throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

⁴⁰Then a leper came to Jesus and began pleading with him. He fell on his knees and said to him, “If you want to, you can make me clean.”

⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do want to. Be made clean!” ⁴²Instantly the leprosy left him, and he was clean.

⁴³Then Jesus sternly warned him and drove him away at once, ⁴⁴telling him, “See to it that you don't say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest, and then offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded as proof to the authorities.”

⁴⁵But when the man left, he began to proclaim it freely. He spread the word so widely that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly, but had to stay out in deserted places. Still, people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Chapter 2

¹Several days later Jesus returned to Capernaum, and it was reported that he was at home. ²So many crowds had gathered that there wasn't any room left for them, even in front of the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them ³when some people came and brought him a paralyzed man being carried by four men. ⁴Since they couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof over the place where he was. They dug through it and let down the cot on which the paralyzed man was lying.

⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some scribes were sitting there, arguing among themselves, ⁷"Why does this man talk this way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸At once, Jesus knew in his spirit what they were saying to themselves. He said to them, "Why are you arguing about such things among yourselves? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your cot, and walk'?" ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

Then he said to the paralyzed man, ¹¹"I say to you, get up, pick up your cot, and go home!" ¹²So the man got up, immediately picked up his cot, and went out before all of them.

As a result, all of the people were amazed and began to glorify God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

¹³Jesus went out again beside the sea. The whole crowd kept coming to him, and he kept teaching them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax collector's desk. Jesus said to him, “Follow me!” So Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵Later he was having dinner at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and sinners were also eating with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who were following him. ¹⁶When the scribes and the Pharisees saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹⁷When Jesus heard that, he said to them, “Healthy people don't need a physician, but sick ones do. I did not come to call righteous people, but sinners.”

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees would fast regularly. Some people came and asked Jesus, “Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples don't fast?”

¹⁹Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests can't fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they can't fast. ²⁰But the days will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.”

²¹“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch pulls away from it—the new from the old—and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will make the skins burst, and both the wine and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins.”

²³Jesus happened to be going through the grainfields on a Sabbath. As they made their way, his disciples began picking the heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, “Look! Why are they doing what is not lawful on Sabbath days?”

²⁵He said to them, “Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶How was it that he went into the House of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the Bread of the Presence, which was not lawful for anyone but the priests to eat, and gave some of it to his companions?” ²⁷Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. ²⁸Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Chapter 3

¹Jesus went into the synagogue again, and a man with a paralyzed hand was there. ²The people watched Jesus closely to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, intending to accuse him of doing something wrong. ³He said to the man with the paralyzed hand, “Come forward.” ⁴Then he asked them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do evil on Sabbath days, to save a life or to kill it?” But they were silent. ⁵Jesus looked around at them with anger, for he was deeply hurt because of their hardness of heart. Then he said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” The man held it out, and his hand was restored to health. ⁶Immediately the Pharisees, along with the Herodians, went out and began to plot against him to kill him.

⁷So Jesus retired with his disciples to the sea. A large crowd from Galilee, Judea, ⁸Jerusalem, Idumea, from across the Jordan, and from the region around Tyre and Sidon followed him. They came to him because they kept hearing about everything he was doing. ⁹Jesus told his disciples to have a boat ready for him so that the crowd wouldn't crush him. ¹⁰For he had healed so many people that all who had diseases kept crowding up against him in order to touch him. ¹¹Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they would fall down in front of him and scream, “You are the Son of God!” ¹²But he sternly ordered them again and again not to tell people who he was.

¹³Then Jesus went up on a hillside and called to him those whom he wanted and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve whom he called apostles to accompany him, to be sent out to preach, ¹⁵and to have the authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶He appointed these twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷James, the son of Zebedee; John, the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus; Simon the Cananaean; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him.

²⁰Then he went home. The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples couldn't even eat. ²¹When his family heard about it, they went to restrain him. For they kept saying, "He's out of his mind!"

²²The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem kept repeating, "He has Beelzebul," and "He drives out demons by the ruler of demons."

²³So Jesus called them together and began to speak to them in parables. "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a household is divided against itself, that household will not stand. ²⁶So if Satan rebels against himself and is divided, he cannot stand. Indeed, his end has come. ²⁷No one can go into a strong man's house and carry off his possessions without first tying up the

strong man. Then he can ransack his house. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of eternal sin.”

³⁰For they had been saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him and called for him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him. They said to him, “Look! Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.”

³³He answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”

³⁴Then looking at the people sitting around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Chapter 4

¹Then Jesus began to teach again beside the sea. Such a large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the entire crowd remained beside the sea on the shore. ²He began teaching them many things in parables. While he was teaching them he said, ³“Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴As he was sowing, some seeds fell along the path, and birds came and ate them up. ⁵Others fell on stony ground, where they did not have a lot of soil. They sprouted at once because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶But when the sun came up, they were scorched. Since they did not have any roots, they dried up. ⁷Others fell among thornbushes, and the thornbushes came up and choked them, and they did not produce anything. ⁸But others fell on good soil and produced a crop. They grew up, increased in size, and produced thirty, sixty, or one hundred times what was sown.” ⁹He added, “Let the person who has ears to hear, listen!”

¹⁰When he was alone with his followers and the twelve, they began to ask him about the parables. ¹¹He said to them, “The secret about the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside, everything comes in parables ¹²so that

‘they may see clearly but not perceive,
and they may hear clearly but not understand,
otherwise they might turn around and be forgiven.’”

¹³Then he said to them, “You don't understand this parable, so how can you understand any of the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵Some people are like the seeds along the path, where the word is sown. When they hear it, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶Others are like the seeds sown on the stony ground. When they hear the word, they accept it at once with joy, ¹⁷but since they don't have any roots in themselves, they last for only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes along because of the word, they immediately fall away. ¹⁸Still others are like the seeds sown among the thornbushes. These are the people who hear the word, ¹⁹but the worries of life, the deceitful pleasures of wealth, and the desires for other things come in and choke the word so that it can't produce a crop. ²⁰Others are like the seeds sown on good soil. They hear the word, accept it, and produce crops—thirty, sixty, or one hundred times what was sown.”

²¹Then Jesus said to them, “A lamp isn't brought indoors to be put under a basket or under a bed, is it? It's to be put on a lampstand, isn't it? ²²For nothing is hidden except for the purpose of having it revealed, and nothing is secret except for the purpose of having it come to light. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen!”

²⁴He went on to say to them, “Pay attention to what you're listening to! With the measure you use, you will be measured, and

still more will be given to you. ²⁵For whoever has something, will have more given to him. But whoever has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.”

²⁶He was also saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seeds on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and gets up night and day while the seeds sprout and grow, although he doesn't know how.

²⁸The ground produces grain by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, he swings his sickle immediately because the harvest time has come.”

³⁰He was also saying, “How can we show what the kingdom of God is like, or what parable can we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. Although it is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²when it is planted it comes up and becomes larger than all the garden plants. It grows such large branches that the birds in the sky can nest in its shade.”

³³With many other parables like these Jesus kept speaking the word to them according to their ability to understand them. ³⁴He did not tell them anything without using a parable, though he explained everything to his disciples in private.

³⁵That day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let's cross to the other side.” ³⁶So they left the crowd and took him along in the boat just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A violent windstorm came up, and the waves began breaking into the boat, so that the boat was rapidly becoming swamped.

³⁸But Jesus was in the back of the boat, asleep on a cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, don't you care that we're going to die?”

³⁹Then he got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Hush! Be still!” Then the wind stopped blowing, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith yet?”

⁴¹They were overcome with fear and kept saying to one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

Chapter 5

¹They arrived at the other side of the sea in the territory of the Gerasenes. ²Just as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. ³He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, not even with a chain. ⁴He had often been restrained with shackles and chains but had snapped the chains apart and broken the shackles in pieces. No one could tame him. ⁵Night and day he kept screaming among the tombs and on the mountainsides and kept cutting himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell down in front of him, ⁷screaming in a loud voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I command you in the name of God not to torture me!”

⁸For Jesus had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹Then Jesus asked him, “What’s your name?”

He said to him, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us.” ¹⁰He kept pleading with Jesus not to send them out of the territory.

¹¹Now a large herd of pigs was grazing on a hillside nearby. ¹²So the demons begged him, “Send us among the pigs, so that we can go into them!” ¹³So he let them do this. The unclean spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs, and the herd of about 2,000 rushed down the cliff into the sea and drowned there.

¹⁴Now when those who had been taking care of the pigs ran away, they reported what had happened in the city and countryside. So the people went to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there dressed and in his right mind, they were frightened. ¹⁶The people who had seen it told them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷So they began to beg Jesus to leave their territory.

¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed kept begging him to let him go with him. ¹⁹But Jesus wouldn't let him. Instead, he told him, "Go home to your family, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been to you." ²⁰So the man left and began proclaiming in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And everyone was utterly amazed.

²¹When Jesus again had crossed to the other side in a boat, a large crowd gathered around him by the seashore. ²²Then a synagogue leader named Jairus arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and begged him urgently, saying, "My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she may get well and live." ²⁴So Jesus went with him. A huge crowd kept following him and jostling him.

²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from chronic bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶Although she had endured a

great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all of her money, she had not been helped at all but rather grew worse.

²⁷Since she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his robe. ²⁸For she had been saying, “If I can just touch his robe, I will get well.” ²⁹Her bleeding stopped at once, and she felt in her body that she was healed from her illness.

³⁰Immediately Jesus became aware that power had gone out of him. So he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd jostling you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²But he kept looking around to see the woman who had done this. ³³So the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed from your illness.”

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the synagogue leader's home and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher anymore?”

³⁶But when Jesus heard what they said, he told the synagogue leader, “Stop being afraid! Just keep on believing.” ³⁷Jesus allowed no one to go further with him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw mass confusion. People were crying and sobbing loudly. ³⁹He entered the house and said to them, “Why all this confusion and crying? The child isn't dead but is sleeping.” ⁴⁰They laughed and laughed at him. But he forced all of them outside. Then he took the child's father and mother, along with the men who were with him, and went into the room where the child was.

⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I tell you, get up!” ⁴²The little girl got up at once and started to walk, for she was twelve years old. Instantly they were overcome with astonishment. ⁴³But Jesus strictly ordered them not to let anyone know about this. He also told them to give her something to eat.

Chapter 6

¹Jesus left that place and went back to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were utterly amazed. They said, “Where did this man get all these things? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What great miracles are being done by his hands! ³This is the builder, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon, isn't it? His sisters are here with us, aren't they?” And they were offended by him.

⁴Jesus was telling them, “A prophet is without honor only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own home.” ⁵He couldn't perform a miracle there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶He was utterly amazed at their unbelief. Then he went around to the villages and continued teaching.

⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over unclean spirits. ⁸He instructed them to take nothing along on the trip except a walking stick—no bread, no traveling bag, nothing in their moneybag. ⁹They could wear sandals but not take along an extra shirt. ¹⁰He told them repeatedly, “Whenever you go into a home, stay there until you leave that place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and the people refuse to listen to you, when you leave, shake its dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹²So they went and preached that people should repent. ¹³They also kept driving out many demons and pouring oil on many who were sick and healing them.

¹⁴King Herod heard about this, because Jesus' name had become well-known. He was saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead! That's why these miracles are at work in him."

¹⁵Others were saying, "He is Elijah."

Still others were saying, "He is a prophet like one of the other prophets."

¹⁶But when Herod heard about it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised!" ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him with chains, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. For Herod had married her.

¹⁸John had been telling Herod, "It's not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she couldn't do it ²⁰because Herod was afraid of John. He knew that John was a righteous and holy man, and so he protected him. Whenever he listened to John, he did much of what he said. In fact, he liked listening to him.

²¹An opportunity came during Herod's birthday celebration, when he gave a banquet for his top officials, military officers, and the most important people of Galilee. ²²When the daughter of

Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests.

So the king told the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.”²³ He swore with an oath to her, “I’ll give you anything you ask for, up to half of my kingdom.”

²⁴ So she went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?”

Her mother replied, “The head of John the Baptist.”

²⁵ Immediately the girl hurried back to the king with her request, “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

²⁶ The king was deeply saddened, yet because of his oaths and his guests he was reluctant to refuse her. ²⁷ So without delay the king sent a soldier and ordered him to bring John’s head. The soldier went and beheaded him in prison. ²⁸ Then he brought John’s head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When John’s disciples heard about this, they came and carried off his body and laid it in a tomb.

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest for a while.” For so many people were coming and going that they didn’t even have time to eat. ³² So they went away in a boat to a deserted place by themselves.

³³But many people saw them leave and recognized them. So they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴When he got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

³⁵When it was quite late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and it's already late. ³⁶Send the crowds away so that they can go to the neighboring farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “Should we go and buy 200 denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

³⁸He asked them, “How many loaves of bread do you have? Go and see.”

They found out and told him, “Five loaves and two fish.”

³⁹Then he ordered them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed them. Then he broke the loaves in pieces and kept giving them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²All of them ate and were filled. ⁴³Then the disciples picked up twelve baskets full of leftover bread and fish. ⁴⁴There were 5,000 men who had eaten the loaves.

⁴⁵Jesus immediately had his disciples get into a boat and cross to Bethsaida ahead of him, while he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶After saying goodbye to them, he went up on a hillside to pray.

⁴⁷When evening had come, the boat was in the middle of the sea, while he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw that they were straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he came to them, walking on the sea. He intended to go up right beside them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and began to scream. ⁵⁰All of them saw him and were terrified. Immediately he said to them, “Have courage! It is I. Stop being afraid!” ⁵¹Then he got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped blowing. The disciples were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they didn't understand the significance of the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came ashore at Gennesaret and anchored the boat. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, the people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran all over the countryside and began carrying the sick on their cots to any place where they heard he was. ⁵⁶Wherever he went, whether into villages, towns, or farms, people would place their sick in the marketplaces and beg him to let them touch even the tassel of his garment, and all who touched it were healed.

Chapter 7

¹The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. ²They noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees and indeed all the Jewish people don't eat unless they wash their hands properly, following the tradition of their elders. ⁴They don't eat anything from the marketplace unless they dip it in water. They also observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, jars, brass pots, and dinner tables.)

⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders? Instead, they eat with unclean hands."

⁶He told them, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written,

'These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ Their worship of me is empty,
because they teach human rules as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

⁹Then he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your own tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'Whoever curses his father or mother must certainly be put to death.' ¹¹But

you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or mother, “Whatever support you might have received from me is Corban,”’ (that is, an offering to God) ¹²you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³You are destroying the word of God through your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many other things like that.”

¹⁴Then he called to the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand! ¹⁵Nothing that goes into a person from the outside can make him unclean. It is what comes out of a person that makes a person unclean. ¹⁶If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen!”

¹⁷When he had left the crowd and gone home, his disciples began asking him about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, “Are you so ignorant? Don't you know that nothing that goes into a person from the outside can make him unclean? ¹⁹For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and is expelled as waste.” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰He continued, “It is what comes out of a person that makes a person unclean. ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come, as well as sexual immorality, stealing, murder, ²²adultery, greed, wickedness, cheating, shameless lust, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. ²³All these things come from within and make a person unclean.”

²⁴Jesus left that place and went to the territory of Tyre and Sidon. He went into a house, not wanting anyone to know he was

there. However, it couldn't be kept a secret. ²⁵In fact, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman happened to be a Greek, born in Phoenicia in Syria. She kept asking him to drive the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷But he kept telling her, "First let the children be filled. It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the puppies."

²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord. Yet even the puppies under the table eat some of the children's crumbs."

²⁹Then he said to her, "Because you have said this, go! The demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home and found the child lying in bed, and the demon was gone.

³¹Then Jesus left the territory of Tyre and passed through Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the territory of the Decapolis.

³²Some people brought him a deaf man who also had a speech impediment. They begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³Jesus took him away from the crowd to be alone with him. Putting his fingers into the man's ears, he touched his tongue with saliva.

³⁴Then he looked up to heaven, sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened!" ³⁵At once the man's ears were opened and his tongue was released, and he began to talk normally.

³⁶Jesus ordered the people^s not to tell anyone, but the more he kept ordering them, the more they kept spreading the news.

³⁷They were amazed beyond measure, saying, “He does everything well! He even makes deaf people hear and mute people talk!”

Chapter 8

¹In those days, when a large crowd again had gathered with nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples and said to them, ²“I have compassion for the crowd because they have already been with me for three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them away to their homes hungry, they will faint on the road. Some of them have come a long distance.”

⁴His disciples answered him, “Where could anyone get enough bread to feed these people out here in the wilderness?”

⁵He asked them, “How many loaves of bread do you have?”

They said, “Seven.”

⁶So he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and gave thanks. He broke them in pieces and kept giving them to his disciples to distribute. So they served them to the crowd. ⁷They also had a few small fish. He blessed them and said that the fish should also be distributed. ⁸The people ate and were filled. Then the disciples picked up the leftover pieces—seven large baskets full. ⁹Now about 4,000 men were there. Then he sent them on their way. ¹⁰Immediately he got into a boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

¹¹The Pharisees arrived and began arguing with Jesus. They tested him by demanding from him a sign from heaven. ¹²He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this

generation.”¹³ Leaving them, he got into a boat again and crossed to the other side.

¹⁴ Now the disciples had forgotten to take any bread along and had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ Jesus had been warning them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod!”

¹⁶ So they were discussing with one another the fact that they didn't have any bread. ¹⁷ Knowing this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you don't have any bread? Don't you understand or perceive yet? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see? Do you have ears but fail to hear? Don't you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the 5,000, how many baskets did you fill with leftover pieces?”

They told him, “Twelve.”

²⁰ “When I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000, how many large baskets did you fill with the leftover pieces?”

They told him, “Seven.”

²¹ Then he said to them, “Don't you perceive yet?”

²² As they came to Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch him. ²³ Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. He spit into his eyes, placed his hands on him, and asked him, “Do you see anything?”

²⁴ The man looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees walking around.” ²⁵ Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's

eyes again, and he saw clearly. His sight was restored, and he saw everything perfectly even from a distance.

²⁶Then Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don't go into the village or tell anyone in the village.”

²⁷Then Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he was asking his disciples, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸They answered him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.”

²⁹Then he began to ask them, “But who do you say I am?”

Peter answered him, “You are the Christ!” ³⁰Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man would have to suffer a great deal and be rejected by the elders, the high priests, and the scribes. Then he would be killed, but after three days he would rise again. ³²He was speaking about this matter quite openly.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts!”

³⁴Then Jesus called the crowd to himself along with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow me continually. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his

life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶For what profit will a person have if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? ³⁷Indeed, what can a person give in exchange for his life? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes with the holy angels in his Father's glory.”

Chapter 9

¹Then he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some people standing here will not experience death until they see the kingdom of God arrive with power.”

²Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to be alone with him. His appearance was changed in front of them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. ⁴Then Elijah appeared to them, accompanied by Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it's good that we're here! Let's set up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶(Peter didn't know how to respond, for they were terrified.)

⁷Then a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. A voice came out of the cloud and said, “This is my Son, whom I love. Keep on listening to him!” ⁸Suddenly, as they looked around, they saw no one with them but Jesus alone.

⁹On their way down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰They kept the matter to themselves but argued about what “rising from the dead” meant. ¹¹So they asked him, “Don't the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

¹²He told them, “Elijah is indeed coming first and will restore all things. Why, then, is it written that the Son of Man must suffer a great deal and be treated shamefully? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, yet people treated him just as they pleased, as it is written about him.”

¹⁴As they approached the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵The whole crowd was very surprised to see Jesus and ran to welcome him.

¹⁶He asked the scribes, “What are you arguing about with them?”

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that won't let him talk. ¹⁸Whenever it brings on a seizure, it throws him to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes stiff. So I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they didn't have the power.”

¹⁹Jesus said to them, “You unbelieving generation! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me!”

²⁰So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell on the ground and kept rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹Then Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

He said, “Since he was a child. ²²The spirit has often thrown him into fire and into water to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us!”

²³Jesus said to him, “‘If you are able?’ Everything is possible for the person who believes!”¹¹

²⁴With tears flowing, the child's father at once cried out, “I do believe! Help my unbelief!”

²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that won't let him talk or hear—I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!” ²⁶The spirit screamed, shook the child violently, and came out. The boy was like a corpse, and many said that he was dead. ²⁷But Jesus took his hand and helped him up, and he stood up.

²⁸When Jesus came home, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?”

²⁹He told them, “This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.”

³⁰Then they left that place and were passing through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know it, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples and saying to them, “The Son of Man will be betrayed into human hands. They will kill him, but after being dead for three days he will be raised.” ³²They didn't understand what this statement meant, and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum. While Jesus was at home, he asked the disciples, “What were you arguing about on the road?”

³⁴But they kept silent, for on the road they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵So he sat down and called the twelve. He told them, “If anyone wants to be first he must be last of all and servant of all.”

³⁶Then he took a little child and had him stand among them. He took him in his arms and said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

³⁸John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name. We tried to stop him, because he wasn't a follower like us.”

³⁹But Jesus said, “Don't stop him! For no one who works a miracle in my name can slander me soon afterwards. ⁴⁰For whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹Truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will never lose his reward.”

⁴²“If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a large millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³So if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life injured than to have two hands and go to hell, to the fire that cannot be put out. ⁴⁴In that place, worms never die, and the fire is never put out.

⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

⁴⁶In that place, worms never die, and the fire is never put out.

⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁸In that place, worms never die, and the fire is never put out. ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be salted with salt. ⁵⁰Salt is good. But if salt loses its taste, how can you restore its flavor? Keep on having salt among yourselves, and live in peace with one another.”

Chapter 10

¹Then Jesus left that place and went into the territory of Judea on the other side of the Jordan. Crowds gathered around him as usual, and he began to teach them again as was his custom. ²Some Pharisees came to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”

⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to divorce her.”

⁵But Jesus said to them, “It was because of your hardness of heart that he wrote this command for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘That is why a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore, what God has joined together, man must never separate.”

¹⁰Back in the house, the disciples asked him about this again.

¹¹So he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³Some people were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he became furious and told them,

“Let the little children come to me, and stop keeping them away. For the kingdom of God belongs to people like these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever doesn't receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never get into it at all.” ¹⁶Then he picked them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and tenderly blessed them.

¹⁷As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to him, knelt down in front of him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? Nobody is good except for one—God. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘Never murder.’ ‘Never commit adultery.’ ‘Never steal.’ ‘Never give false testimony.’ ‘Never cheat.’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰The man replied to him, “Teacher, I have kept all of these since I was a young man.”

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. Then he told him, “You're missing one thing. Go and sell everything you own, give the money to the destitute, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me.” ²²But the man was shocked at this statement and went away sad, because he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to get into the kingdom of God!” ²⁴The disciples were startled by these words, but Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in

their wealth to get into the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into the kingdom of God.”

²⁶They were utterly amazed and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus looked at them intently and said, “For humans it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.”

²⁸Then Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.”

²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left his home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or fields because of me and the gospel ³⁰who will not receive a hundred times as much here in this world—homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, along with persecutions—as well as eternal life in the age to come. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

³²Jesus and his disciples were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. They were utterly amazed, and the others who followed were afraid. Once again, he took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to him. ³³“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the high priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over

to the gentiles, ³⁴and they will make fun of him, spit on him, whip him, and kill him. But after three days he will be raised.”

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, went to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask you.”

³⁶He asked them, “What do you want me to do for you?”

³⁷They said to him, “Let us sit in your glory, one at your right and one at your left.”

³⁸But Jesus told them, “You don't realize what you're asking. Can you drink from the cup that I'm going to drink from or be baptized with the baptism with which I'm going to be baptized?”

³⁹They told him, “We can.”

Jesus said to them, “You will drink from the cup that I'm going to drink and be baptized with the baptism with which I'm going to be baptized. ⁴⁰But it's not up to me to grant you a seat at my right or my left. Those positions have already been prepared for others.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be furious with James and John. ⁴²Jesus called the disciples and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers among the gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors act like tyrants over them. ⁴³That's not the way it should be among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to everyone. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many people.”

⁴⁶Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus, his disciples, and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many people sternly told him to be quiet, but he started shouting even louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹So Jesus stopped and said, “Call him!”

So they called the blind man and told him, “Have courage! Get up. He's calling you.” ⁵⁰He threw off his coat, jumped up, and went to Jesus.

⁵¹Then Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him, “Rabbouni, I want to see again.”

⁵²Jesus told him, “Go. Your faith has made you well.” At once the man could see again, and he began to follow Jesus down the road.

Chapter 11

¹When they came near Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you go into it, you will find a colt tied up that no one has ever sat on. Untie it, and bring it along. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it,’ and he will send it back here at once.”

⁴So they went and found the colt outside in the street tied up next to a doorway. While they were untying it, ⁵some men standing there asked them, “What are you doing untying that colt?” ⁶The disciples told them what Jesus had said, and the men let them go.

⁷They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their coats upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their coats on the road, while others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed him were shouting,

“Hosanna!

How blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰How blessed is the coming kingdom

of our forefather David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple and looked around at everything. Since it was already late, he went out with the twelve to Bethany.

¹²The next day, as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus became hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree covered with leaves, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing except leaves because it wasn't the season for figs. ¹⁴So he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" Now his disciples were listening to this.

¹⁵When they came to Jerusalem, he went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple. He overturned the moneychangers' tables and the chairs of those who sold doves. ¹⁶He wouldn't even let anyone carry a vessel through the temple.

¹⁷Then he began to teach them, saying, "It is written, 'is it not, 'My house is to be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have turned it into a hideout for bandits!" ¹⁸When the high priests and elders heard this, they began to look for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹When evening came, Jesus and his disciples would leave the city.

²⁰While they were walking along early in the morning, they saw the fig tree dried up to its roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has dried up!"

²²Jesus said to them, “Have faith in God! ²³Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ if he doesn't doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴That is why I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.

²⁵“Whenever you stand up to pray, forgive whatever you have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins. ²⁶But if you do not forgive, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.”

²⁷Then they went into Jerusalem again. While Jesus was walking in the temple, the high priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him ²⁸and asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority to do them?”

²⁹Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and then I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰Was John's authority to baptize from heaven or from humans? Answer me.”

³¹They began discussing this among themselves. “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Then why didn't you believe him?’ ³²But if we say, ‘From humans’...?” For they were afraid of the crowd, because everyone really thought John was a prophet.

³³So they answered Jesus, “We don't know.” Then Jesus told them, “Then I won't tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Chapter 12

¹Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went abroad. ²At the right time he sent a servant to the farmers to collect from them a share of the produce from the vineyard. ³But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him, and sent him back empty-handed. ⁴Again, the man sent another servant to them. They beat the servant over the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵Then the man sent another, and that one they killed. So it was with many other servants. Some of these they beat, and others they killed. ⁶He still had one more person to send, a son whom he loved. Finally, he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ⁷But those farmers said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’ ⁸So they grabbed him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹“Now what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Haven't you ever read this Scripture:

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

¹¹This was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

¹²They were trying to arrest him but were afraid of the crowd.

Realizing that he had spoken this parable against them, they left him alone and went away.

¹³Then they sent some Pharisees and some Herodians to him, intending to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴They came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere. You don't favor any individual, for you pay no attention to external appearance. Rather, you teach the way of God truthfully. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them or should we not?”

¹⁵But Jesus recognized their hypocrisy and said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” ¹⁶So they brought one. Then he asked them, “Whose face and name is this?”

They said to him, “Caesar's.”

¹⁷So Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

¹⁸Then some Sadducees, who claim there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him, ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no child, he should marry the widow and have children for his brother. ²⁰There were seven brothers. The first one married and died without having children. ²¹Then the second married her and died without having children, and so did the third. ²²None of the seven left any children.

Last of all, the woman died, too. ²³In the resurrection, whose wife will she be, since the seven had married her?”

²⁴Jesus said to them, “Aren't you mistaken because you don't know the Scriptures or God's power? ²⁵For when people rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven. ²⁶As for the dead being raised, haven't you read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

²⁸Then one of the scribes came near and heard them arguing with one another. He saw how well Jesus answered them, so he asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of them all?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, ³⁰and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

³²Then the scribe said to him, “Well said, Teacher! You have told the truth that ‘God is one, and there is no other besides him.’

³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and

with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw how wisely the man answered, he told him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one dared to ask him another question.

³⁵While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is David's son? ³⁶David himself said by the Holy Spirit,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet.””

³⁷David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ Then how can he be his son?” And the large crowd kept listening to him with delight.

³⁸As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes! They like to walk around in long robes, to be greeted in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and say long prayers to cover it up. They will receive greater condemnation!”

⁴¹As Jesus sat facing the offering box, he watched how the crowd was dropping their money into it. Many rich people were dropping in large amounts. ⁴²Then a destitute widow came and dropped in two small copper coins, worth about a cent. ⁴³He called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this destitute widow has dropped in more than all of those who are contributing

to the offering box. ⁴⁴For all of them contributed out of their surplus, but she, in her poverty, has dropped in everything she had to live on.”

Chapter 13

¹As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what beautiful buildings!”

²Jesus said to him, “Do you see these large buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another that will not be torn down.”

³As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew were asking him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things take place, and what will be the sign when these things will be put into effect?”

⁵Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he,’ and they will deceive many people. ⁷But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, stop being alarmed. These things must take place, but the end hasn't come yet. ⁸For nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes and famines in various places. These things are only the beginning of the birth pains.”

⁹“As for yourselves, be on your guard! People will hand you over to local councils, and you will be beaten in their synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings to testify to them because of me. ¹⁰But first, the gospel must be proclaimed to all nations.

¹¹“When they take you away and hand you over for trial, don't worry ahead of time about what you will say. Instead, say whatever is given to you in that hour, for it won't be you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ¹³You will be hated continuously by everyone because of my name. But the person who endures to the end will be saved.”

¹⁴“So when you see the destructive desecration standing where it should not be (let the reader take note), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁵The person who is on his housetop must not come down and go into his house to take anything out of it, ¹⁶and the person who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

¹⁷“How terrible it will be for women who are pregnant or who are nursing babies in those days! ¹⁸Pray that it may not be in winter. ¹⁹For those days will be a time of suffering, a kind that has not happened from the beginning of the creation that God made until now and certainly will never happen again. ²⁰If the Lord did not limit those days, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect whom he has chosen, he has limited those days.

²¹“At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ!’, or, ‘Look! There he is!’, don't believe it. ²²For false christs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens

to deceive, if possible, the elect. ²³So be on your guard! I've told you everything before it happens.”

²⁴“But after the suffering of those days,

‘The sun will be darkened,

the moon will not give its light,

²⁵the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers of heaven will be shaken loose.’

²⁶Then people will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷He will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”

²⁸“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches become tender and it produces leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹In the same way, when you see these things taking place, you will know that he is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not disappear until all these things take place.

³¹Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.”

³²“No one knows when that day or hour will come—not the angels in heaven, not the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be careful! Watch out! For you don't know when the time will come.

³⁴“It's like a man who went on a trip. As he left home, he put his servants in charge, each with his own work, and he ordered the

doorkeeper to be alert. ³⁵So keep on watching, because you don't know when the master of the house is coming—whether in the evening, at three o'clock in the morning, or at dawn. ³⁶Otherwise, he may come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷I'm telling you what I'm telling everyone: Be alert!”

Chapter 14

¹Now it was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. So the high priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus secretly and to have him put to death. ²For they kept saying, “This must not happen during the festival, lest there be a riot among the people.”

³While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper and sitting at the table, a woman arrived with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume on his head. ⁴Some who were there said to one another in irritation, “Why was the perfume wasted like this?” ⁵This perfume could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and the money given to the destitute.” So they got extremely angry with her.

⁶But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷For you will always have the destitute with you and can help them whenever you want, but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could. She poured perfume on my body in preparation for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the high priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹When they heard this, they were

delighted and promised to give him money. So he began to look for a good opportunity to betray him.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover meal?"

¹³He sent two of his disciples and told them, "Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him.

¹⁴When he goes into a house, say to its owner that the Teacher asks, 'Where is my room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' ¹⁵Then he will show you a large upstairs room that is furnished and ready. Get everything ready for us there." ¹⁶So the disciples left and went into the city. They found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷When evening came, Jesus arrived with the twelve. ¹⁸While they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me, one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They began to be very sad and said to him, one after the other, "Surely I am not the one, am I?"

²⁰He said to them, "It's one of you twelve, the one who is dipping his bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man is going away, just as it has been written about him, but how terrible it will be for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and handed it to them, saying, “Take some. This is my body.” ²³Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant that is being poured out for many people. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink the product of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will turn against me. For it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸However, after I have been raised, I will go to Galilee ahead of you.”

²⁹But Peter said to him, “Even if everyone else turns against you, I certainly won't.”

³⁰Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, today, this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

³¹But Peter kept saying emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the others kept saying the same thing.

³²Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit down here while I pray.” ³³He took Peter, James, and John along with him, and he began to be distressed and troubled. ³⁴So he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake.”

³⁵Going on a little farther, he fell to the ground and kept praying that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He kept repeating, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Yet not what I want but what you want.”

³⁷When he went back, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? You couldn't stay awake for one hour, could you? ³⁸All of you must stay awake and pray that you won't come into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹He went away again and prayed the same prayer as before. ⁴⁰Again he came back and found them asleep, for their eyes were very heavy. They didn't even know what they should say to him.

⁴¹He came back a third time and said to them, “You might as well keep on sleeping and resting. Enough of that! The time has come. Look! The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up! Let's go! See, the one who is betraying me is near!”

⁴³Just then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived. A crowd armed with swords and clubs was with him. They were from the high priests, the scribes, and the elders.

⁴⁴Now the betrayer personally had given them a signal, saying, “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him, and lead him safely away.”

⁴⁵So Judas immediately went up to Jesus and said, “Rabbi,” and kissed him tenderly.

⁴⁶Then the men took hold of Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those standing there drew his sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as if I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, yet you didn't arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

⁵¹A certain young man was following Jesus. He was wearing nothing but a linen sheet. They grabbed him, ⁵²but he left the linen sheet behind and ran away naked.

⁵³Then they took Jesus to the high priest. All the high priests, elders, and scribes had gathered together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the servants and warming himself at the fire.

⁵⁵Meanwhile, the high priests and the whole Council were looking for some testimony against Jesus in order to have him put

to death, but they couldn't find any. ⁵⁶Although many people gave false testimony against him, their testimony didn't agree.

⁵⁷Then some men stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸“We ourselves heard him say, ‘I will destroy this sanctuary made by human hands, and in three days I will build another one not made by human hands.’” ⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony didn't agree.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Don't you have any answer to what these men are testifying against you?” ⁶¹But he kept silent and didn't answer at all. The high priest asked him again, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²Jesus said, “I am. And

‘you will see the Son of Man

seated at the right hand of the Power’

and

‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

⁶³Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy! What is your verdict?” All of them condemned him as deserving death.

⁶⁵Some of them began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and kept hitting him with their fists and telling him, “Prophecy!” Even the servants took him and slapped him around.

⁶⁶While Peter was down in the courtyard, one of the high priest's servant girls came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she glared at him and said, "You, too, were with Jesus from Nazareth."

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I don't know or understand what you're talking about." Then he went out into the entryway. Just then a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹The servant girl saw him and again said to those who were standing around, "This man is one of them!"

⁷⁰Again he denied it. After a little while the people who were standing there began to say to Peter again, "Obviously you're one of them, because you are a Galilean!"

⁷¹Then he began to invoke a divine curse and to swear with an oath, "I don't know this man you're talking about!"

⁷²Just then a rooster crowed a second time. Peter remembered that Jesus said to him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." Then he broke down and cried.

Chapter 15

¹As soon as it was morning, the high priests convened a meeting with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. They bound Jesus with chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “You say so.”

³The high priests kept accusing him of many things. ⁴So Pilate asked him again, “Don't you have any answer? Look how many accusations they're bringing against you!” ⁵But Jesus no longer answered anything, so that Pilate was astonished.

⁶At every festival Pilate would release any one prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷Now there was a man in prison named Barabbas. He was with the insurgents who had committed murder during the rebellion. ⁸So the crowd came and began to request that Pilate do for them what he always did. ⁹Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release the king of the Jews for you?” ¹⁰For he knew that the high priests had handed him over because of jealousy.

¹¹But the high priests stirred up the crowd to get him to release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²So Pilate said to them again, “Then what should I do with the man you call the king of the Jews?”

¹³They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

¹⁴Pilate asked them, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵So Pilate, wanting to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, but he had Jesus whipped and handed over to be crucified.

¹⁶The soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters) and called out the whole guard.

¹⁷They dressed him in a purple robe, twisted some thorns into a victor's crown, and placed it on his head. ¹⁸They began to greet him, "Long live the king of the Jews!" ¹⁹They kept hitting him on the head with a stick, spitting on him, kneeling in front of him, and worshiping him. ²⁰When they had finished making fun of him, they stripped him of the purple robe, put his own clothes back on him, and led him away to crucify him.

²¹They forced a certain passer-by who was coming in from the country to carry Jesus' cross. He was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place. ²³They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he wouldn't take it.

²⁴Then they crucified him. They divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice to see what each one would get. ²⁵It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The written notice of the charge against him read, "The king of the Jews."

²⁷They crucified two bandits with him, one on his right and the other on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who were going to

destroy the sanctuary and rebuild it in three days—³⁰save yourself and come down from the cross!”

³¹In the same way the high priests, along with the scribes, were also making fun of him among themselves. They kept saying, “He saved others but can't save himself! ³²Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now so that we may see it and believe.” Even the men who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

³³At twelve noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, eloi, lema sabachthani?”, which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

³⁵When some of the people standing there heard this, they said, “Listen! He's calling for Elijah!”

³⁶So someone ran and soaked a sponge in some sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and offered Jesus a drink, saying, “Wait! Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down!”

³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹When the centurion who stood facing Jesus saw how he had cried out and breathed his last, he said, “This man certainly was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰Now there were women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of young James and

Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹They used to accompany him and care for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come up to Jerusalem with him were there, too.

⁴²It was the Day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath. Since it was already evening, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a highly respected member of the Council, who was waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate wondered if Jesus had already died, so he summoned the centurion to ask him if he was in fact dead. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he let Joseph have the corpse. ⁴⁶Joseph bought some linen cloth, took the body down, and wrapped it in the cloth. Then he laid it in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Chapter 16

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint Jesus.

²Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had just come up, they were going to the tomb. ³They kept saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴Then they looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled away. (For it was a very large stone.)

⁵As they went into the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were utterly astonished. ⁶But he said to them, “Stop being astonished! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He is not here. Look at the place where they laid him. ⁷But go and tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

⁸So they left the tomb and ran away, for shock and astonishment had overwhelmed them. They didn't say a thing to anyone, because they were afraid.

⁹After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had driven out seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with him and who now were grieving and crying. ¹¹When they heard that he was alive and that he had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

¹²After this, he appeared in a different form to two disciples as they were walking into the country. ¹³They went back and told the others, who didn't believe them, either.

¹⁴Finally he appeared to the eleven disciples while they were eating. He rebuked them for their unbelief and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who had seen him after he had risen. ¹⁵Then he said to them, "As you go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who doesn't believe will be condemned.

¹⁷"These are the signs that will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes in their hands; even if they drink any deadly poison it will not hurt them; and they will place their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

¹⁹So the Lord Jesus, after talking with them, was taken up to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰The disciples went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the signs that accompanied it.