



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

Luke

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Luke

Many people have already been writing about the things that happened among¹ 1
They have been recording what the people who saw these things happen told us about² .us
them. Those people were there from the time when everything first started happening, and
I myself have carefully investigated³ .they have been sharing the story ever since
everything that happened from the very beginning. So I decided that I should also write an
I want you to know that what⁴ ,accurate account for you. Your Excellency, Theophilus
.people have told you about Jesus is true

When Herod was the ruler of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He⁵
was a descendant of Abijah, and so he took his turn serving in the temple with other priests
who were also descendants of Abijah. His wife was named Elizabeth. She was a descendant
God considered that both of them were⁶ .and so she was also from the priestly line ,of Aaron
But⁷ .righteous because they always obeyed everything that the Lord had commanded
they did not have any children, because Elizabeth had been unable to bear children. And
.now she and her husband were too old to have children

.serving in Jerusalem The time came for Zechariah's group of priests to take its turn⁸
The priests chose Zechariah to go⁹ .So Zechariah was there working as a priest for God
into the Lord's temple and burn incense there. They chose him in their usual way, by
When it was¹⁰ .to determine whom God wanted to perform a particular task casting lots
.the temple outside in the courtyard time to burn the incense, many people were praying
Just then, an angel of the Lord came to Zechariah. He stood at the right side of the altar¹¹
When Zechariah saw the angel, he became agitated and¹² .where he was burning incense
.Zechariah ,of me But the angel said to him, "There is no reason to be afraid¹³ .terrified
You have been praying, and God is going to answer your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will
You will be very happy, and many¹⁴ .give birth to a son for you. Give him the name John
You and they will be happy because¹⁵ .other people will also be happy when he is born
your son will be very influential for God. He must never drink wine or any other alcoholic
Your son will¹⁶ .drink. The Holy Spirit will begin to influence him even before he is born
persuade many of the Israelites to stop sinning and to start obeying the Lord their God
Your son will go in advance of the Lord and he will be powerful in his spirit like¹⁷ .again
the prophet Elijah was. He will cause parents to love their children again. He will cause

.many people who do not obey God to want to obey him and to live wisely and righteously
".He will do this so that the Lord's people will be ready for him when he comes

Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure that the things you have said¹⁸
so it is difficult for me to ,will really happen? I am very old, and my wife is also very old
".believe that they will happen

Then the angel replied to him, "I am Gabriel! I stand in God's presence! God sent¹⁹
Now listen! What I have²⁰ .me to tell you this good news about what will happen to you
told you will certainly happen at the time that God has decided. But since you did not
believe my message, God will keep you from talking. You will not be able to speak until
"!the day that your son is born

the people in the courtyard ,While Zechariah and the angel were talking in the temple²¹
were waiting for Zechariah to come out. They wondered why he was staying in the temple

Then he came out of the temple, but he was not able to speak to²² .for such a long time
them. Because he could not talk, he made motions with his hands to try to explain what had
happened. This made the people conclude that he had seen a vision from God while he was
in the temple

When Zechariah finished the time he needed to work as a priest in the temple, he left²³
.Jerusalem and went back to his home

Some time after this, his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant, and she did not go out in²⁴

The Lord has enabled me to become²⁵ ,public for five months. She said to herself
pregnant. In this way, he has shown compassion to me. Thanks to him, I no longer have to
".feel ashamed around other people

When Elizabeth had been pregnant for six months, God sent the angel Gabriel to a²⁶
God sent him there to speak to a virgin²⁷ .town called Nazareth in the district of Galilee
she would marry a man named Her parents had promised that .whose name was Mary
The angel came to where Mary was and²⁸ .Joseph, who was a descendant of King David
But when he said²⁹ "!said to her, "Hello, blessed one! You are very special to the Lord
.this, she was confused. She had to try to understand what this greeting could mean
Now³¹ !Then the angel said to her, "God desires to bless you, Mary, so do not be afraid³⁰
listen. You will become pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. Give him the name
He will be great, and he will be the Son of God Most High. God the Lord will³² .Jesus
He will always be the³³ .make him king over his people, just as his ancestor David was
"!king over the people of Israel. He will rule over them forever

The³⁵ ”?Then Mary said to the angel, “But I am a virgin. So how can this happen³⁴
angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of God Most High will be
like a shadow falling on you. So the baby you give birth to will be holy. He will be the Son
Also listen to this. Your relative Elizabeth is also pregnant, and she is going to³⁶ .of God
have a son. Because she is very old, people thought that she could not bear children. But
”!So you see, God can do anything³⁷ .she has been pregnant now for almost six months
Then Mary said, “All right. I am willing to obey the Lord. God can make the things you³⁸
.have described happen to me.” Then the angel left her

Very soon after that, Mary got ready and traveled as quickly as she could to the city³⁹
She entered Zechariah’s⁴⁰ .where Zechariah lived, which was in the highlands of Judea
As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary greet her, the⁴¹ .house and greeted Elizabeth, his wife
baby inside Elizabeth suddenly moved. Immediately the Holy Spirit inspired Elizabeth to
She exclaimed loudly to Mary, “God has blessed you more than he has blessed⁴² .speak
,I am not worthy of this⁴³ !any other woman, and he has blessed the baby you will bear
I know all of this because as⁴⁴ !that you, the mother of my Lord, should come to visit me
soon as I heard you greet me, the baby in my womb started moving around because he was
You are blessed because you believed that what the Lord told you would⁴⁵ !so excited
”.come true

:Then Mary praised God by saying⁴⁶

Oh, how I praise the Lord“
,and I feel very joyful about God⁴⁷
!the one who saves me
.I am happy because he was gracious to me, even though I was not very important⁴⁸
Just imagine this—from now on, people living at all times in the future will say that
.God has blessed me
They will say this because God, the Powerful and Holy One, has done great things⁴⁹
.for me
.He acts mercifully throughout all time periods to the people who revere him⁵⁰
.He has shown people that he is very powerful⁵¹
.He has routed those who think proudly within themselves
,He has made rulers stop ruling⁵²
.but he has honored people who are lowly
,He has let people who were hungry eat good food until they were full⁵³

.but he has sent rich people away without giving them anything

.He has helped Israel, the people who serve him⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵

.Long ago he promised our ancestors that he would be merciful to them

He has kept that promise and has always acted mercifully toward Abraham and all who
”.descended from him

.Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months. After that, she went back home⁵⁶

When⁵⁸ .When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth to her child, she bore a son⁵⁷
her neighbors and relatives heard about how kind the Lord had been to her by giving her a

Eight days later, people gathered⁵⁹ .son, they were very happy along with Elizabeth

This was .to show that he belonged to God together for the ceremony to circumcise the baby

The people wanted to name the baby Zechariah .**also the time to give the baby a name**

his name will not be ,But his mother said, “No⁶⁰ .because that was his father’s name

So they said to her, “But John is not the name of any⁶¹ ”!His name will be John .**Zechariah**

Then they made motions with their hands to his father, asking him to⁶² ”!of your relatives

So he signaled that they should give⁶³ .indicate what name he wanted to give to his son

he wrote on it, “His name is John.” This ,**When they gave him one** .him a tablet to write on

Immediately, Zechariah was able to speak⁶⁴ !amazed all of the people who were there

heard about these the people who lived nearby **When**⁶⁵ .again, and he began praising God

They told many other people about what had .felt a deep reverence for God **things, they**

Everyone⁶⁶ .and this news spread to people throughout the highlands of Judea ,**happened**
who heard about these things kept thinking about them. They thought, “Certainly this child

the **they could see that** because **They thought this** ”!will grow up to be someone very special

After the child’s father, Zechariah, could⁶⁷ .Lord was present in his life in a powerful way

:speak again, the Holy Spirit inspired Zechariah and he spoke these words from God

,Praise the Lord, the God whom we people of Israel worship“⁶⁸

.because he has come to set us, his people, free

,He has sent someone who will powerfully save us⁶⁹

.someone who is descended from David, whom he chose to be king

(.Long ago God inspired his prophets to say that he would do these things)⁷⁰

,to save us from our enemies **God is sending this deliverer**⁷¹

.from the power of everyone who hates us **he will rescue us** and

God has done this because he is faithful to our ancestors and so he is keeping the⁷²

.holy promise that he made to them

This is the promise that he solemnly swore to our ancestor Abraham about what he⁷³
would do for us

He promised that he would rescue us from the power of our enemies⁷⁴
so that we could serve him without being afraid of them

As a result, we could live in the right way, as people who completely belong to him⁷⁵
for as long as we live

Then Zechariah said to his baby son⁷⁶

And as for you, my child, you will be a prophet“
of the Most High God

You will begin your work before the Lord comes
so that you can prepare the people to be ready for him

You will tell God’s people that he wants to save them by forgiving their sins⁷⁷

God wants to save us because he is compassionate and merciful⁷⁸

That is why he is sending this Savior from heaven to help us

This Savior will show the truth to those who do not know it, even to those who do⁷⁹
not know it at all. He will show us how to live in a way that pleases God

Over time, Zechariah and Elizabeth’s baby boy grew up and became spiritually⁸⁰
strong. Then he went to live in a desolate region. He was still living there when he began to
preach publicly to God’s people, Israel

who ruled over the whole Roman Empire ,Also during that time, Caesar Augustus¹ 2

his name in an official list commanded that every person living in his empire had to register

This was the first time that the Romans recorded the names² of the people who lived there
of everyone living in their empire. They did this during the time when Quirinius was the

So everyone had to go to his family’s hometown to³ governor of the province of Syria

Joseph also traveled to his family’s hometown, along with Mary, who was⁴⁻⁵ register
engaged to him and was pregnant. Because Joseph was a descendant of King David, they
left the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee and traveled to the region of Judea, to the
town of Bethlehem, which is also known as the city of David. Joseph and Mary went there

When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no⁶⁻⁷ to be registered in the public record
place for them to stay in a place where visitors usually stayed. So they had to stay in a place
where animals slept overnight. While they were there the time came for Mary to give birth
and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in wide strips of cloth and laid
him down where the food was kept for the animals inside the barn

There were some shepherds camping out in the open country near Bethlehem that⁸
Suddenly they saw an angel from the⁹ night. They were there taking care of their sheep
Lord standing in front of them. A glorious light from the Lord shone all over them. They
But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! Listen carefully¹⁰ became very afraid
because I have come to tell you very good news! This news is for all people, and should
They will rejoice because today, in Bethlehem, King David’s¹¹ make everyone rejoice
He is the Messiah, the **!from your sins** hometown, the person was born who will save you
you will find a baby there **,If you go to Bethlehem** .And here is a sign for you¹² !Lord
”.wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a feeding place for animals

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven appeared with the other angel. They¹³
were all praising God by saying

In the highest heaven may all the angels praise God! And on the earth may all the¹⁴
”!**with God and each other** people who please God be peaceful

,When the angels left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other¹⁵
We should go right now to Bethlehem and see this wonderful thing that has happened“
the So they went quickly, and when they had found¹⁶ ”!which the Lord has told us about
they saw the baby lying in a feeding place for **,were staying** Mary and Joseph **place where**

After they had seen him, they told everyone what the Lord had revealed to¹⁷ animals
All the people who were listening thought that what the shepherds¹⁸ .them about this baby
But Mary carefully remembered all of these things and thought¹⁹ .told them was amazing
They **.to the fields where their sheep were** The shepherds returned²⁰ .about them continually
kept talking about how great God is and praising him for all of the things that they had
heard and seen. Everything had been exactly as the angel had told them it would be

On the eighth day after the baby was born, they circumcised him and gave him the²¹
name Jesus. This was the name that the angel had told them to give him even before Mary
had become pregnant with him

Mary and Joseph waited the number of days that the law of Moses required for her²²
to become ceremonially clean again after having a baby. Then they brought him to
They did this to²³ **.in the temple** Jerusalem so that they could dedicate him to the Lord
obey the law of the Lord, which says, “You must set apart for the Lord every male offspring
There they offered the sacrifice that the law of the Lord told²⁴ ”.who is the first to be born
”.the parents of a newborn son to offer, “two turtledoves or two young pigeons

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He did what²⁵ was pleasing to God and obeyed God's laws. He was eagerly waiting for God to send the The Holy²⁶ .Messiah to encourage the people of Israel. The Holy Spirit was directing him Spirit had previously revealed to him that before he died, the Lord would send the Messiah

So the Holy Spirit led Simeon to go into the temple²⁷ .and he would get to see him courtyard. He was there when Joseph and Mary brought in the baby Jesus so that they When Simeon²⁸ .could perform the ceremony for him that God had commanded in the law ,he picked him up in his arms and thanked God, and then he said ,saw Jesus

Lord, you have kept your promise to me, and now I am content for you to let me²⁹ .die

,Because I have seen the one whom you have sent to save people³⁰

.the one whom you have prepared for all people to see³¹

He will be like a light that will reveal your truth to the other nations. He will show³² ”.how glorious your plan is for Israel, your people

Then Simeon³⁴ .Jesus' father and mother marveled at what Simeon said about him³³ blessed them, and said to Jesus' mother, Mary, “Note well what I say: God has determined that, because of this child, many people in Israel will reject God and many will submit As for³⁵ .that many people will oppose from God themselves to God. He will be a sign it will feel as if a the cruel things that people will do to him will make you so sad that ,you so that he can reveal the But this is necessary .sword is piercing through your very soul ”.secret thoughts of many people

.She was very old .in the temple courtyard A prophetess named Anna was also there³⁶ She was the daughter of Phanuel, who was from the tribe of Asher. As a young woman, she After that, she had³⁷ .and then her husband had died ,had been married for seven years ,lived as a widow for 84 more years. It seemed as if she was always in the temple At that same³⁸ .night and day at all times of the ,worshiping God by fasting and praying for the Anna began thanking God .Joseph and Mary and the baby time, Anna approached Afterwards, she kept speaking about Jesus to many other people who were also .baby .the Messiah who would set the people of Israel free God to send expecting

After Joseph and Mary had finished doing everything that the law of the Lord³⁹ they returned to their own town, Nazareth, in the district ,for parents of a first son required As the child grew up, he became strong and very wise, and God was present⁴⁰ .of Galilee .in his life

.Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival⁴¹
 So when Jesus was 12 years old, they all traveled to Jerusalem together when it was⁴²
 'When the days for celebrating the festival ended, Jesus⁴³ .festival **Passover** time for the
 parents started to return home, but their son, Jesus, stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents
 They thought that he was with the other people who⁴⁴ .that he was still there did not know
 were traveling with them. But after walking for one day, they started to look for him among
 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to⁴⁵ .their relatives and friends
 they found Jesus at ,**Mary and Joseph had left Jerusalem** Three days after⁴⁶ .search for him
 the temple. He was sitting among the Jewish religious teachers. He was listening to them
 All the people who heard what he said were⁴⁷ .teach and he was asking them questions
 the questions that the amazed at how much he understood and how well he answered
 When his parents saw him, they were very surprised. His mother said to⁴⁸ .teachers asked
 him, "My son, you should not have done this to us. Listen to me! Your father and I have
 He said to them, "I am surprised⁴⁹ "!"been very worried as we have been searching for you
 that you needed to search for me. I thought you would know that I needed to be at my
 But they did not understand the meaning of what he⁵⁰ ".learning about him ,Father's house
 Then he returned with them to Nazareth, and he always obeyed them. His⁵¹ .said to them
 .mother kept thinking deeply about all the things that had happened

As the years passed, Jesus continued to become wiser, and he grew taller. God and⁵²
 .people continued to approve of him more and more

the when Tiberius Caesar had been ruling **This next part of the history happened**¹ 3
 for about fifteen years. At that time, Pontius Pilate was the governor of the **Roman Empire**
 province of Judea, Herod Antipas was ruling the district of Galilee, his brother Philip was
 .ruling the regions of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruling the region of Abilene
 ,were Annas and Caiaphas. During that time **at the temple in Jerusalem** The high priests²
 John³ .out in the desolate area while he was living God spoke to Zechariah's son John
 to the people who traveled all around the area near the Jordan River. He kept announcing
 If you want God to forgive your sins, you must reject wrong ways of" ,came to hear him
 the words came true that ,**When John preached like this**⁴ "!"living. Then I will baptize you
 :the prophet Isaiah wrote on a scroll long ago

:to the people In the desolate place, someone will be calling out“

!Prepare yourselves to receive the Lord“

!"Make yourselves ready for when he comes

people fill in all the ,When an important person is going to arrive by a certain road⁵
 .ravines and level off all the steep places in it
 ,They make the road straight wherever it is crooked
 In the same way, God will make sure that there will be .and they smooth out all the bumps
 .people who are ready for the Messiah
 ”.Then everyone will recognize God’s way of saving people⁶
 so that to the desolate place where John was Large groups of people were coming out⁷
 he would baptize them. So John said to them, “You people are sneaky and dangerous like
 poisonous snakes! You think that if I baptize you, God will spare you when he punishes
 You need to do the things that show that you have truly⁸ !But I did not say that .sinners
 ,rejected your previous sinful way of living! And do not even begin to say to yourselves
 That does not ’!we are descendants of Abraham Certainly God will not punish us, because ‘
 !Let me assure you, God could turn these stones into descendants of Abraham .impress God
 You are like fruit trees that do not produce good fruit. God is like a man who is⁹
 positioning the head of his axe at the base of those trees, ready to chop them down and
 ”.throw them into the fire. God is ready to punish you like that if you continue sinning
 the crowd asked him, “What kinds of things, then, does several of the people in Then¹⁰
 He answered them, “If any of you has two shirts, you should give¹¹ ”?God want us to do
 one of them to someone who does not have a shirt. If any of you has plenty of food, you
 ,Some tax collectors also came¹² ”.should give some to those who do not have food
 ”?to do does God want us wanting John to baptize them. They asked him, “Teacher, what
 than the Roman from the people He said to them, “Do not collect more money¹³
 .There were also some men there who were soldiers¹⁴ ”!government tells you to collect
 Even they asked him, “And what about us? What does God want us to do?” He said to
 them, “Do not force people to give you money by threatening to harm them or by falsely
 Be content with the amount of money that you .of doing something wrong accusing them
 for a long time for the Messiah to come. But People had been waiting¹⁵ ”.earn as a soldier
 .They thought that he might be the Messiah .now they were getting very hopeful about John
 He is coming, and he is far greater .I am not the Messiah“ ,But John said to all of them¹⁶
 than I am. He is so great that I am not worthy even to be like the slave who would untie the
 .When I baptized you, I used only water !when he comes in the house straps of his sandals
 he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, who will judge and ,when the Messiah comes But
 a farmer who has his winnowing fork The Messiah is ready to do this, just like¹⁷ .purify you
 ready to use. A farmer separates all the good grain from the useless chaff. He stores the
 That represents how the .grain safely in his barn, but he burns the chaff until it is all gone
 Messiah will gather up the people who are pleasing to God, and he will punish the people who
 to stop In many different ways like this, John urged the people¹⁸ ”.are displeasing to God

.from God as he kept telling them the good news ,sinning and to submit themselves to God
John even rebuked King Herod for all of the many evil things that Herod had done. But¹⁹
when John rebuked Herod for marrying his brother's wife, Herodias, while his brother was
But²¹ .Herod did another evil thing. He had his soldiers put John in prison²⁰ ,still alive
before Herod did that, while John was still baptizing many people, John also baptized
Then the Holy Spirit, in the²² .Jesus. Afterwards, while Jesus was praying, the sky opened
from heaven. He to Jesus form of a dove, came down and landed on Jesus. Then God spoke
At²³ "!"said, "You are my Son, the one whom I love dearly. I am very pleased with you
:that time Jesus began his work for God. He was about 30 years old. This is Jesus' lineage
Heli was²⁴ .People considered Jesus to be the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Heli
the son of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi. Levi was the son of Melchi. Melchi was
.Joseph was the son of Mattathias²⁵ .the son of Jannai. Jannai was the son of Joseph
.Mattathias was the son of Amos. Amos was the son of Nahum. Nahum was the son of Esli
Naggai was the son of Maath. Maath was the son of²⁶ .Esli was the son of Naggai
Mattathias. Mattathias was the son of Semein. Semein was the son of Josech. Josech was
Joda was the son of Joanan. Joanan was the son of Rhesa. Rhesa was²⁷ .the son of Joda
.the son of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the son of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the son of Neri
.Neri was the son of Melchi. Melchi was the son of Addi. Addi was the son of Cosam²⁸
.Er was the son of Joshua²⁹ .Cosam was the son of Elmadam. Elmadam was the son of Er
.Joshua was the son of Eliezer. Eliezer was the son of Jorim. Jorim was the son of Matthat
.Levi was the son of Simeon. Simeon was the son of Judah³⁰ .Matthat was the son of Levi
.Judah was the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Jonam. Jonam was the son of Eliakim
Eliakim was the son of Melea. Melea was the son of Menna. Menna was the son of³¹
David was the³² .Mattatha. Mattatha was the son of Nathan. Nathan was the son of David
son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed. Obed was the son of Boaz. Boaz was the son of
.Nahshon was the son of Amminadab³³ .Salmon. Salmon was the son of Nahshon
Amminadab was the son of Admin. Admin was the son of Arni. Arni was the son of
Judah was the son of³⁴ .Hezron. Hezron was the son of Perez. Perez was the son of Judah
Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham. Abraham was the son of
Nahor was the son of Serug. Serug was the son of³⁵ .Terah. Terah was the son of Nahor
.Reu. Reu was the son of Peleg. Peleg was the son of Eber. Eber was the son of Shelah
Shelah was the son of Cainan. Cainan was the son of Arphaxad. Arphaxad was the son³⁶
Lamech was the son³⁷ .of Shem. Shem was the son of Noah. Noah was the son of Lamech
of Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. Enoch was the son of Jared. Jared was
.Cainan was the son of Enos³⁸ .the son of Mahalalel. Mahalalel was the son of Cainan
.Enos was the son of Seth. Seth was the son of Adam. Adam came from God

After John baptized him, Jesus came back out of the Jordan River. The Holy¹ **4**
 Jesus² .Spirit was fully empowering him. Then the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness
 was in the wilderness for 40 days. While he was there, the devil kept tempting him. During
 that entire time, Jesus did not eat anything. So when the 40 days were over, he was very
 Then the devil said to Jesus, “If you really are the Son of God, command this³ .hungry
 ,No, I will not do that“, Jesus replied⁴ ”!for you to eat stone to become a loaf of bread
 Then the⁵ ”.the Scriptures say, ‘People need more than just food in order to live **because**
 and showed him all the nations of the **to the top of a high mountain** devil took Jesus up
 Then the devil said to Jesus, “I will make you the ruler over all of⁶ .world in an instant
 these nations and you will possess all of their wealth. I can do this because God has
 All you⁷ .permitted me to control all of them, and so I can give them to whomever I wish
 But Jesus⁸ ”!have to do is bow down and worship me. Then I will let you rule them all
 the Scriptures say, ‘You must only worship the **No, I will not worship you, because**“, replied
 ”!Lord your God. He is the only one you may serve

Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem. He set him on the highest part of the temple⁹
 You will not¹⁰ .and said to him, “If you really are the Son of God, jump down from here
 ,be hurt, because the Scriptures say

,And the Scriptures also say¹¹ ’.God will command his angels to protect you‘
 The angels will hold you up in their hands when you are falling, so that you will not‘
 :the Scriptures also say **No, I will not do that, because**“, But Jesus replied¹² ”.get hurt
 ”.’Do not test the Lord your God‘

Then, after the devil had finished trying to tempt Jesus in all of these ways, the devil¹³
 .when he could try to tempt Jesus again left Jesus to wait until another time

returned to the district of Galilee. The Holy **left the desolate area and** After this, Jesus¹⁴
 Spirit was empowering him. Throughout that whole region, people heard about Jesus and
 all of ,**As a result** .He taught people in their Jewish meeting places¹⁵ .told others about him
 .the people praised him

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, the town where he had grown up. As he usually did on¹⁶
 he ,**At the appropriate time** .the Jewish day of rest, he went to the Jewish meeting place
 Jesus wanted to read some of the¹⁷ .something aloud from the Scriptures stood up to read
 the scroll that contained **had spoken long ago. So he asked for the prophet Isaiah words that**
 these words, and a synagogue attendant handed it to him. Jesus unrolled the scroll and
 :He read these words .found the place from which he wanted to read

,The Spirit of the Lord is empowering me“¹⁸

because he has specially appointed me to declare God’s good news to people who are
.poor

,He has sent me to declare to people who are in prison that they will go free

.and to tell those who are blind that they will see again

,He has sent me to release people whom others are oppressing

and to announce that now is the time when the Lord will act favorably toward¹⁹

”.people

to Then he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant, and he sat down²⁰

He²¹ .Everyone in the Jewish meeting place was looking intently at him .**teach the people**
began to teach them by saying, “I have made this Scripture passage come true right now, as

Everyone there approved of him and they were amazed at the²² ”.you heard me read it
It is surprising that he can“ ,wonderful things that he said. Many of them said to each other

He said to them, “Surely some of you²³ ”!This man is only Joseph’s son !**speak like this**
,**What you will mean by it is ’!**will quote to me the proverb that says, ‘Doctor, heal yourself
If you want us to believe that .you did miracles in the town of Capernaum **People told us that‘**

Then he²⁴ ”!do the same kind of miracles here in your hometown **you are a prophet, then**
said, “It is certainly true that the people in a prophet’s own hometown do not accept that he

Think about this: There were many widows in Israel during the time when²⁵ .is a prophet
the prophet Elijah lived. At that time there was no rain for three and a half years. This

And yet God did not send Elijah to²⁶ .caused a great famine throughout the whole country
help any of the widows in Israel. Instead, God sent him to the town of Zarephath near the

There were also many lepers in Israel²⁷ .widow there **non-Israelite** city of Sidon, to help a
,during the time when the prophet Elisha lived. But Elisha did not heal any of them. Instead

When all the²⁸ ”.from the country of Syria **a non-Israelite man** ,he healed only Naaman
.people in the Jewish meeting place heard him say those things, they became very angry

So they stood up, grabbed Jesus, and dragged him out of the city. They took him to the²⁹
.edge of the cliff outside of their city in order to throw him off of the cliff and kill him

.But Jesus simply walked through the crowd and went away³⁰

From there Jesus went down to Capernaum, a city in the district of Galilee. On each³¹

The things that³² .**in the Jewish meeting place there** Jewish day of rest, he taught the people
Jesus taught the people amazed them, because he spoke as someone who knew what he was

Now in that Jewish meeting place there was a man whom an evil spirit³³ .talking about

Aah! Jesus, from Nazareth! What do you want“³⁴ ,controlled. He shouted very loudly
with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are the Holy One from

But Jesus spoke sternly to the evil spirit. He said, “Be quiet and come out of³⁵”! God him!” The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground in the middle of the people. But in the Jewish All of the people³⁶ .then he came out of the man, without harming him were amazed. Many of them said to each other, “We have never seen meeting place anything like this! His words are so powerful! He commands the evil spirits as if they must In every place³⁷”! of people they come out ,when he commands them obey him, and .throughout the surrounding region, people kept talking about what Jesus had done

Then Jesus left the Jewish meeting place and went to the house of a man named³⁸ Simon. His mother-in-law was there. She was sick and had a high fever. The people there So Jesus went over to where she was and stood next to her. He³⁹ .asked Jesus to heal her commanded the fever to leave her, and it did! She immediately got up and served them .some food

many people whose ,which ended the Jewish day of rest ,When the sun was setting⁴⁰ friends or relatives were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus. He put his hands evil ,As Jesus put his hands on the sick people⁴¹ .on each one of them and healed them ,to Jesus they shouted ,As the evil spirits came out .spirits also came out from many of them You are the Son of God!” But he commanded those evil spirits not to tell people about“ .him, because they knew that he was the Messiah

Early the next morning, Jesus went out to an uninhabited place. Crowds of people⁴² went looking for him. When they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from But Jesus said to them, “I must also tell people in other cities the good⁴³ .leaving them ”.news that they can have God rule their lives, because that is what God sent me here to do .So he went on preaching in the Jewish meeting places throughout the province of Judea⁴⁴

One day while many people were crowding around Jesus and listening to him¹ 5
He saw two fishing boats² .teach God’s message, he was standing next to Lake Gennesaret there at the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left the boats and were washing their .Jesus stepped into one of the two boats, the one that belonged to Simon³ .fishing nets Jesus asked him to move the boat out a short distance away from the shore. Then Jesus sat After he finished⁴ .down in the boat and continued to teach the crowds from there teaching them, he said to Simon, “Take the boat out to deeper water and let your nets down Simon replied, “Master, we worked hard through the⁵” .into the water to catch some fish whole night and yet we did not catch any fish. But I will let down the nets again because So Simon and his crew let down their nets and they caught such a large⁶” .you told me to They motioned to their fishing partners in⁷ .number of fish that their nets began to break

the other boat to come and help them. So they came and filled both boats so full with fish ,Seeing this, Simon Peter bowed down before Jesus and said⁸ .that the boats began to sink because he marveled at **He said this**⁹ ”.Please leave me, because I am a sinful man, Lord“ the huge number of fish that they had caught. All the men who were with him also James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners, were¹⁰ .marveled ,Until now you gathered in fish !just as amazed. But Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid So after the men¹¹ ”.from now on you will gather in people to become my disciples **but** brought the boats to the shore, they left their fishing business and everything else and went .with Jesus

Jesus went to one of the towns nearby. There was a man there who was covered with¹² a skin disease. When he saw Jesus, he bowed down to the ground in front of him. He I know that you are able to heal me if you are **!please heal me** ,pleaded with him, “Lord Then Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. He said, “I am willing¹³ ”!willing to heal you, and I heal you now!” Immediately the man was healed. He no longer had Then Jesus told him, “Do not tell anyone that I healed you. First, go and show¹⁴ !leprosy .yourself to a priest so that he can examine you and see that you no longer have leprosy Bring the sacrifice that Moses commanded you to offer to become ceremonially clean As a .about how **Jesus had healed the man** But instead even more people heard¹⁵ ”.again and to have him heal them from their **Jesus teach** result, large crowds came to hear .But he would often go away from them to isolated areas and pray¹⁶ .sicknesses

One day when Jesus was teaching, some men from the Pharisee sect and some¹⁷ expert teachers of the Jewish law were sitting nearby. They had come from many villages in the district of Galilee and also from Jerusalem and other cities in the province of Judea. At While Jesus was¹⁸ .that same time, the Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people on a **They were carrying the man** .there, several men brought him a man who was paralyzed .sleeping pad and trying to bring him into the house to lay him down in front of Jesus But because there was such a large crowd of people in the house, they were not able to¹⁹ **They removed some of the** .onto the flat roof **the outside steps** bring him in. So they went up Then they lowered the man on his sleeping pad **.tiles from the roof to make an opening** .He came down right in front of Jesus **.of the crowd** through the opening into the middle ,When Jesus perceived that they believed that he could heal the man, he said to him²⁰ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees began to think to²¹ ”!Friend, I forgive your sins“ ”!themselves, “This man insults God by saying that! Nobody except God can forgive sins Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, “You should not question what²² Here is something I want you to think carefully about. Which²³ !I said within yourselves **You might think that saying ‘I ?’**is easier to say, ‘I forgive your sins,’ or, ‘Get up and walk

But I want you to²⁴ .forgive your sins' is easier because it does not require any visible proof know that God has given me, the Son of Man, authority to forgive people on earth their Then he said to the man who ".To demonstrate that, I will also tell this man to get up .sins
 "!"was paralyzed, "To you I say, get up, pick up your sleeping pad, and go home
 He got up in front of them all. He picked up the !the man was healed Immediately²⁵
 All the²⁶ .sleeping pad on which he had been lying, and he went home, praising God
 at what they people there were astonished! They praised God and were completely amazed
 "!"They kept saying, "We have seen wonderful things today .had seen Jesus do
 for the Then Jesus left that place and saw a man named Levi who collected taxes²⁷
 where the people came to pay him the taxes He was sitting in the booth .Roman government
 So²⁸ "!"Jesus said to him, "Come with me and be my disciple .that the government required
 .Levi left his work and went with Jesus

There .and his disciples Later on Levi prepared a big feast in his own house for Jesus²⁹
 Then some³⁰ .was a large group of tax collectors and others eating together with them
 ,men who belonged to the Pharisee sect, including some of them who taught Jewish laws
 complained to Jesus' disciples. They said, "You should not be having a banquet with tax
 Then Jesus said to them, "People who are well do not need³¹ ".sinners other collectors and
 Similarly, I did not come from heaven to³² .a doctor. People who are sick need a doctor
 invite those who think they are righteous to come to me. On the contrary, I came to invite
 ".those who know that they are sinners to turn from their sinful behavior and come to me

Those Jewish leaders responded to Jesus, "The disciples of John the Baptizer often³³
 abstain from food and pray. The disciples of the Pharisees do that too. But your disciples
 ,Jesus answered³⁴ "!"keep on eating and drinking! Why do they not fast like the others
 No one tells the friends of the bridegroom to fast while the wedding celebration is still"
 But some day the bridegroom will no longer be with his friends. Then, at that³⁵ !going on
 ".time, they will abstain from food

Then Jesus gave other examples to explain what he meant. He said, "People never³⁶
 tear a piece of cloth from a new garment and attach it to an old garment to mend it. If they
 did that, they would ruin the new garment by tearing it, and the piece of cloth from the new
 And no one puts newly squeezed wine into³⁷ .garment would not match the old garment
 because they If anyone did that, the skin bags would tear open .to store it old skin bags
 Then the skin bags would .would not stretch when the new wine fermented and expanded
 On³⁸ .would spill out would also become useless because it become useless, and the wine
 .the contrary, new wine must be put into new skin bags

Those who have only drunk old wine do not want to try new wine, because they³⁹
”!think, ‘The old wine is good enough

One Sabbath day, as Jesus and his disciples were walking through some grain¹ **6**
fields, the disciples picked some heads of grain. They rubbed them in their hands to
were watching Some Pharisees² .separate the grain from the husks. Then they ate the grain
You should not be doing work like that! Our law forbids us to do“ ,to them said this. They
Jesus replied to the Pharisees, “Consider what the Scriptures³ ”!work on the Sabbath day
As you⁴ .say about what David did when he and the men who were with him were hungry
The priest gave him the bread .and asked for some food know, David entered the tabernacle
that had been on display before God. David ate some, and he also gave some to the men
who were with him, even though the law said they could not do that. Only priests could eat
to determine Jesus also said to them, “I, the Son of Man, have the authority⁵ ”.that bread
”!on the Sabbath what is right for people to do

A man .the people On another Sabbath day Jesus went to the synagogue and taught⁶
Some teachers of the Jewish laws and⁷ .was there who could not move his right hand
were watching Jesus closely. They wanted to see whether were there. They some Pharisees
of disobeying their laws about he would heal the man. If he did, then they would accuse him
But Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to the⁸ .not working on the Sabbath
man with the withered hand, “Come and stand here in front of everyone!” So the man got
Then Jesus said to them, “I want to ask you a question. Do the laws⁹ .up and stood there
that God gave Moses command people to do good on the Sabbath, or to do harm? Do they
No one answered him, so¹⁰ ”?command people to save a life on the Sabbath, or to destroy it
”!he looked around at them all and then said to the man, “Stretch out your withered hand
But the religious leaders¹¹ !The man did that, and his hand became completely well again
get rid of were very angry, and they discussed with one another about what they could do to
.Jesus

Around that time, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. He prayed to God all night¹²
The next day he called all his disciples to come to him. From among them he¹³ .there
Simon, to :These are their names¹⁴ .chose 12 men and made them his representatives
,whom Jesus gave the new name Peter; Andrew, Peter’s brother; James and his brother
Thomas; another man ;whose other name was Levi ,Matthew¹⁵ ;John; Philip; Bartholomew
Judas, the son of a¹⁶ ;named James whose father was named Alphaeus; Simon the Zealot
.different man named James; and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus

Jesus came down from the hills with his disciples and stood on a level area. There¹⁷ was a great crowd of his disciples there. There was also a large group of people who had come from Jerusalem and from many other places in the region of Judea, and from the and **teach them** They came to hear Jesus¹⁸ .coastal areas near the cities of Tyre and Sidon .heal them from their diseases. He also healed those whom evil spirits had troubled Everyone in the crowd tried to touch him, because he was healing everyone by his¹⁹ ,Then he looked at his disciples and said, “It is very good for you who are poor²⁰ .power It is very good for you who are hungry now, because God²¹ .because God is ruling you .will give you everything you need

It is very good for you who are grieving now, because God will someday make you .laugh with joy

It is very good when other people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and²² ,When that happens²³ .say that you are bad because you follow me, the Son of Man rejoice! Jump up and down because you are so happy! Keep in mind that God is going to give you a great reward in heaven! Do not forget that the ancestors of the people who are .long ago treating you this way did similar things to God’s prophets

received all the comfort **already** But how sad it is for you who are rich. You have²⁴ How sad it is for you who can stuff yourselves²⁵ .**from your riches** you are going to get .with food now. Later you will go hungry

How sad it²⁶ .Woe to the ones who are laughing now. Later you will be very unhappy is for you when everyone says good things about you. In the same way, their ancestors used .to say good things about people who falsely claimed to be God’s prophets

not ,But I say this to each of you who are listening to what I say: Love your enemies²⁷ Ask God to bless those who²⁸ !Do good things for those who hate you !**only your friends** striking you on **insults you by** If someone²⁹ !curse you! Pray for those who treat you badly one of your cheeks, turn your face so that he can strike the other cheek also. If someone Give something to everyone³⁰ .wants to take away your coat, let him also have your shirt .who asks you. If someone takes things that belong to you, do not make him return them In whatever way you want others to act toward you, that is the way that you should act³¹ .toward them

.those who love you, do not expect God to reward you for doing that **only** If you love³² Do not expect God to reward you because you³³ .Even sinners love those who love them If³⁴ .do good things for people who do good things for you. After all, even sinners do that

only to those who will give it back to you, do not expect God to **money or property** you lend reward you for doing that. Even sinners lend to other sinners who will give everything back. Instead, love your enemies! Do good things for them! Lend to them, and do not³⁵ .to them expect them to pay anything back! Then God will give you a great reward. And you will be children of God the Most High, since God is kind even to people who are unthankful and So you should act mercifully toward other people, just as God, your Father, acts³⁶ .wicked .mercifully toward people

Then God will not harshly criticize you. Do not **.other people** Do not harshly criticize³⁷ **others for the wrong things** Then God will not condemn you. Forgive **.other people** condemn Then God will give to **.to others** Give³⁸ .Then God will forgive you **.they have done to you** you. It will be as if he is trying to give you as much grain as possible in a container you have. He will press the grain down. He will shake it together. He will keep filling the container until it overflows. So when you give to others, it should be as if you are using a ”.big scoop, because God will use the same size scoop to give to you

He also gave his disciples this example: “A blind person should not try to lead³⁹ **on the side** If he did, they both would fall into the ditch **.down the road** another blind person A disciple is not greater than his teacher. But once the teacher has finished⁴⁰ **!of the road** .training him, he will become like his teacher

None of you should be concerned about the small faults of another person. You should⁴¹ Otherwise, that would be like noticing a speck in **.be concerned about your own serious faults** You⁴² .the eye of that person while not noticing a huge wooden plank in your own eye should not tell another believer, ‘Friend, let me help you correct your faults,’ when you have not dealt with your own faults yet. If you do that, you are a hypocrite! You should first .removing a large plank from your own eye **stop committing your own sins. That will be like** Then, as a result, you will have the spiritual insight you need to help others get rid of the .little specks in their eyes **smaller faults that are like**

Everyone knows that healthy trees do not produce bad fruit and unhealthy trees do⁴³ You can tell what a person is like inside by the things that they⁴⁴ .not produce good fruit **Then you know what to expect from them. You would not look for kindness or good advice .do** That would be like looking for figs on a thornbush or **.from someone who does bad things** Good people do good things because they think⁴⁵ .looking for grapes on a bramble vine good things. Evil people do evil things because they think evil things. This is because ”.people speak and act based on what they are thinking about

Why do you call me ‘Lord’ when you do not obey what I“ **,Jesus said to the people**⁴⁶ ,Let me tell you what people are like who come to me, hear my teachings⁴⁷ ?tell you to do

Such people are like a person who dug deep into the ground to prepare⁴⁸ .and obey them on solid rock. Then **for the house** to build his house. He made sure to build the foundation there was a flood. A torrent of water was beating against that house. But it could not But some⁴⁹ .destroy it, because the person had built the house on a solid foundation people who hear my teachings do not obey them. They are like a person who built a house on top of the ground without digging a foundation first. When the floodwaters came, it ”.collapsed immediately. The waters destroyed that house completely

After Jesus finished saying all these things to the people who were listening, he¹ **7**

In that town there was a centurion in the Roman army² .went to the town of Capernaum .who had a slave who was dear to him. This slave was so sick that he was about to die When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to Jesus to ask him to³ **to help the** When they came to Jesus, they earnestly asked him⁴ .come and heal his slave because he loves⁵ ,They said, “He deserves to have you do this for him .**centurion’s slave to the officer’s** So Jesus went with them⁶ ”.our people and he built our synagogue for us When he was almost there, the officer sent some friends to give this message to .**house** since I am not worthy to have you ,**of coming here** Jesus: “Lord, do not go to the trouble That is why I did not feel that I was worthy to come to you in⁷ .come into my house I know⁸ .**a command** person. I knew that you could heal my dear slave just by speaking because I myself am a man who must obey the orders of my superiors. I **that you can do this** .also have soldiers who must obey my orders. When I say to one of them, ‘Go!’ he goes When I say to another one, ‘Come!’ he comes. When I say to my slave, ‘Do this!’ he does When Jesus heard what the officer had said, he was amazed at him. Then he turned to⁹ ”.it the crowd that was with him and said, “Let me tell you, I have not met any Israelite who When the friends who had come from the¹⁰ ”!trusts me as much as this Gentile does .centurion returned to his house, they found that the slave was in good health again

Soon after that Jesus traveled to the town of Nain. His disciples and a large crowd¹¹

As Jesus came near to the town gate, he saw a large crowd coming out¹² .went with him of the town. A man had just died, and they were carrying him out to bury him. His mother **He had taken care of her** .was in the crowd. She was a widow, and he had been her only son When Jesus saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, “Do¹³ .**while he was alive on which the body was** and touched the stretcher **to them** Then he came close¹⁴ ”!not cry Then¹⁵ ”!The men carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up .**lying** .the man who had died sat up and began to talk! And Jesus led him back to his mother A great“ ,**to each other** Everyone there was awestruck. They praised God and said¹⁶

Then this¹⁷ ”!prophet has come among us!” and “God has come to care for his people

spread throughout the region of Judea and all the other **had done** Jesus **what** news about
.areas nearby

The disciples of John the Baptizer told him about all these things. So John called¹⁸⁻¹⁹
for two of his disciples and told them to go to the Lord and ask him: “Are you the one
When²⁰ ”?whom God promised would come, or should we be expecting someone else
those two men came to Jesus, they told him, “John the Baptizer sent us to ask you, ‘Are
’”?you the one whom God promised would come? Or should we wait for someone else
,At that same time Jesus was healing many people from sicknesses and serious diseases²¹
and he was delivering them from evil spirits. He also gave many blind people the ability to
So he answered those two men, “Go back and report to John what you have²² .see again
seen and heard. People who were blind are now seeing. People who were lame are now
walking. People who had skin diseases no longer have them. People who were deaf can
now hear. People who were dead have come back to life. I am proclaiming good news to
sees **what I do and hears** God will bless anyone who“ ,**And also tell him**²³ ”.poor people
”.continues to believe in me **what I teach and**

When the men whom John had sent left, Jesus began to talk to the crowd of people²⁴
about John. He said, “What did you go into the wilderness to see? A thin stalk of a plant
?But what did you go out to see? A man wearing fancy clothing²⁵ ?shaken by the wind
'Listen, those who wear splendid clothes and who have the best of everything live in kings
But !**that is who John is** ,Then what did you go out there to see? A prophet? Yes²⁶ .palaces
He is the one about²⁷ .I tell you that John is more significant than an ordinary prophet
whom the prophet wrote long ago: ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you. He will
'prepare people for your coming

I tell you that of all the people who have ever lived, there is no one greater than²⁸
”.John. Yet the most insignificant people whose lives God is ruling are greater than John

When all the people whom John had baptized heard what Jesus said—including the²⁹
But the³⁰ .**by sending John** tax collectors—they agreed that God had done the right thing
Pharisees and the experts in the Jewish law, whom John had not baptized, rejected God’s
.will for them

what you people living in this time period are **Then Jesus also said, “I will tell you**³¹
,You are like children playing games in an open area. They call out to each other³² .like
saying, ‘We played happy music for you on the flute, but you did not dance! Then we sang
Similarly, when John came to you and³³ ’!sad funeral songs for you, but you did not cry
said, ‘A demon is controlling **rejected him and** did not eat ordinary food or drink wine, you

wine as and drank ordinary food But when the Son of Man came to you and he ate³⁴ '!him said, 'Look! This man eats too much food and drinks rejected him and then you ,others do But those who³⁵ '!too much wine, and he associates with tax collectors and other sinners ".are wise themselves recognize that what John and I do is also wise

One day a certain Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to eat a meal with him. So³⁶ There was also a woman in³⁷ .Jesus went to the man's house and reclined at a table to eat that city who had a bad reputation. When she heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's As Jesus was reclining³⁸ .bringing a stone jar that contained perfume ,she went there ,house 'She was crying, and her tears fell on Jesus .to eat, the woman stood behind him at his feet feet. She continually wiped his feet with her hair. She kept kissing them and anointing them what the woman was When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw³⁹ .with the perfume he thought, "If this man really were a prophet, he would have known who this ,doing woman is who is touching him. He would have known what kind of person she is, that she In response, Jesus said to him, "Simon, there is something I want to tell⁴⁰ ".is a sinner Two people owed" :Jesus told him this story⁴¹ "?you." He replied, "Teacher, what is it money to a man who had a business lending money. One of these people owed him 500 Neither of them was able to pay⁴² .silver coins. The other one owed him 50 silver coins back what he owed, so the man very kindly said that they both did not have to pay back Simon replied, "I⁴³ "?anything. So, which of those two men will love that man more assume that the one who had owed him the larger amount will love him more." Jesus said Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Think⁴⁴ ".to him, "You are correct you did not do what hosts ,about what this woman has done! When I entered your house You did not give me any water to wash my feet. But this .usually do to welcome their guests You did not⁴⁵ !woman has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair !greet me with a kiss. But from the moment I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet You did not anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with fragrant⁴⁶ So I tell you that God has forgiven her many sins, and that is why she loves⁴⁷ .perfume me very much. But a person who thinks that God has only had to forgive him for a few sins Then Jesus said to the woman, "I have forgiven your⁴⁸ ".will love me only a little bit Then those who were eating with him said among themselves, "Who is this man⁴⁹ ".sins But Jesus said to the woman, "Because you⁵⁰ "?who says that he can even forgive sins "!have believed in me, God has saved you. May God give you peace as you go

After that, Jesus and his 12 representatives traveled around through various¹ 8 cities and villages. As they went, Jesus preached to people, telling them the good news that several women whom Also traveling with them were² .they could have God rule their lives

he had delivered from evil spirits and healed from sicknesses. These included Mary from **Another of these**³ .the village of Magdala. Jesus had forced seven evil spirits to leave her **These** .Joanna. She was the wife of Chuza, who was a manager for King Herod **women was** Susanna and many others. They were using their own money to **women also included** .support Jesus and his disciples

One day a very large crowd was gathering. People were traveling from many⁴
A farmer went out to plant some“⁵ :different towns to see Jesus. He told them this story
grain seeds. As he was scattering them over the soil, some of the seeds fell onto the hard
Some of the seeds fell⁶ .pathway. People stepped on those seeds, and birds ate them all up
rock. As soon as those seeds grew, the plants dried up **shallow soil above a layer of** on
Some of the seeds⁷ .because their roots could not get past the rock to reach to the moisture
fell on ground where thorn plants had left their own seeds. The new thorn plants grew up
thorns crowded out the grain plants, so **stronger** together with the young grain plants. The
But some of the grain seeds fell on fertile soil. They⁸ .that the grain did not grow well
grew so well that they produced a crop that had a hundred times as many seeds.” After
saying these things, Jesus called out to the crowd, “You should think carefully about what
”!you just heard me say

And he said, “God¹⁰ ”?Then Jesus’ disciples asked him, “What does that story mean⁹
has given you the privilege of knowing hidden things about how God will rule as king. But
 ,to everyone else only in parables, so that **I speak**

Although they see, they may not perceive, and although they hear, they may not‘
’.understand

Now, this is what the story means: The seeds represent what God wants people to¹¹
people **show what happens when** The seeds that fell on the pathway¹² .understand
understand the message from God only superficially. This makes it easy for the devil to
come and take that message away from their minds. As a result, they do not believe it, and
show what happens The seeds that fell on the rocky ground¹³ .so God does not save them
people hear the message from God and receive it joyfully, but they do not commit **when**
themselves seriously. They only believe for a short time. As soon as difficult things happen
show The seeds that fell among the thorny plants¹⁴ .to them, they stop trusting in God
,people who hear the message from God. As they go on in life **what happens to some other**
they allow the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life to occupy all their attention. As a
But the seeds that fell on the fertile¹⁵ .result, they do not become spiritually mature
people hear the message about God and accept it with **show what happens when** ground
,great sincerity. They make a firm commitment, and because they keep this commitment
.they become spiritually mature

Think about this. When people light a lamp, they do not cover it with a basket. They¹⁶ do not put it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a lampstand. That way everyone who enters This illustrates that someday everyone will be able to see¹⁷ .the room can see by its light everything that is now hidden. And someday everyone will see in the open everything that because if ,to what I tell you So make sure that you are listening carefully¹⁸ .is now secret someone believes God's truth, God will enable him to understand even more. But if the little someone does not believe God's truth, God will cause him not to understand even ".he thinks he has understood

One day Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they could not get near¹⁹ Then²⁰ .around him in the house where he was crowd large a such him because there was ".people told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you But he replied to them, "Those who hear the message from God and obey it are as dear²¹ ".to me as my mother and my brothers

On another day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples. He said to them, "I would²² .like us to go across to the other side of the lake." So they started to sail across the lake But as they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep. Then a powerful windstorm began on the²³ So Jesus' disciples²⁴ .lake. Soon the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger came over to wake him up. They said to him, "Master! Master! We are all going to die!" He woke up and scolded the wind and the violent waves. The wind stopped blowing, the waves Then he said to them, "You acted²⁵ .stopped hitting the boat, and everything became calm because of what had just as if you had no faith!" The disciples were alarmed and amazed They kept asking each other, "Who could Jesus be? He is able to command even .happened ".the winds and the waves, and they obey him

Jesus and his disciples continued sailing and came to the region where the Gerasene²⁶ When²⁷ .people lived. It was on the opposite side of the lake from the district of Galilee .Jesus came out of the boat onto the land, a certain man from the town in that area met him This man had demons in him. For a long time this man had not worn clothes and had not .lived in a house. Instead, he lived in the burial caves

,When the man saw Jesus, he cried out and lay facedown before him. He shouted²⁸ What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment" Jesus had just commanded the evil spirit to come out of The man said this because²⁹ "!me him. In the past, people had bound him with chains and shackles and kept a close watch on him. Even so, many times the evil spirit would suddenly seize him by force. Then the man Then³⁰ .would break free, and the demon would make him go out into deserted places Thousands." He My name is" ,Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" The demon replied

The demons kept begging Jesus³¹ .said that because many demons had entered the man
There was a³² .not to command them to go into the deep pit where God punishes demons
large herd of pigs grazing on the hillside nearby. The demons begged Jesus to allow them to
 ,So the demons left the man and entered the pigs³³ .enter the pigs, and he allowed them
 .and the herd of pigs rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned

!When those who were taking care of the pigs saw what happened, they ran away³⁴
 Then the³⁵ .They reported what they had seen to all the people who lived around them
 people went out to see what had happened. When they came to where Jesus was, they saw
 that the man from whom the demons had gone out was sitting at the feet of Jesus. They saw
 They realized how powerful Jesus .that he had clothes on and his mind was normal again
 Those who had seen what had happened told the³⁶ .and they became afraid ,**must be**
 people who had just arrived how Jesus had rescued the man who had been controlled by
 Then many people from that place where the Gerasenes lived asked Jesus to³⁷ .demons
 leave their area, because they were very afraid. So Jesus and his disciples got into the boat
 Before they left, the man from whom the demons had gone³⁸ .to go back across the lake
 out begged Jesus, saying, “Please, let me go with you!” But instead, Jesus sent him away
 how much God has done **everyone** No, go back to your home and tell³⁹ ,by saying to him
 for you!” So the man went away and told people throughout the whole city how much Jesus
 .had done for him

And when Jesus and his disciples got back across the lake to Capernaum, a crowd of⁴⁰
 Just then a man named⁴¹ .people welcomed them. They had all been waiting for him there
 Jairus, who was one of the leaders of the synagogue there, came near to Jesus, and he lay
 He did this because⁴² .facedown before him. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house
 He wanted Jesus .he had an only daughter, who was about 12 years old, and she was dying
 .to heal her

Now in the⁴³ .many people were crowding around him ,**with him** Now as Jesus went
 crowd there was a woman who had been suffering for 12 years from a disease that caused
 to pay doctors to help her, but none of¹ continual bleeding. She had spent all her money
 .She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his robe⁴⁴ .them was able to heal her
 around Jesus Jesus said, “Who touched me?” Everyone⁴⁵ .At once her bleeding stopped
 said that they had not touched him. Peter said, “Master, there are many people crowding
 ”!So any one of them might have touched you .around you and pressing up against you
 touched me, because power has gone **deliberately** But Jesus said, “I know that someone⁴⁶
 Then the woman realized that she could not hide. She⁴⁷ ”.to heal that person out from me

lay facedown on the ground before him. As the **respectfully** came trembling to Jesus and other people were listening, she explained why she had touched Jesus and how she gotten **that I** And Jesus said to her, “My dear woman, because you believed⁴⁸ .better immediately ”.you are now well. Now go on your way, and may God’s peace be with you ,**could heal you**

a man from Jairus’ house came and ,**to the woman** While Jesus was still speaking⁴⁹ ”.said to Jairus, “Your daughter has died. So do not take up any more of the teacher’s time and ,**in me** But when Jesus heard that, he said to Jairus, “Do not be afraid. Just believe⁵⁰ When he arrived outside the house, Jesus did not allow anyone to⁵¹ ”.she will live again go in the house with him except for Peter, John, and James, and the girl’s father and And all the people there were loudly demonstrating how sad they were that the⁵² .mother ”!girl had died. But Jesus said to them, “Stop crying! She is not dead! She is only sleeping But Jesus⁵⁴ .And the people laughed at him because they knew that the girl was dead⁵³ And immediately she⁵⁵ ”!saying, “Child, get up ,**to her** took hold of her hand and called And her⁵⁶ .came back to life and she got up. Jesus told them to give her something to eat .what had happened **yet** parents were amazed, but Jesus told them not to tell anyone else

Then Jesus called together his 12 representatives and gave them the right and¹ **9** He sent them out to² .diseases **people’s** power to drive out all kinds of demons and to heal how God would rule as king. He told them to heal people **the good news about** announce he said to them, “Do not take anything with you for your ,**Before they left**³ .who were sick journey. Do not take a walking stick or a traveler’s bag or food or money. Do not bring an If⁵ .Whatever house you enter, stay in that house until you leave that area⁴ .extra tunic the people in any town do not welcome you, you should not stay there. Instead, leave that **for** town and, as you go, shake its dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them Then Jesus’ disciples left and traveled through many villages. Everywhere⁶ ”.**rejecting you** they went, they talked to people about the good news from God, and they healed sick .people

Herod, the ruler over the district of Galilee, heard about everything that was⁷ happening, and he was perplexed. Some people were saying that John the Baptizer had .Other people were saying that the prophet Elijah had appeared again⁸ .become alive again Still others were saying that one of the other prophets from long ago had become alive But Herod said, “It cannot be John, because I had his head cut off. So who is this⁹ .again man? I keep hearing such amazing things about him!” And he kept looking for a way to see .Jesus

.should be included here *had spent all her money [She]*Scholars are divided whether the phrase .I

When Jesus' representatives returned from their trip, they told Jesus everything that¹⁰
they had done. Then he took them aside to go by themselves with him to the town of
.But when the crowds learned where Jesus had gone, they followed him there¹¹ .Bethsaida
He welcomed them and spoke to them about how God was going to rule as king. He also
.healed those who were sick

,Now it was getting late in the day, so Jesus' 12 representatives came to him and said¹²
Please send this large crowd of people away so that they can go to the surrounding“
villages and farms to get some food and find places to stay, since we are out here in this
But he said to them, “You must give them something to eat!” They¹³ ”.isolated place
replied, “All we have are five small loaves of bread and two small fish. We could never go
because there were about 5000 They said this¹⁴ ”!buy enough food for all these people
men there. Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have the people sit down in groups. Put about
Then¹⁶ .So the disciples did that, and the people all sat down¹⁵ ”.people in each group 50
Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and
praised God for them. Then he divided the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to the
They all ate, and everyone had enough to¹⁷ .disciples for them to distribute to the people
!eat. Then the disciples collected the leftover pieces of food, which filled 12 baskets

One day while Jesus was praying in private, with his disciples nearby, he asked¹⁸
Some people say that you are“ ,They replied¹⁹ ”?them, “Who do the crowds say that I am
John the Baptizer, but others say that you are the prophet Elijah, and still others say that
He²⁰ ”.you are one of the other prophets from long ago who has come back to life again
asked them, “What about you? Who do you say that I am?” Peter replied, “You are the
Then Jesus warned them strongly not to tell that to²¹ ”.Messiah, who has come from God
Then he said, “I, the Son of Man, must suffer many things: The elders, chief²² .anyone yet
priests, and teachers of the Jewish laws will reject me and kill me. Then, on the third day
”.after that, I will come back to life again

Then he said to them all, “If any one of you wants to be my disciple, you must not²³
do only what you want to do. Rather, every day you must be willing to suffer, even to the
because You must do that²⁴ .point of giving up your life. That is how to be my disciple
those who try to save their own lives will lose them eternally, but those who give up their
After all, how does²⁵ .lives in order to become my disciples will save their lives eternally
it benefit you if you gain everything in this world but you then end up losing, or even
Suppose someone is afraid to say that they believe in me and²⁶ ?destroying, your own self
that they follow my teaching. Then, I, the Son of Man, will say that such a person does not
belong to me. This will happen when I come back in my glory and in the glory of God the

But you can be sure of this: Some of you who are²⁷ .Father and of the holy angels
”!standing here now will not die until you see God ruling as king

About eight days after Jesus said those things, he took Peter, John, and James with²⁸
While he was praying, the appearance²⁹ .there him and went up onto a mountain to pray
All at once³⁰ .of his face became very different, and his clothes began to shine brightly
were there talking with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah **prophets from long ago** two
These men appeared surrounded in glory. They spoke with Jesus about how he was³¹
Peter and³² .going to die. This was something that was going to happen soon in Jerusalem
the other disciples who were with him were very sleepy. But when they woke up fully, they
saw how brightly Jesus was shining. They also saw Moses and Elijah standing with him
As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good³³
for us to be here! We should make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for
As he was saying these things³⁴ .Elijah!” But he really did not realize what he was saying
a cloud formed and covered them. The disciples were afraid as the cloud surrounded them
God’s voice spoke to them from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have³⁵
the three disciples saw that ,When the voice had finished speaking³⁶ ”!chosen; listen to him
only Jesus was there. They kept all this to themselves. For a long time they did not tell
anyone what they had seen

The next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a large crowd of³⁷
Suddenly a man from the crowd called out, “Teacher, I plead with³⁸ .people met Jesus
Here is what is happening. An³⁹ .you, do something to help my son! He is my only child
evil spirit suddenly seizes him and causes him to scream. It shakes him violently and causes
him to foam at the mouth. This spirit hardly ever leaves my child and, when it does, it
I pleaded with your disciples to command the evil spirit to come⁴⁰ .injures him severely
In response, Jesus said, “This generation of⁴¹ ”!out of him, but they were not able to do it
people does not believe, and so its thinking is corrupt! How much longer must I be with
”!Bring your son here to me“ ,**Then he said to the boy’s father** ”?you before you believe
While they were bringing the boy to him, the demon threw the boy down to the ground⁴²
and shook him severely. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. Then he
Then all the people there were completely amazed at the⁴³ .returned him to his father
great power God had shown

While they were all still marveling at all the miracles Jesus was doing, he said to his
Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you, because someone will soon“⁴⁴ ,disciples
But the disciples did not understand⁴⁵ ”.hand me, the Son of Man, over to my enemies

what he meant by this. God prevented them from understanding it so that they would not .know yet what he meant, and they were afraid to ask him about what he had said

Sometime later, the disciples began to argue among themselves about which one of⁴⁶
But Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he⁴⁷ .them would be the most important
He said to them, “If⁴⁸ .brought a young child over and had the child stand beside him
someone welcomes a little child like this one because of me, it is the same as welcoming
.me. And if someone welcomes me, it is the same as welcoming God, who sent me
Remember that those among you who seem to be the least important are the ones whom
”.God considers to be most important

John replied to Jesus, “Master, we saw a man who was using your name to⁴⁹
command demons to come out of people. But we told him to stop doing that, because he
But Jesus told John, “Do not stop⁵⁰ ”.was not working closely with you the way we are
him from doing that! If someone is not doing something that is harmful to you, then what
”!he is doing is helpful to you

,When it was getting close to the time when God would take him back up to heaven⁵¹
He sent some messengers ahead of him. They⁵² .Jesus firmly resolved to go to Jerusalem
traveled on and went into a village in the region of Samaria to try to arrange for him to stay
But the Samaritans would not let Jesus stay in their village, because he was on his⁵³ .there
that saw got angry when they ,Two of his disciples, James and John⁵⁴ .way to Jerusalem
So they asked Jesus, “Lord, do you want us .the Samaritans were not going to welcome them
But Jesus⁵⁵ ”?to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy these people
So they went to a⁵⁶ .and sternly told them they were wrong to say that to them turned
.different village

As Jesus and the disciples were walking along the road, someone said to him, “I will⁵⁷
,Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes in the ground to live in⁵⁸ ”!go with you wherever you go
Jesus said⁵⁹ ”!and birds have nests, but I, the Son of Man, do not have a home to sleep in
to a different person, “Come with me!” But that person said, “Lord, let me first go home
But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead. I want⁶⁰ ”.and bury my father
Someone⁶¹ ”.you to go and tell people everywhere that they can have God rule their lives
else said, “Lord, I will come with you and be your disciple, but first let me go home to say
Jesus said to him, “Anyone who is like a farmer who tries to⁶² ”.goodbye to my family
”.plow his field while looking behind him is not able to serve God as his ruler

to go and prepare people to hear After that, Jesus appointed 72 other disciples¹ 10

He sent them out in pairs to go ahead of him to every town and village where he was .him

He said to them, “Many people are ready to believe in me, but² .intending to go himself who wants ,there are only a few of you whom I can send out to help them. So pray to God and plead with him for more disciples who can go and help ,all of those people to believe Go now, but remember that I am sending you out to tell my message to people who³ .them a lot of things with you Do not bring along any money. Do not bring⁴ .will be hostile to you .talk with people along the way stop and Do not .extra shoes a pack. Do not bring in

Whenever you enter a house, first say to the people who live there, ‘May God bless⁵ If the people who live there desire God’s peace, then⁶ ’!everyone in this house with peace ,they will experience the peace you are offering them. But if they do not desire God’s peace Stay in that same house until you leave⁷ .then you will experience that peace yourselves that village. Do not move around from one house to another. Eat and drink whatever they If you enter⁸ .provide for you, because a worker deserves to receive payment for his work .any town and the people there welcome you, eat whatever food they provide for you

Heal the people in that city who are sick. Tell everyone, ‘You are seeing close up what it⁹

But if you enter any town and the¹⁰ ’.will be like when God rules everywhere as king against As a warning¹¹ ,people there do not welcome you, go into its main streets and say But .as we are leaving your town you, we will wipe off even the dust that sticks to our feet you must realize that you have seen close up what it will be like when God rules ,I want you to know that at the time when God judges everyone¹² ’!everywhere as king God will punish the people of that town even more severely than the wicked people who !lived long ago in the city of Sodom

How terrible it will be for you people who live in the cities of Chorazin and¹³

Bethsaida! I say this because I did great miracles while I was in your cities. If I had people wicked Tyre and Sidon, the the ancient cities of performed those same miracles in who lived there would have been very sorry for their sins. They would have shown this by So when¹⁴ .sitting on the ground wearing coarse clothing and putting ashes on their heads God judges everyone, he will punish you more severely than the wicked people who lived I also have something to say to you people who live in the town of¹⁵ .in Tyre and Sidon Capernaum. You may think that God is going to give you great rewards. No, God is not ”!going to reward you at all

listening ,in effect ,Whoever listens to your message is“ ,Jesus also said to the disciples¹⁶ ,rejecting me. And whoever rejects me is ,in effect ,to me. Whoever rejects your message is ”.rejecting God who sent me ,in effect

When .went and did what he told them to do The 72 people whom Jesus appointed¹⁷, they returned, they were very joyful. They said, “Lord, even the demons obeyed us when While you“ ,Jesus told them¹⁸ ”!by your authority, we commanded them to leave people I saw Satan lose a position of advantage as suddenly and quickly as ,were away doing that Listen! I have given you the power to defeat evil spirits. I have¹⁹ !lightning comes down .even given you enough power to defeat our enemy, Satan. Nothing will hurt you at all even more rejoice that the evil spirits must obey you. You should rejoice only But do not²⁰ because that means you will be with God ,that God has written your names in heaven ”.forever

Right then, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus great joy. He said, “God my Father, you are²¹ Lord over everything in heaven and on earth. I praise you that you have prevented people who think they are smart from understanding things. Instead, you have revealed them to people who accept your truth as readily as little children do. Yes, Father, you have done that God, my Father, has given everything to me. Only my²² .because it pleased you to do so Father really knows me, his Son. And only I, his Son, really know my Father. But I do ”.choose to show some people who he is

Then Jesus said, just to his disciples, “God has given you a great gift by letting you²³ I want you to know that many prophets and kings would²⁴ !see the things that I am doing ,have liked to see the things that you are seeing me do. But they did not get to see them They would have liked to hear the things that you have been .because they lived long ago ”.because they lived long ago ,hearing me say. But they did not get to hear them

by asking him a A man who taught Jewish laws was there. He wanted to test Jesus²⁵ So he stood up and asked, “Teacher, what do I have to do in order to live .difficult question Jesus said to him, “You have read what Moses wrote in the laws that²⁶ ”?with God forever The man replied, “Love the Lord your God²⁷ ”?God gave him. What do those laws say with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And Jesus told him, “You have answered²⁸ ”.love your neighbor as much as you love yourself ”.with God forever correctly. If you do all that, you will live

,But the man wanted to show that God would approve of him. So he said to Jesus²⁹ Jesus replied, “One day, a Jewish³⁰ ”?whom I should love Which people are my neighbors“ .man was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some bandits attacked him They took away most of the man’s clothes and everything else that he had. They beat him priest was Jewish It happened that a³¹ .until he was almost dead. Then they left him there he passed by on the ,instead of helping him ,going along that road. When he saw that man also came to that who worked in God’s temple Similarly, a Levite³² .other side of the road

Then a man³³ .place and saw the man. But he too passed by on the other side of the road from the region of Samaria came along that road to where the man was lying. When he saw

He went over to him and put some olive oil and wine on his³⁴ .that man, he pitied him
He wrapped strips of cloth around the wounds. Then he put the .to help heal them wounds

The next³⁵ .man on his own donkey and brought him to an inn and took care of him
morning he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of this man. If you
’’.need to spend more than this amount to care for him, I will pay you back when I return
Three people found the man whom the bandits had attacked. Which“ ,Then Jesus asked³⁶

The teacher of the law³⁷ ”?one of them would you say was a true neighbor to that man
So .That is correct“ ,replied, “The one who acted mercifully toward him.” Jesus said to him
”.you should go and act like that toward anyone who needs your help

As Jesus and his disciples continued to travel, they entered a certain village. There a³⁸
Her sister, whose³⁹ .woman whose name was Martha invited them to come to her house
But Martha⁴⁰ .name was Mary, sat near Jesus’ feet and listened to what he was teaching
,was worrying about preparing the meal for all of them. She went to Jesus and said, “Lord
 .my sister has left me to prepare everything by myself. You must know that is not fair
But Jesus replied to her, “Martha, Martha, you are very⁴¹ ”!Please tell her to help me
is to listen to what I But the one thing that is really important⁴² .worried about many things
Because Mary has chosen the best thing to do, I will not tell her to do .am teaching
”.something else

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his¹ 11
disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us how to pray. John the Baptist did that for his own
He said to them, “When you pray, say² ”.disciples, and we would like you to do that for us
Father, may all people honor your name as holy. May you soon rule all‘ :things like this
Please forgive us for the⁴ .Please give us the food we need each day³ .people everywhere
wrong things that we have done. We ourselves will forgive people for the wrong things they
’’.have done to us. Help us to not sin when something tempts us

Then he said to them, “Suppose that one of you goes to the house of a friend at⁵
call to him, ‘My friend, please lend me three loaves of stand outside and midnight. You
Another friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived at my house. But I do not⁶ !bread
,And suppose that he responds from inside the house⁷ ’!have any food ready to serve him
Do not bother me! I have already locked the door, and my whole family is in bed. It would‘
I tell you, he may not want to get⁸ ’!be too hard for me to get up and give you something
up and give his friend any food just because he is his friend. But if he keeps on asking, the

So I tell you: Keep⁹ .man inside will certainly get up and give him everything he needs asking God for the things you need, and he will give them to you. Keep seeking those things from God, and you will receive them. Ask God to make things possible for you, and You should do this because anyone who keeps asking God¹⁰ .he will act on your behalf for the things he needs will receive them. Anyone who seeks those things from God will receive them. If anyone asks God to make things possible for him, God will act on his Suppose one of you fathers had a son who asked you for a fish to eat. You¹¹ .behalf Suppose he asked you for an¹² !certainly would not give him a poisonous snake instead Even though you people are¹³ !egg. You certainly would not give him a scorpion instead sinful, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. So it is even more certain ”.that your Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him

.One day Jesus was forcing out a demon who was keeping a man from speaking¹⁴ After Jesus forced the demon out, the man began to talk. This amazed the crowd of people But some of them said, “It is Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, who¹⁵ .that was there .Other people there questioned his authority¹⁶ ”!enables this man to force out demons But he knew¹⁷ .They demanded that he perform a miracle to prove that God had sent him what they were thinking. So he said to them, “If the people in one nation fight against each other, they will destroy their nation. If the people in one household oppose each other, they Similarly, if Satan and his demons were fighting against each¹⁸ .will destroy their family other, his rule over them would certainly not last! I say this because you are saying that I If it is true that Beelzebul is¹⁹ !force out demons by the power of the ruler of demons enabling me to force out demons, it must also be true that he is enabling your disciples to So your own disciples prove that you are .But you know that is not true .force out demons I must actually be forcing out demons by the power of God. This means that²⁰ .wrong ”.God has begun to rule over you

,When a strong man who has many weapons guards his own house“ ,Jesus continued²¹ But when someone else who is stronger attacks that²² .no one can steal the things inside man and subdues him, he takes away the weapons that the man was depending on. Then he Anyone who is not supporting me is²³ .can steal anything he wants from that man’s house ”.opposing me. Anyone who is not bringing people to me is sending them away from me

An evil spirit might leave someone and wander around in desolate“ ,Then Jesus said²⁴ areas looking for someone else to live in. If it does not find anyone there, it may say, ‘I am So it goes back and finds that the²⁵ ’!going to go back to the person I used to live in but which has no one ,person is like a house that someone has swept clean and put in order Then this evil spirit goes and gets seven other spirits that are even more evil²⁶ .living in it

than it is. They all enter that person and begin living in him. That person's condition was
".bad before, and it becomes even worse

called out to him **who was listening** When Jesus said that, a woman in the crowd²⁷
"!loudly, "God is pleased with the woman who gave birth to you and who nursed you
Then he replied, "God is even more pleased with those who hear his message and obey²⁸
"!it

More and more people were coming to join the crowd around Jesus. He said, "The²⁹
to prove that I have people living at this time are evil people. They want me to do a miracle
But the only proof they will see is a miracle like the one that happened to **.come from God**

Long ago God did a miracle for Jonah to show the people living in the city of³⁰ .Jonah
Nineveh that he had sent him. In the same way, God will do a similar miracle for me, the
Long ago the Queen of³¹ .Son of Man, to show the people living now that he has sent me
Sheba traveled a great distance to hear the wise things that Solomon said. Now someone
But you have not really listened to what I am .greater than Solomon is right here with you
Therefore, at the time when God judges all people, she will stand up and condemn **.saying**

The people who lived in the ancient city of Nineveh³² .the people who are living now
turned from their sinful ways when Jonah preached to them. And now I, who am greater
.But you have not turned from your sinful ways .than Jonah, have come and preached to you
Therefore, at the time when God judges all people, the people who lived in Nineveh will
stand up and condemn the people who are living now

People who light a lamp do not hide it or put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on³³
Your eye lets light into³⁴ .a lampstand so that those who enter the room can see the light
your body. If your eye is working right, then your whole body will be full of light. But if
Therefore, be³⁵ .your eye is not working right, then your body will not get any light
careful not to think that your eye is working right and letting in light if it is actually not
So if light is getting into every part of your³⁶ .working right and not letting in any light
body, so that no part of it is in the dark, then all of your body will be full of light. Bright
light will shine all over you inside, just as the bright light of a lamp shines all over you
".outside

After Jesus finished saying those things, a Pharisee invited him to eat a meal with³⁷
The³⁸ .him. So Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table to eat
Pharisee was surprised when he saw that Jesus did not ritually wash his hands first before
Jesus said to him, "You Pharisees wash the outside of cups and dishes before you³⁹ .eating
You foolish people! Surely⁴⁰ .eat, but within yourselves you are very greedy and wicked
Instead of⁴¹ !you know that God not only made the outside, but also made the inside

give whatever is inside the dishes **worrying about dishes being ritually clean, be merciful and**
.to people in need. Then both the inside and outside of you will be acceptable to God

But how terrible it will be for you Pharisees! You carefully give to God a tenth of all⁴²
you have, including even the herbs that you grow in your gardens. But then you do not
show God's love or fairness toward others. You should make sure that you do that, in
How terrible it will be for you Pharisees, because you like to⁴³ .addition to giving to God
with sit in the most important seats in the synagogues, and you like people to greet you
How terrible it will be for you, because you are like⁴⁴ .in the marketplaces **special honor**
unmarked graves that people walk over without realizing it and so become ceremonially
".unclean

,One of the teachers of the Jewish laws who were there complained to Jesus⁴⁵
But Jesus⁴⁶ "!"Teacher, when you say things like that, you are criticizing us too"
responded, "How terrible it will also be for you who are teachers of the Jewish laws! I say
this because you tell people to follow so many rules, yet you will not do even the smallest
How terrible it will be for you, because you construct buildings to⁴⁷ .thing to help them
So⁴⁸ !mark the graves of the prophets, but your ancestors are the ones who killed them
when you build these buildings, you are declaring that you approve of what your ancestors
So God, who is very wise, also said, 'I will send⁴⁹ .did when they killed the prophets
.prophets and messengers to guide my people. But they will cause them to suffer greatly
As a result, the people living at this time will be⁵⁰ '.They will even kill some of them
punished for the murder of all the prophets whom people have killed since the world was
whose ,Abel **Adam's son** They will be punished for every murder from that of⁵¹ .created
Zechariah, whom the **the prophet** right through to the murder of ,**brother Cain killed him**
How terrible it⁵² .between the altar and the holy place **in the temple** king's agents killed
will be for you teachers of the Jewish laws. You are keeping people from knowing about
God! You do not know God yourselves, and you make things difficult for other people who
".want to know God better

he left the Pharisee's house. Then the teachers ,**After Jesus finished saying those things**⁵³
of the Jewish laws and the Pharisees began to act in a very hostile way toward him. They
They kept listening for him to say⁵⁴ .questioned him intensely about many things
.something wrong so that they could accuse him of false teaching

There were so .**around Jesus** Meanwhile, many thousands of people gathered¹ **12**
many that they were stepping on each other. The first thing he said to his disciples was, "Be
careful that you do not become like the Pharisees, who act religious in public but do evil

It is useless for people to try to keep their sins a secret. Someday God² .things in secret
Someday people will hear³ .will let everyone know everything people are trying to hide
publicly everything you have said privately. Someday someone will shout for everyone to
.hear what you have whispered in your room

My friends, listen carefully! Do not be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they⁴

I will tell you whom you should truly be⁵ !cannot do anything more to you after that
afraid of. You should be afraid of God. Not only does he have the right to cause people to
die, he also has the right to throw them into hell afterward! Yes, I tell you, God is the one
you **They have so little value that** .Think about the sparrows⁶ !you should truly be afraid of
!can buy five of them for only two small coins. And yet God never forgets any of them
God even knows how many hairs there are on your head. Do not be afraid, because you⁷
.than many sparrows **to God** are more valuable

I tell you also that if people tell others that they are my disciples, then I, the Son of⁸
But if they tell others⁹ .Man, will say to God's angels that those people are my disciples
that they are not my disciples, then I will say to God's angels that those people are not my

I also tell you that if people say bad things about me, the Son of Man, God¹⁰ .disciples
will forgive them for that. But if people say bad things about the Holy Spirit, God will not
to question you So when people bring you into the synagogues¹¹ .forgive them for that
and to other people who have power in the country, do not **before the religious leaders there**
because the Holy¹² ,worry about how you will answer them or about what you should say
".Spirit will tell you at that very time what you should say

Then one of the people in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to¹³
But Jesus replied to him, "Man, no one made me¹⁴ "!"divide our father's property with me
Then he said to the whole¹⁵ "!"a judge to settle arguments that people have about property
crowd, "Be careful not to be greedy in any way! What matters about a person's life is not
".how many things he owns

Then Jesus told the crowd this story: "The lands of a certain rich man produced¹⁶
He thought to himself, 'I do not know what to do, because I do not have¹⁷ .abundant crops
Then he thought to himself, 'I know what I¹⁸ '!"to store all my crops **big enough** any place
will do! I will tear down my grain bins and build larger ones! Then I can store all my grain
Then I will say to myself, "Now I have stored up¹⁹ .and other things in the big new bins
enough things to last many years. So I will take life easy. I will eat and drink and be
But God said to him, 'You foolish man! Tonight you will die! Then all the²⁰ '"happy
"'!things you have saved up for yourself will belong to someone else, not to you

Then Jesus ended this illustration by saying, “That is what will happen to those who²¹ store up things just for themselves and do not value the things that God considers²¹ valuable

.Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Here is something you should learn from the story²²

Do not worry about whether you will have enough food to eat to stay alive or enough After all, your life is more important than the food you²³ clothes to wear to stay warm

Think about the²⁴ eat, and your body is more important than the clothes you put on it birds. They do not plant seeds, and they do not harvest crops. They do not have rooms or buildings in which to store crops, but God provides food for them. And you are certainly

None of you can add even a minute to his life by²⁵ much more valuable than birds So since you cannot even do that small thing, you certainly should²⁶ !worrying about it

Think about the way that flowers grow. They do not²⁷ not worry about anything else work to earn money, and they do not make their own clothes. But I tell you that King wore glorious clothes, never dressed as beautifully as a **lived long ago** and Solomon, who God makes the plants beautiful, even though they grow for only a short²⁸ single flower **But you are very precious to** time. Then people cut them down and throw them into the fire

He will care for you even more than he cares for the plants. You should trust God **.God** As for you, do not wonder about what you will eat and drink, and do²⁹ more than you do While the people who do not know God all worry³⁰ **.about those things** not keep worrying your Father in heaven knows that you need **you can be confident that** ,about such things ,Instead, concentrate on what you can do for the kingdom of God. When you do³¹ .them .you can trust God to provide everything you need

So you should not be afraid, my friends. Your Father in heaven wants you to be part³²

So sell the things you own and give the³³ **.and receive all of its benefits** of his kingdom money to people who need food or clothing or a place to live. Get yourselves wallets that do not wear out. I mean store up treasure in heaven where it will always be safe. There no After all, whatever it is³⁴ thief can steal anything and no moths will destroy your clothing .that you treasure, that is what you will think about and spend your time on

like people who have put on their work **,ready for doing God’s work** be **Always**³⁵

like servants **,ready for me to return** Be³⁶ clothes and are keeping the lights on all night who are waiting for their master to return after being at a wedding feast. They are waiting

It will be very³⁷ to open the door for him as soon as he arrives and knocks at the door :good for those servants if they are awake when their master returns. Let me tell you this He will reward them by dressing like a servant, telling them to sit down, and serving them a

Even if he comes home late in the evening or in the middle of the night, if he³⁸ meal

.finds that his servants are awake and ready for him, he will be very pleased with them
,And I want you to consider this: If the owner of a house knew that a thief was coming³⁹
So be⁴⁰ .and at what time, he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house
”.ready, because I, the Son of Man, will come again at a time when you do not expect me

Peter asked, “Lord, are you giving this illustration only for us, your disciples? Or is⁴¹
Jesus replied, “I am saying it for everyone who is like a faithful⁴² ”?it for the crowd too
and wise servant who is a manager in his master’s house. His master puts him in charge of
If his master⁴³ .his other servants, to make sure they get their food at the proper time
Let me tell⁴⁴ .comes home and sees that he is doing that work, he will reward that servant
But that servant who⁴⁵ .you this: The master will put that servant in charge of all he owns
,was put in charge might say to himself, ‘My master is going to be away for a long time
Then he might start to beat the other servants. He might also start to eat and drink a lot and
If he does that, his master might return at a time when the servant does not⁴⁶ .get drunk
expect him. Then his master will punish him severely and assign him a place with those
The servant who knew what his master wanted but did⁴⁷ .who do not serve him faithfully
But every servant who did not know⁴⁸ .not get ready and do it will be severely punished
what his master wanted him to do, and then did something wrong, will only get a mild
.punishment. The master will expect much from all servants to whom he has given much
And the master will expect even more from servants whom he has entrusted with many
.responsibilities

I came to stir up spiritual passions in people. I wish that they were already acting on⁴⁹
Soon I must go through terrible suffering. I will continue to be distressed until I⁵⁰ !them
You should know that I did not come so that people would live⁵¹ .finish my suffering
together peacefully. No, you must understand that instead, people will take sides for and
Be prepared, because this is what is going to happen. In a family of five⁵² .against me
people, some will believe in me and some will not. Three family members will join
Family members will conflict. A father will oppose his⁵³ .together against the other two
son, or a son will oppose his father. A mother will oppose her daughter, or a daughter will
oppose her mother. A mother-in-law will oppose her daughter-in-law, or a daughter-in-law
”.will oppose her mother-in-law

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a dark cloud forming in the west, you⁵⁴
When the wind blows⁵⁵ .immediately say ‘It is going to rain!’ and that is what happens
You⁵⁶ .from the south, you say, ‘It is going to be a very hot day!’ and you are right
hypocrites! By observing the clouds and the wind, you are able to discern what is

happening regarding the weather. You should be able to discern what God is doing at this
!present time

Here is one thing you⁵⁸ !Each of you ought to decide for yourselves what is right⁵⁷
should do. You should try to settle things with someone who has accused you while you are
still on the way to the court. If he forces you to go to the judge, the judge could decide that
you are guilty and turn you over to the court officer. Then that officer will put you in
I tell you that if you go to prison, you will never get out of there until you are⁵⁹ .prison
”.able to pay every bit of what the judge says you owe

At that time, some people who were there in the crowd told Jesus about what¹ 13
had recently happened to some Galileans. Pilate, the Roman governor, had ordered soldiers
Jesus² .to kill the Galileans while they were offering sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem
replied to them, “Do you think that this happened to those people from Galilee because
!I assure you, that was not the reason³ ?they were more sinful than all the other Galileans
.Instead, God will similarly punish all of you if you do not turn from your sinful behavior
Siloam the neighborhood of Or what about those 18 people who died when the tower in⁴
fell on them? Do you think that this happened to them because they were worse sinners
I assure you, that was not the reason! But instead, you⁵ ?than everyone else in Jerusalem
need to realize that God will similarly punish all of you if you do not turn from your sinful
”!behavior

he Each year .Then Jesus told them this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden⁶
,Then he said to the gardener⁷ .none on it always came to pick the figs, but there were
Look at this tree! I have been looking for fruit on it every year for the past three years, but‘
’!there have been no figs. Cut it down! It is just using up the nutrients in the soil for nothing
But the gardener replied, ‘Sir, leave it here for another year. I will dig around it and⁸
If it has figs on it next year, we can allow it to keep growing! But if it does not⁹ .fertilize it
””.bear any fruit by then, you can cut it down

.On one Jewish day of rest, Jesus was teaching people in one of the synagogues¹⁰
There was a woman there whom an evil spirit had crippled for 18 years. She was always¹¹
When Jesus saw her, he called her over to¹² .bent over. She could not stand up straight
He put his hands on¹³ ”!him. He said to her, “Woman, I have healed you of this illness
But the leader of the¹⁴ !her. Immediately she stood up straight and began praising God
synagogue was angry because Jesus had healed her on the Jewish rest day. So he said to the
people, “There are six days each week on which our laws permit people to work. If you
need healing, those are the days to come to the synagogue for someone to heal you. Do not

Then Jesus replied to him, “You and your fellow religious¹⁵ ”!come on our day of rest also works on the day of rest sometimes! For example, you leaders are hypocrites! Each of you This¹⁶ .untie your ox or donkey to lead it from the stall to a place where it can drink water woman is a Jew, descended from Abraham! But Satan has kept her crippled for 18 years, as though he had tied her up! Certainly you would agree that it is right that I free her from this After he said that, his enemies were¹⁷ ”!disabling disease, even if I do it on a day of rest ashamed of themselves. But all the other people were happy about all the wonderful things .he was doing

Then he said, “I want to explain what it is like when God rules as king. I will give¹⁸ It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in¹⁹ .you a picture to help you understand his field. It grew until it became big, like a tree. It was so big that birds built nests in its ”.branches

.Then again he said, “I will tell you in another (way what) it is like when God rules²⁰ It is like a little bit of yeast that a woman mixed with about 25 kilograms of flour. That²¹ ”.small amount of yeast made the whole batch of dough swell up

Jesus continued traveling toward Jerusalem. He stopped in all the towns and villages²² Someone asked him, “Lord, will God only save a²³ .along the way and taught the people You need to try hard to“²⁴ ,few people?” Jesus replied so that everyone there could hear enter, because it is very difficult. I tell you that many people will try to get in, but they will

After the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, you will stand²⁵ .not be able to ,outside and you will knock on the door. And you will beg the owner and say to him, ‘Lord ,open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘No, I will not open it, because I do not know you

You must have forgotten‘ ,Then you will say²⁶ ’!and I do not know where you are from But he will²⁷ ’!we ate meals with you, and you taught us in the streets of our towns **that** say, ‘I tell you again, I do not know where you are from. You are all wicked people! Get You will see Abraham and Isaac and“ ,**Then Jesus continued by saying**²⁸ ”!away from here

All the prophets who lived long ago will also be there where God .**in the distance** Jacob !rules everything as king. But you will be outside, crying and grinding your teeth in sorrow **including many non-Jewish** ,But inside there will be people from every part of the world²⁹ Think about³⁰ .They will all celebrate together where God rules everything as king .**people** this: Some people who seem the least important now will be the most important then, and ”.others who seem important now will be the least important then

That same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Leave this area, because the³¹ He replied to them, “Go and tell that cunning³² ”!ruler Herod Antipas wants to kill you

this message from me: 'Listen! I am ,who thinks he can hurt me but who really cannot ,man expelling demons and performing miracles now, and I will continue doing so for a short But I must also continue my trip to Jerusalem³³ '.time. After that, I will finish my work it is not appropriate the Jewish leaders have always acted as if during the coming days, since .to kill a prophet in a place other than Jerusalem

Oh, people of Jerusalem! You killed the prophets who lived long ago. Then you³⁴ killed others whom God sent to you. You killed them by throwing stones at them. Many times I have wanted to gather you together to protect you, as a hen gathers her young Now look! God will no³⁵ .chicks under her wings. But you did not want me to do that longer protect you, people of Jerusalem. I will also tell you this: I will enter your city only once more. After that, you will not see me until the time when I return, and then you will ""!say about me, 'May God bless this man who comes with God's authority

One day, which was a day of rest, Jesus went to eat at the house of one of the¹ 14 They were .This leader had invited other Pharisees to the same meal .leaders of the Pharisees Right there in front of² .to try to find grounds to accuse him all watching Jesus carefully .Jesus was a man who had a disease that caused his arms and legs to be very swollen Jesus asked the experts in Jewish law and the Pharisees who were present, "Is it³ They did not reply. So⁴ ""?permitted in the law to heal people on the day of rest, or not And he⁵ .Jesus put his hands on the man and healed him. Then he told him he could go said to the others there, "If one of you had a son or an ox that fell into a well on the day of .Again, they were not able to answer him⁶ ".rest, you would pull him out immediately Jesus noticed that the people who had been invited to the meal were choosing to sit in⁷ When⁸ .the places where important people usually sit. So he gave this advice to them someone invites one of you to a wedding feast, do not sit in a place where important people .sit. It may be that he has invited a person who is more important than you to the feast When the host who invited both of you sees where you are each sitting, he will say to⁹ ,you, 'Let this person have your seat!' Then you will have to take the least important seat Instead, when someone invites you to a feast, go and sit in the¹⁰ .and you will be ashamed ,least important seat. Then when the host who invited everyone comes, he will say to you Friend, come sit in a better seat!' Then all the people who are eating with you will see that ' For God will humble those who exalt themselves, and he will exalt¹¹ .he is honoring you ".those who humble themselves

Jesus also said to the Pharisee who had invited him to the meal, "When you invite¹² people to a midday or evening meal, do not only invite your friends, relatives, or rich

Instead, when you¹³ .neighbors, since they will later repay you by inviting you for a meal
If you do¹⁴ .give a feast, invite poor people, crippled people, lame people or blind people
that, God will reward you, because they will not be able to repay you. You can be sure that
”.God will pay you back at the time when he causes righteous people to become alive again

One of those who were eating with him heard him say that. He said to Jesus, “God¹⁵
”!has truly blessed everyone who will get to celebrate where God rules everything as king
Jesus replied to him, “One time a man decided to prepare a large feast. He invited many¹⁶
When it was time for the feast, he sent his servant to tell those whom he¹⁷ .people to come
But when the servant did that, all¹⁸ ’!had invited, ‘Come now, because everything is ready
of the people whom he had invited began to say why they could not come. The first man to
.whom the servant went said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go there and see it
Another person said, ‘I have just¹⁹ ’!Please ask your master to forgive me for not coming
bought five pairs of oxen, and I must go to examine them. Please ask your master to forgive
'!Another person said, ‘I have just gotten married, so I cannot come²⁰ ’!me for not coming
So the servant returned to his master and reported what everyone had said. The owner of²¹
the house was angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and alleys of the
city and find poor and crippled and blind and lame people, and bring them here into my
said, ‘Sir, I have done **went out and did that, he came back and** the servant **After**²² ’!house
So his master said to²³ ’.what you told me to do, but there is still room for more people
him, ‘Then go outside the city. Search for people along the highways. Search also along the
narrow roads with hedges. Strongly urge the people in those places to come to my house. I
Moreover I tell you this, those men whom I invited first will²⁴ !want it to be full of people
””.**because they refused to come** ,not get to enjoy my feast

A large crowd of people was traveling with Jesus. He turned toward the people and²⁵
If anyone comes to me who loves his father and mother and wife and²⁶ ,said to them
children and brothers and sisters more than he loves me, he can not be my disciple. He
Whoever does not carry his own²⁷ !must even love me more than he loves his own life
After all, if one of you wanted to²⁸ .cross and does not obey me cannot be my disciple
build a tower, you would first sit down and determine how much it would cost. That way
Otherwise, if you laid the²⁹ .you would know whether you had enough money to finish it
foundation and were not able to finish the rest of the tower, everyone who saw it would
They would say, ‘This man started to build a tower, but he was not³⁰ .make fun of you
Or suppose a king had 10,000 soldiers in his army. And suppose³¹ ’!able to finish it
another king who had 20,000 soldiers was coming to attack him. Before sending his army
out to battle, that first king would certainly sit down with his advisors to determine whether

Suppose he decided his army could not defeat the³² .he could defeat the other king's army other army. Then he would send messengers to the other king while his army was still far away. He would tell the messengers to ask, 'What must I do to have peace with you?' So, similarly, if any one of you does not first decide that you are willing to give up all³³ that you have, you cannot be my disciple

is very useful. But if salt were to lose its which ,salt Jesus also said, "You are like³⁴ ,If salt does not taste salty anymore³⁵ .saltiness, no one could ever make it taste salty again .it is no longer any good even for the soil or the manure heap. People just throw it away "!"You should think carefully about what you just heard me say

Now, many tax collectors and other people whom the religious leaders¹ 15 the Pharisees When² .considered to be sinners kept coming to Jesus to listen to him teach began to grumble. They said, "This man saw this, they and teachers of the Jewish laws They thought Jesus was defiling himself by doing ".welcomes sinners and even eats with them Suppose that one of you had 100 sheep and you"⁴ :So Jesus told them this parable³ .that lost one of them. Certainly you would leave the 99 other sheep in the wilderness and go When you found it, you would joyfully⁵ .search for the lost sheep until you had found it Then when you arrived home, you would call⁶ .put it on your shoulders to carry it home together your friends and neighbors and say to them: 'Be joyful with me, because I have You should know that, in a similar way, there is great joy⁷ '!'found my sheep that was lost among those in heaven when one sinner repents from his sins. That joy is greater than their .joy over many people who are already right with God and do not need to repent

Or suppose that a woman had ten valuable silver coins but lost one of them. Certainly⁸ When⁹ .she would light a lamp and sweep the floor and search carefully until she found it she found it, she would call together her friends and neighbors and say to them, 'Be very I tell you that, in a similar¹⁰ '!'happy with me, because I have found the coin that I lost ".way, there is much joy among the angels of God when one sinner repents from his sins

One¹² .Then Jesus continued and said, "There once was a man who had two sons¹¹ day the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me now the share of your property that I would otherwise have received when you died.' So the father divided his property Only a few days later, the younger son gathered together all that¹³ .between his two sons he owned and traveled to a country far away. There in that country he spent all his money After he had spent all his money, there was a¹⁴ .foolishly in wasteful, immoral living So¹⁵ .severe famine throughout that country. Soon he did not have anything left to live on he went to a man who lived in that country and asked him to hire him. So the man sent him

he wished he could eat the **He became so hungry that**¹⁶ .out to his fields to feed his pigs
 Finally he began to think¹⁷ .bean pods that the pigs ate, yet no one gave him anything
 clearly about how foolish he had been, and he said to himself: ‘All of my father’s hired
 servants have more than enough food to eat, but here I am dying because I do not have
 ,So I will leave here and go back to my father. I will say to him, “Father¹⁸ !anything to eat
 I do not deserve to have you consider me¹⁹ .I have sinned against God and against you
 So he²⁰ ”.your son any more. Please let me work for you as one of your hired servants
 left there and started traveling back to his father’s house. But while he was still a great
 distance from the house, his father saw him and felt deep compassion for him. He ran to his
 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have²¹ .son and embraced him and kissed him on the cheek
 sinned against God and against you. So I do not deserve to have you consider me your son
 But his father said to his servants; ‘Go quickly and bring my best robe and²² ’.any more
 And bring the calf²³ !put it on my son. Also put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet
 !that we have fattened for a special occasion and kill it, so that we can eat it and celebrate
 We need to celebrate because this son of mine was like a dead man, but he is now alive²⁴
 again! He was like a lost person, but we have found him again!’ So they all began to
 .celebrate

.the father’s older son was out working in the fields ,**While all that was happening**²⁵
 he headed home. As he was getting close to the house, he heard ,**After he finished working**
 He called for one of the servants and asked what was²⁶ .people playing music and dancing
 The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has come home. Your father told us to²⁷ .happening
 But²⁸ ’.kill the fattened calf to celebrate because your brother returned safe and healthy
 the older brother was angry and did not want to join the celebration. So his father came out
 But he replied to his father, ‘Listen! For all these²⁹ .and pleaded with him to come in
 years I have worked as hard as a slave for you. I have always obeyed everything you told
 me to do. But you have never given me so much as a young goat that I could use to host a
 But now that this son of yours has come back home, after wasting³⁰ .feast for my friends
 all your money on prostitutes, you have told your servants to kill the fattened calf for a
 But his father said to him, ‘My son, you are always with me, and all that I³¹ ’!celebration
 But it is right for us to celebrate and rejoice, because it is as though your³² .own is yours
 brother was dead and is alive again! It is as though he was lost and we have him found
 ”!again

Jesus also said to his disciples, “Once there was a rich man who had a¹ **16**
 household manager. One day someone informed the rich man that the manager was doing
 So he called the manager to² .such a bad job that the rich man was losing lots of money

come to him and said to him, ‘What I hear you have been doing is terrible! Give me a final written report of the things you have been managing, because you will no longer be my manager. Then the manager said to himself, ‘My master is going to dismiss³’!household manager me from being his manager, so I have to think of what to do. I am not strong enough to I know what I will do so⁴.work by digging ditches, and I am ashamed to beg for money after he dismisses me from my **and provide for me** that people will take me into their houses So he asked everyone who owed his master money to come to him⁵’!management work The man⁶’?one by one. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe my master’ replied, ‘3,000 liters of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down, and He said to another man, ‘How much do you owe?’ The⁷’!quickly change it to 1,500 liters man replied, ‘1,000 baskets of wheat.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your bill and change praised the **heard what his manager had done, he** the master **When**⁸’!it to 800 baskets dishonest manager for being so clever. The truth is, the people who belong to this world are .more clever than the people who belong to God in how they relate to those around them I tell you, use the money you have in this world to make friends for yourselves. Then⁹ when that money is gone, those friends will welcome you into their homes, which will last People who faithfully manage small amounts of money will also be honest with¹⁰.forever much greater amounts. People who are dishonest in the way they manage small amounts of So if you have not faithfully¹¹.money will also be dishonest with much greater amounts in this world, he will certainly not trust you with the **God has given you** handled the money If you have not faithfully managed property that belongs to other¹².**of heaven** true riches No servant is¹³.people, you should not expect anyone to give you property of your own able to serve two different masters at the same time. If he tried to do that, he would hate one of them and love the other one, or he would be loyal to one of them and despise the other one. You cannot devote your life to serving God if you are also devoting your life to ”.acquiring money and other material possessions

heard what Jesus was teaching, they made fun of **who were there** When the Pharisees¹⁴

But Jesus said to them, “You try to make¹⁵.him because they loved to acquire money other people think that you are righteous, but God knows what you are really like. Keep in .mind that God considers to be detestable many things that people praise as very important

The laws that God gave Moses and the things that the prophets wrote were in effect¹⁶ until John the Baptizer came. Since then, I have been preaching the good news about how are very eagerly trying to **are accepting my message and** God will rule as king. Many people

All of God’s laws, even those that seem¹⁷.become part of the kingdom of God .insignificant, are more permanent than heaven and earth

,Any man who divorces his wife and marries another woman is committing adultery¹⁸
and any man who marries a woman whose husband has divorced her is also committing
”.adultery

Once there was a rich man who wore expensive purple and linen“ ,Jesus also said¹⁹
people laid a poor man whose **every day** And²⁰ .clothes. Every day he gave lavish feasts
name was Lazarus at the gate of the rich man’s house. Lazarus’ body was covered with
he wanted to eat the scraps of food that fell from the table **He was so hungry that**²¹ .sores
.dogs came and licked his sores ,**While he was lying there** .where the rich man ate
his ancestor Eventually the poor man died. Then the angels took him to be with²²
,In the place of the dead²³ .Abraham. The rich man also died, and people buried his body
the rich man was suffering great pain. He looked up and saw Abraham far away and
So the rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, I am²⁴ .Lazarus sitting very close to Abraham
suffering very much in this fire! So please pity me and send Lazarus here so that he can dip
,But Abraham replied, ‘Child²⁵ ’!his finger in water and touch my tongue to cool it
remember that while you were alive on earth you enjoyed many good things. But Lazarus
Besides that, God has²⁶ .was miserable. Now he is happy here, and you are suffering
placed a huge ravine between you and us. So those who want to go from here to you there
Then²⁷ ’.are not able to. Furthermore, no one can cross from there to where we are, either
the rich man said, ‘If that is so, Father Abraham, I ask you to send Lazarus to my family
Tell him to warn them so that they do not also .**who live there** I have five brothers²⁸ .home
No, I will not do‘ ,But Abraham replied²⁹ ’!come to this place where we suffer great pain
your brothers have what Moses and the prophets wrote long ago. They should **that because**
that will not be ,But the rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham³⁰ ’!obey what they wrote
But if someone from those who have died goes back to them and warns them, they !**enough**
Abraham said to him, ‘So they would not obey³¹ ’.will turn from their sinful behavior
what Moses and the prophets wrote. Then it would not help even if someone from among
the people who have died went and warned them. They would still not believe that they
””.should turn from their sinful behavior

Jesus said to his disciples, “Things that tempt people to sin will certainly¹ 17

It² !happen. But how terrible it will be for anyone who causes those things to happen
would be better for that person if someone fastened a huge stone around his neck and threw
Be³ .him into the sea than if he were to cause someone to sin whose faith was weak
careful how you act. If another believer sins, you should rebuke him. If he says that he is
Even if⁴ .sorry for having sinned and asks you to forgive him, then you should forgive him

he sins against you seven times in one day, if he comes to you each time and says, ‘I am
”.sorry for what I did,’ you must continue forgiving him

Jesus replied, “Even if⁶ ”!Then the representatives said to Jesus, “Give us more faith⁵
you had faith that was no bigger than this tiny mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry
tree, ‘Pull yourself out of the ground, roots and all, and plant yourself in the sea,’ and it
”!would obey you

Suppose that one of you had a servant who was plowing your fields“ ,Jesus also said⁷
or taking care of your sheep. After he came into the house from the field, you would not
Instead, you would say to him, ‘Prepare a⁸ ’!say, ‘Come immediately and sit down to eat
meal for me! Then put on your serving clothes and serve it to me so that I can eat and
You would not thank your servant just for⁹ ’.drink! Afterwards you can eat and drink
Similarly, when you have done everything¹⁰ !doing the work that he had been told to do
that God has told you to do, you should say, ‘We are only God’s servants. We do not
”’.deserve to have you thank us. We have only done the things that he told us to do

As Jesus and his disciples were walking along the road to Jerusalem, they were¹¹
As Jesus entered a¹² .going through the area between the regions of Samaria and Galilee
They called¹³ .village, ten lepers came toward him, but they stood at some distance away
,When Jesus saw them, he said to them¹⁴ ”!out, “Jesus, Master, please have pity on us
Go and have the priests examine you.” So they went, and on the way, their leprosy“
,Then one of them, when he saw that he no longer had leprosy, went back¹⁵ .disappeared
he lay down on the ground with his face at He came to Jesus and¹⁶ .praising God loudly
Then Jesus said, “I healed¹⁷ .Jesus’ feet, and he thanked him. This man was a Samaritan
This foreign man¹⁸ !ten lepers! I would have expected the other nine to come back as well
Then he¹⁹ ”!was the only one who returned to thank God. None of the others came back
said to the man, “Get up and go on your way. God has healed you because you trusted in
”.me

One day some Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will God begin to rule everyone?” He²⁰
.replied, “That will not happen with signs that people can recognize if they watch for them
”!People will not be able to say, ‘Look! God is ruling here!’ or ‘God is ruling there²¹
”.God has already begun to rule within you ,Contrary to what you think

Jesus said to his disciples, “There will be a time when you will want to see me, the²²
,People will say to you, ‘Look²³ .Son of Man, ruling powerfully. But you will not see that
do not ,When they say that ’!the Messiah is over there!’ or they will say, ‘Look, he is here

For when the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the²⁴ .follow them
 Similarly, when I, the Son of Man, come back again, everyone .everyone can see it ,other
 But before that happens, I must suffer in many ways, and people will reject²⁵ .will see me
 But when I, the Son of Man, come again, people will be doing things just like²⁶ .me
 as At that time people ate and drank²⁷ .people were doing at the time when Noah lived
 up until the day when Noah and his family entered the ,as usual and they got married ,usual
 .big boat. But then the flood came and destroyed all those who were not in the boat
 They .as usual ate and drank there people ,in the city of Sodom Similarly, when Lot lived²⁸
 .as usual bought things and they sold things. They planted crops and they built houses
 But on the day that Lot left Sodom, fire and burning sulfur came down from the sky and²⁹
 Similarly, when I, the Son of Man, return³⁰ .destroyed all those who had stayed in the city
 ,On that day, those who are outside their houses³¹ .to earth, people will be unprepared
 with all the things that they own inside the houses, must not take the time to go inside and
 get them. Similarly, those who are out working in a field must not come back home to get
 Anyone³³ !Remember what happened to Lot's wife³² .They must flee quickly .anything
 who continues in his own way of living will die. But anyone who leaves his old way of
 I tell you this: On the night when I return, there will³⁴ .will live forever for my sake living
 be two people sleeping in one bed. God will take the one who believes in me and leave the
 Two women will be grinding grain together. God will take one of³⁵ .other one behind
 There will be two in the field; one will be“] ²³⁶ ”.them and leave the other one behind
 His disciples said to him, “Lord, where will this happen?” He³⁷ [”.taken and the other left
 ”.replied to them, “Wherever there is a dead body, the vultures will gather to eat it

Jesus told his disciples another story to teach them that they should pray¹ 18
 .if God did not immediately answer their prayers continually and not become discouraged
 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not revere God and did not care²
 ,There was a widow in that city who kept coming to that judge, saying³ .about people
 For a long time⁴ ’.Please get justice for me against the man who is opposing me in court‘
 the judge refused to help her. But later, he said to himself, ‘I do not revere God and I do not
 But this widow keeps bothering me! So I will judge her case and make⁵ .care about people
 sure she is treated fairly. I am concerned that if I do not do that, she will exhaust me by
 Then Jesus said, “Think carefully about what the unjust⁶ ”!continually coming to me
 bring about justice for his chosen ,who is just ,certainly will God Even more⁷ .judge said
 I tell⁸ .people, who pray earnestly to him all day long! And he is always patient with them

you, God will quickly bring about justice for his chosen ones! Nevertheless when I, the Son
”.of Man, come back to earth, there will still be many people who do not believe in me

Then Jesus also told the following story to some people who thought they were⁹

Two men went up to the“ ,He said¹⁰ .righteous and who looked down on other people
temple in Jerusalem to pray. One of the men was a Pharisee. The other man was someone
The Pharisee stood and¹¹ .who collected taxes from the people for the Roman government
prayed about himself in this way, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like other people. Some
steal money from others. Some treat others unjustly. Some commit adultery. I do not do any
I¹² !of those things. And I am certainly not like this sinful tax collector who cheats people
’!fast on two days during every week, and I give ten percent of all that I earn to the temple
But the tax collector stood far away from the other people in the temple courtyard. He¹³
,would not even look up toward heaven. Instead, he beat on his chest and said, ‘O God
Then Jesus said, “I tell you that as¹⁴ ”!please forgive me, because I am a terrible sinner
they left to go home, God had forgiven the tax collector, but God had not forgiven the
Pharisee. This is because God will humble everyone who exalts himself, and God will exalt
”.everyone who humbles himself

One day people were bringing even their babies to Jesus so that he would put his¹⁵
.hands on them and bless them. When the disciples saw this, they told them not to do that
But Jesus called for the children to be brought to him. He said, “Let the little children¹⁶
people like these children **humble and trusting** come to me! Do not stop them, because it is
Indeed, I say to you that whoever will not humbly and¹⁷ .who let God rule their lives
”.trustingly let God rule over his life will not accept God’s rule at all

Once a Jewish leader asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do in order to have¹⁸
Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? God is the only one¹⁹ ”?everlasting life
!who is truly good

that God gave to you know the commandments In answer to your question, certainly²⁰
Do not commit adultery. Do not murder anyone. Do not steal. Do not ‘ :**Moses for us to obey**
The man said, “I have obeyed all²¹ ”.give a false report. Honor your father and mother
When Jesus heard him say that, he²² ”.those commandments ever since I was young
replied to him, “You still need to do one more thing. Sell all that you own. Then give the
money to people who have very little to live on. The result will be that you will have
The man became very sad²³ ”!spiritual riches in heaven. Then come and be my disciple
When Jesus looked at the man and²⁴ .when he heard that, because he was extremely rich

In fact, it²⁵ .said, “It is very difficult for those who are wealthy to let God rule over them is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for rich people to let God rule Those who heard Jesus say that replied, “Then it seems that God will not²⁶ ”.their lives But Jesus said, “What is impossible for²⁷ ”!consider that anyone should have eternal life Then Peter said, “What about us? We have left everything²⁸ ”.people is possible for God Jesus said to them, “I can assure you that²⁹ ”.we had in order to become your disciples those who have left their homes, their wives, their brothers, their parents, or their children will receive in this life many times as much as they³⁰ in order to let God rule over them ”.left behind and, in the coming age, they will receive everlasting life

Jesus took his 12 representatives to a place by themselves. He said to them, “Listen³¹ carefully! We are on our way to Jerusalem. While we are there, everything that the prophets This will happen when my³² .wrote long ago about me, the Son of Man, will happen enemies turn me over to the authorities who are not Jews. They will mock me, treat me They will whip me and then they will kill me. But two³³ .with disdain, and spit on me But the disciples did not understand any of those³⁴ ”.days later I will become alive again things that he said. God prevented them from recognizing their significance, so they did not .know what Jesus meant by what he was telling them

As Jesus and his disciples came near to the city of Jericho, a blind man was sitting³⁵ When he heard a crowd of people passing³⁶ .beside the road. He was begging for money There is a“ ,They told him³⁷ ”?What is happening“ ,those around him by, he kept asking He³⁸ ”.Jesus, the man from the town of Nazareth, is coming down the street crowd because Those³⁹ ”!shouted, “Jesus, you who are descended from King David, have pity on me who were walking at the front of the crowd scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he ”!shouted even more loudly, “You who are descended from King David, have pity on me Jesus stopped walking and commanded the people to bring the man to him. When the⁴⁰ What do you want me to do for you?” He⁴¹ ,blind man came near, Jesus asked him Jesus said to him, “Then I now restore⁴² ”!replied, “Lord, I want you to enable me to see Immediately he was⁴³ ”!your sight! Because you have trusted in me, I have healed you ,able to see. And he went with Jesus, praising God. And when all the people there saw this .they also praised God

There was a man² .Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city¹ 19 He³ .there named Zacchaeus. He was in charge of collecting taxes, and he was very rich and wanted to see Jesus, but he could not see him over the crowd. He was a very short man

So he ran farther down the road. He climbed a⁴ .there were many people around Jesus

When Jesus got there, he⁵ .sycamore fig tree so he could see Jesus when he came by looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, I have to stay at your house But⁷ .So he came down quickly. He was glad to welcome Jesus into his home⁶ ”!tonight the people who saw Jesus go there grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a real Then Zacchaeus stood up while they were eating and said to Jesus, “Lord, I want⁸ ”!sinner you to know that I am going to give half of what I own to poor people. And as for the people whom I have cheated, I will pay them back four times the amount I took from Jesus said to him, “Today God has saved this household, because this man has⁹ ”.them Remember this: I, the Son of Man, came¹⁰ .shown that he is a true descendant of Abraham ”.who have been disobeying God like you to find and save people

The people were listening to everything Jesus said. He was getting close to¹¹ They thought he would begin to .and he knew that the people had a wrong idea ,Jerusalem rule as king over God’s people as soon as he got to Jerusalem. So Jesus decided to tell them He said, “A prince was preparing to go to a distant¹² .to correct that idea another story country so that a higher king could give him the right to rule over the country where he he ,Before he left¹³ .lived. After he received it, he would come back to rule his people summoned ten of his servants. He gave each of them an equal amount of money. He said to But many people of his¹⁴ .Then he left ’!them, ‘Do business with this money until I return ,to the higher king country hated him. So they sent some messengers to follow him and say he But he was made king anyway. Later¹⁵ ’!We do not want this man to be our king‘ .returned as the new king. Then he called in the servants to whom he had given the money He wanted to know how much they had gained by doing business with the money he had The first servant came to him and said, ‘Sir, with your money I have earned¹⁶ .given them He said to this man, ‘You are a good servant! You have done very¹⁷ ’!ten times as much well! Because you have faithfully taken care of a small amount of money, I will give you Then the second servant came and said, ‘Sir, the money you gave¹⁸ ’.ten cities to rule over I will put !Well done‘ ,He also said to that servant¹⁹ ’!me is now worth five times as much Then another servant came. He said, ‘Sir, here is your money. I²⁰ ’.you over five cities I was afraid that you would take²¹ .wrapped it up in a cloth and hid it to keep it safe everything I earned. I know you are a hard man who takes things from others that do not really belong to you. You are like a farmer who harvests grain that another farmer has He said to that servant, ‘You wicked servant! I will condemn you by the words²² ’.planted you just said. You said I am a hard man. You said I take what does not belong to me. You So you should at²³ .said I am like a farmer who harvests what another farmer has planted least have given my money to money lenders! Then when I returned I could have collected

Then the king said to those who²⁴ '!that amount plus the interest it would have earned were standing near, 'Take the money from him and give it to the servant who made ten But the²⁶ '!They protested, 'But sir, he already has a lot of money²⁵ '!times as much king said, 'I tell you this: To the people who use well what they have received, I will give even more. But from the people who do not use well what they have received, I will take Now, as for those enemies of mine who did not want²⁷ .away even what they already have '''!me to rule over them, bring them here and execute them while I am watching

.After Jesus said those things, he traveled farther along on the road up to Jerusalem²⁸
When they got close to the villages of Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of²⁹
He told them, "Go to the village just ahead³⁰ .Olives, he sent two of his disciples on ahead of you. As you enter it, there you will see a young donkey tied up that no one has ever If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying the³¹ .ridden. Untie it and bring it to me So the two disciples went to the village and³² '''donkey?' say to him, 'Jesus needs it As they were untying it, its owners said to³³ .found the donkey, just as Jesus had told them They replied, "Jesus needs it." And the³⁴ '''?them, "Why are you untying our donkey .Then the disciples brought the donkey to Jesus³⁵ .owners gave them permission to use it Then, as he rode³⁶ .They threw their robes on the donkey's back and helped Jesus get on it As Jesus³⁷ .along, others spread their robes on the road in front of him to honor him approached the road that goes down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of his disciples began to praise God with loud, joyful shouts for all the great miracles that they They were saying things like, "May God bless our king who comes³⁸ .had seen him do with God's authority! May there be peace between God in heaven and us his people, and ,Some of the Pharisees who were in the crowd said to him³⁹ '''!may everyone praise God He replied, "I tell you this: If⁴⁰ '''Teacher, tell your disciples to stop saying those things" '''!these people were silent, the stones themselves would shout to praise me

.When Jesus came near to Jerusalem and saw the city, he cried about its people⁴¹
He said, "I wish that today you people knew how to have God's peace. But now you are⁴²
I want you to know this: You are going to experience difficult⁴³ .unable to know this times. Your enemies will come and set up a barricade around your city. They will surround destroy them and **break through the walls and** They will⁴⁴ .the city and attack it on all sides the rest of the city. They will kill all of you. They will completely demolish everything. All '''!this will happen because you did not recognize the time when God came to save you

But¹⁷ ”!listening to Jesus heard this, they said, “May a situation like this never happen
Jesus looked directly at them and said, “You can say that, but think about the meaning of
.these words that are written in the Scriptures

The stone that the builders rejected has become the most important stone in the‘
.building

This stone will break to pieces everyone who falls on it, and it will crush anyone on¹⁸
””.whom it falls

The chief priests and the teachers of the Jewish laws realized that he was accusing¹⁹
them when he told the story about those wicked people. So they immediately tried to find a
because they were afraid of what the people ,But they did not arrest him .way to arrest him
to talk to So they watched him carefully. They also sent spies²⁰ .would do if they did so
who pretended to be sincere, but who really wanted to get Jesus to say something Jesus
be able to accuse him of encouraging resistance to the Roman wrong. They wanted to

One of them²¹ .of the province turn him over to the governor government so that they could
said to him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right. You do that even if
So tell us²² .important people do not like it. You teach truthfully what God wants us to do
Is it right for us to pay taxes to the Roman government, or .what you think about this matter
But he knew that they were trying to trick him to get him into trouble either with²³ ”?not
,the Jews, who hated to pay those taxes, or with the Roman government. So he said to them

Show me a Roman coin. Then tell me whose picture and name are on it.” So they“²⁴
He said to them, “In²⁵ ”.said, “It has the picture and name of Caesar showed him a coin and
”.that case, give to the government what belongs to it, and give to God what belongs to him
The spies could find nothing wrong with anything that Jesus said while the people were²⁶
standing around him. The spies were so amazed at his answer that they did not say anything
.more

After that, some Sadducees came to Jesus. Their group of Jews taught that no one²⁷
One²⁸ .would rise from the dead. They also intended to ask Jesus a challenging question
of them said to him, “Teacher, Moses taught us Jews what to do if a man dies who has a
wife but no children. His brother should marry the widow so that she can have a child by
Well, there²⁹ .him. People will then consider that child a descendant of the man who died
were seven brothers in one family. The oldest one married a woman, but before she had any

The second brother followed this law and³⁰ .children, he died, leaving her as a widow
Then the third brother married³¹ .married the widow, but the same thing happened to him
her, but the same thing happened again. In the end, all seven brothers, one by one, married
.Afterwards, the woman died, too³² .that woman but died without having any children

Therefore, if it is true that there will be a time when people who have died will become³³ alive again, whose wife do you think that woman will be then? Keep in mind that she was ,Jesus replied to them, “In this world, men marry women³⁴ ”!married to all seven brothers But the people whom God will consider³⁵ .and parents give daughters in marriage to men worthy of being in heaven when he brings them back to life after they have died will not because they cannot die anymore. Rather, they are like the **They do not marry**³⁶ .marry They are God’s children, since God has made them alive again after .**who live forever** angels **Now that I have answered your question about marriage, I will show from**³⁷ .they have died that God does make people alive again after they have died. Even Moses wrote **Scripture** about this. In the place where he describes meeting God at the burning bush, he records how the Lord called himself ‘the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of **God would not have said that if he had not made those men alive again and he were not** ’.Jacob After all, he is not the God of people who are dead. He is the God of³⁸ .**still their God** ”.**even after they die** people who are alive, because to God, everyone remains alive

replied, “Teacher, you have **who were there** Some of the teachers of the Jewish law³⁹ because the people who had been trying to **The scribes said this**⁴⁰ ”!answered very well **were had stopped asking him difficult questions. He had answered so well that they** trap Jesus .afraid to ask him anything else

He said, “Why do .**Jesus asked them a difficult question of his own** ,So in return⁴¹ Consider that David⁴² ?a descendant of King David **only** people say that the Messiah is ,**about the Messiah** himself wrote in the Book of Psalms

,God said to my Lord‘
.in that position of great honor ,Sit here next to me on my right side“
 ””.while I completely defeat your enemies **Sit here**⁴³

.That is a title of great respect ’.In this psalm, King David calls the Messiah ‘my Lord⁴⁴ **It is the descendant who should show** ?So how could the Messiah be David’s descendant
 ”.**great respect to the ancestor**

Make“⁴⁶ ,Then, while all the other people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples⁴⁵ sure that you do not act like the men who teach our Jewish laws. They like to put on long robes and walk around to make people think that they are very important. They also like people to greet them respectfully in the marketplaces. They like to sit in the most important seats in the synagogues. At dinner parties they like to sit in the places for the most honored steal all the property of widows. But to make other people think that **also** They⁴⁷ .people

God will condemn them strictly for .in public they are righteous, they pray for a long time
”.what they have done

and saw rich people putting from where he was sitting Then Jesus looked up¹ 21

He also saw a poor² .in the temple courtyard into the offering boxes of money their gifts
,to his disciples And he said³ .widow put two small copper coins into one of the boxes
of these rich than all into the offering box The truth is that this poor widow has put more“
gave a lot of money, but it rich people Let me tell you why that is true. All those⁴ .people
was extra money that they did not really need. But this widow, who is very poor, gave all
”.the money that she had, even though she really did need it to live on

were talking about how the temple was adorned with of Jesus’ disciples Some⁵
Let me tell you“⁶ ,beautiful stones and decorations that people had given. But Jesus said
these things that you are admiring. Someday your enemies will what is going to happen to
”.demolish them entirely

Then they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things happen? And what will show⁷
.Jesus replied, “Do not let anyone mislead you⁸ ”?that these things are about to take place
For many people will come and each will claim to be me. Each will say about himself, ‘I
’!am the Messiah!’ They will also say, ‘The time is almost here when God will rule as king
Also, you will hear about wars and people fighting⁹ !Do not believe what they are saying
when you comes. So of the world each other. Things like that must happen before the end
.do not be afraid ,hear about those things

Various people groups will attack each other, and the people of different kingdoms¹⁰
And in various places there will be great earthquakes. There will¹¹ .will fight each other
also be famines and terrible diseases. Many things will happen that will cause people to be
that will show that something very very afraid. People will see strange things in the sky
your enemies will seize ,happen But before all these things¹² .important is going to happen
whose judges will put you on ,you and treat you badly. They will bring you to the synagogues
prisons. Your enemies will also have kings and high government put you in the and trial
That will be a time for you to tell¹³ .authorities put you on trial because you believe in me
So resolve firmly not to worry ahead of time about what you¹⁴ .them the truth about me
because I will give you the right words so that you will¹⁵ ,will say to defend yourselves
know what to say. As a result, none of the people accusing you will be able to say that you
relatives and other And even your parents and brothers and sisters and¹⁶ .are wrong
Most people will hate you¹⁷ .friends will betray you, and they will kill some of you
If you go¹⁹ .spiritually But your entire being will be safe¹⁸ .because you believe in me

through difficult times and prove that you trust God, after you die your souls will live on in
.God's presence

Jerusalem, then you will know that they **the city of** When you see armies surround²⁰
other places in the At that time those of you who are in²¹ .will soon destroy that city
Judea must escape to the mountains. And those of you who are in this city must **province of**
You²² .leave. Those of you who are in the nearby countryside must not come into the city
When he does .at this time **the city of Jerusalem** because God will punish **should run away**
 ,When this happens²³ .what God has said in the Scriptures about this will come true ,**that**
 .how terrible it will be for pregnant women and for those who are nursing their babies
There will be great suffering in the land. God will be angry with these people and punish
Many of them will die because soldiers will kill them with their²⁴ .them severely
weapons. Their enemies will take others as prisoners and send them to many places around
”.Jerusalem for as long as God allows **the city of** the world. The Gentiles will control

At this time, strange things will happen to the sun, the moon, and the stars. And on²⁵
earth, people groups will become very frightened. They will be as afraid as they would be
People will be so afraid that they will faint because²⁶ .in a roaring ocean with huge waves
they are waiting for what will happen next in the world. The stars in the sky will move out
Then all people will see me, the Son of Man, coming in the clouds²⁷ .of their usual places
 ,So when those terrible things begin to happen²⁸ .powerfully and with brilliant light
”.assume a posture of confidence, because God will soon rescue you

Then Jesus gave them an example. He said, “Think about the fig trees, and even all²⁹
When you see that their leaves are sprouting, you know that it is the beginning³⁰ .the trees
In the same way, when you see these things that I have just described³¹ .of summer
I am telling³² .happening, you will know then that God will soon show himself as king
you the truth. The people who see the first of the signs I have described will definitely live
 .You may think of the sky and the land as permanent³³ .to see all these things happen
 .They are not, but my words are permanent

Be very careful to control yourselves. If you get drunk, your minds will not be alert³⁴
Then .afterwards. And if you worry about day-to-day matters, you will become distracted
I will surprise you **you will not be paying attention to the signs I have told you about, and**
it will be like when a trap springs closed on an **I will come so suddenly that**³⁵ .when I return
because it will affect every person in the ,**So you need to be watching for my return** .animal
So you must be always ready for my coming. Pray that you will be able to stay³⁶ .world
faithful to me as you experience these difficult things that I have been talking about. That
”.**when I come to judge the world** way I, the Messiah, will declare you innocent

out of Each day Jesus was teaching people at the temple. But every evening he went³⁷
And early every morning, great³⁸ .and stayed all night on the Mount of Olives the city
.as he taught crowds of people came to the temple to listen to him

It was now almost time for the Celebration of Unleavened Bread, which¹ 22

The chief priests and the teachers of the Jewish laws² .people also called the Passover
people many were looking for a way to have Jesus killed without starting a riot among the
.who thought he was a great man

Then Satan entered into Judas, whose other name was Iscariot. He was one of 12 men³
He went and talked with the chief priests and⁴ .whom Jesus had chosen to represent him
They were⁵ .the officers of the temple guard about how he might help them capture Jesus
.if he did it They said they would pay him money .when he offered to do that very pleased
So Judas agreed, and then he started looking for a way to help them capture Jesus where⁶
.the crowd would not see it

Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came. This was the day when Jewish people had⁷
So Jesus sent Peter and⁸ .to kill the lambs that they would eat for the Passover celebration
John out with these instructions: “Go and prepare the meal for the Passover celebration so
They replied to him, “Where do you want us to prepare⁹ ”.that we can all eat it together
He answered, “Listen carefully. When you go into the city, a man carrying a¹⁰ ”?the meal
Say to the¹¹ .large jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters
owner of the house, ‘Our teacher says to show us the room where he can eat the Passover
He will show you a large room that is on the upper¹² ’.meal together with us, his disciples
floor of the house. It will be all ready for entertaining guests. Prepare the meal for us
They found everything to be just as Jesus .into the city So the two disciples went¹³ ”.there
.the Passover celebration there the meal for had told them. So they prepared

.When it was time to eat the meal, Jesus came and sat down with his representatives¹⁴
He said to them, “I have wanted very much to eat this special Passover supper with you¹⁵

I tell you, the next time I eat it will be when God gives it its deepest¹⁶ .before I die
Then he took a cup of wine and thanked¹⁷ ”.meaning when he rules everywhere as king
I want you to¹⁸ .God for it. He told them, “Take this wine and share it among yourselves
”.because, I tell you, I will not drink wine again until God rules everywhere as king do this
Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke it into pieces and gave it to¹⁹
them to eat. As he did so, he said, “This bread is my body, which I am about to sacrifice for
In the same way, after they had eaten the meal, he²⁰ ”.you. Do this again later to honor me

took the cup of wine and said, “This is the new covenant that I will make using my own
But I want you all to²¹ .blood, which will flow out of my wounds for you when I die
I say²² .know that the person who will hand me over to my enemies is here eating with me
because I, the Son of Man, will indeed die in the way that God has planned. But how **this**
Then they all began to²³ ”!**to my enemies** terrible it will be for the man who hands me over
.ask each other which of them would actually be prepared to betray Jesus

After that, they began to argue among themselves about which one of them they²⁴
Jesus responded to them, “The kings of the²⁵ .should think was the most important person
Gentile nations like to show people that they are powerful. Yet they give themselves the
But you should not be like those rulers! Instead, the²⁶ ’.name ‘Ones Who Help the People
most honored people among you should act as if they were the least honored ones. Anyone
For you know that the important person is the one²⁷ .who leads must act like a servant
who eats at the table, not the servant who brings the food. But I, your leader, have been
setting an example for you by serving you while I have been among you

You are the people who have stayed with me during all the hard things I have²⁸
So now I am appointing you to important positions in which you will rule, just²⁹ .suffered
You will sit and eat and drink with me³⁰ .as my Father has appointed me to rule as a king
when I become king. In fact, you will sit on thrones and judge the people of the 12 tribes of
”.Israel

test all of you, the **let him to God** Simon, Simon, pay attention! Satan has asked³¹
But I have³² .**and God has permitted him to do that** ,way someone shakes grain in a sieve
.that you will not completely stop believing in me **I have asked God** .prayed for you, Simon
to believe in me as So when you decide that you truly do believe in me, encourage the others
Peter replied to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison. I am even willing³³ ”.**well**
Jesus replied, “Peter, I want you to know that this night, before the³⁴ ”!**to die with you**
”!**rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me**

to the villages, and you went Then Jesus asked the disciples, “When I sent you out³⁵
”?**without any money, food, or sandals, was there anything you needed but could not get**
among you Then Jesus said, “But, now, if anyone³⁶ ”!**They replied, “No, there was nothing**
has some money, he should take it with him. Also, whoever has food should take it with
I tell you³⁷ ”!**him. And whoever does not have a sword should sell his coat and buy one**
this because what a prophet wrote about me in the Scriptures must take place: ‘People
.treated him like a criminal.’ Everything the Scriptures say about me is going to happen

The disciples replied, “Lord, look! We have two swords!” He answered, “We will not³⁸
”.need more than two

Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives, as he usually did. His disciples³⁹
to the place where he often spent the **with his disciples** When Jesus came⁴⁰ .went with him
”.night, he said to them, “Pray that God will help you not to sin when you are tempted
,He said, “Father⁴² .Then he went about 30 meters from them, knelt down, and prayed⁴¹
if you are willing, please allow me not to experience the terrible things that are about to
Then an angel from heaven] ³⁴³ ”.happen. But do not do what I want. Do what you want
He was suffering greatly. So he prayed very ⁴⁴⁴ .came to him and gave him courage
When Jesus got⁴⁵ [.intensely. His sweat was falling to the ground like large drops of blood
up from praying, he returned to his disciples. He discovered that they were sleeping. They
said to them, “This is **woke them up and** He⁴⁶ .were very sad and this had made them tired
nothing tempts **God will help you so that** no time for you to be sleeping! Get up! Pray that
”.you to sin

’While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd of people came to him. Judas, one of Jesus⁴⁷
representatives, was guiding them. He came up to Jesus to greet him with a kiss on the 12

But Jesus said to him, “Judas, how dare you use a kiss to hand me, the Son of⁴⁸ .cheek
,When the disciples realized what was happening, they said⁴⁹ ”!Man, over to my enemies
drew One of them⁵⁰ ”?**to keep them from arresting you** Lord, should we use our weapons“

But⁵¹ .cut off his right ear **only** struck the servant of the high priest, but **his sword and**
Jesus said, “Do not do any more of that!” Then he touched the servant where he had been

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the⁵²⁻⁵³ .wounded and healed him
temple guards, and the Jewish elders who had come to arrest him, “It is surprising that you
have come here with swords and clubs to arrest me, as if I were a robber. For many days I
was with you in the temple, but you did not try to arrest me at all! But this is the time you
are doing what you want. It is also the time when Satan is doing the evil things as he wants
”.to do

The Jewish leaders and soldiers seized Jesus and led him away. They brought him to⁵⁴

Some⁵⁵ .far behind **from a safe distance** the high priest’s house. Peter followed them
people lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together. Peter came and sat
A female servant saw Peter sitting there as the fire shone upon him. She⁵⁶ .among them
”!looked at him carefully and said, “This man was also with the one they have arrested
A little later someone⁵⁸ ”!But he denied it, saying, “Young lady, I do not know him⁵⁷
”!else saw Peter and said, “You also are one of those who were with the man they arrested

About an hour later someone else⁵⁹ ”!But Peter said, “No, mister, I am not one of them Galilee. So he **the region of** is from **speaks shows that he this man The way that**“, said loudly But Peter said, “Mister, that⁶⁰ ”!must certainly have come here with the man they arrested Jesus turned⁶¹ .is not true!” Immediately a rooster crowed, while Peter was still speaking around and looked right at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: “This And he⁶² ”.night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you know me .went out of the courtyard and cried with great sorrow

They put a⁶⁴ .The men who were guarding Jesus made fun of him and beat him⁶³ ,They said to him .**so he could not see and then took turns hitting him** blindfold on him **cruel** They said many other⁶⁵ ”!Show us that you are a prophet! Tell us who just hit you“ .things about him, mocking him

At dawn the next morning, many of the Jewish leaders gathered together. In this⁶⁶ group were the chief priests and the men who taught the Jewish laws. They had the soldiers There they said to him, “If you are the⁶⁷ .bring Jesus into the Jewish council chamber .Messiah, tell us!” But he replied, “If I say that I am the Messiah, you will not believe me But⁶⁹ .But if I ask you whether you think I am the Messiah, you will not answer me⁶⁸ Then they⁷⁰ ”!**and ruling** from now on, I, the Messiah, will be sitting next to almighty God ,the Son of God?” He answered, “Yes **saying that you are** all asked, “If that is so, are you Then they said to each other, “We ourselves have heard⁷¹ ”.what you are saying is true And so we certainly do not need any more people to testify !**that he is equal to God** him say ”!**on a charge of blasphemy** against him

.the Roman governor ,Then the whole group got up and took Jesus to Pilate¹ **23** **causing trouble by** They said, “We have seen this man **.in front of Pilate** They accused him² misleading our people. He has been telling them to not pay the taxes that Caesar, the ”!Roman emperor, has imposed. Also, he has been saying that he is the Messiah, a king Pilate then asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “Yes, it is just as³ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and to the crowd, “This man is⁴ ”.you have asked me But the group from the Jewish ruling council kept accusing⁵ ”.not guilty of any crime Jesus. They said, “He is trying to get the people to riot! He has been teaching his ideas Galilee, and now **the region of** Judea. He started doing that in **the region of** throughout all of ”!he is doing it here as well

the region of When Pilate heard what they said, he asked, “Does this man come from⁶ ,When Pilate found out that Jesus was from Galilee, where Herod Antipas ruled⁷ ”?Galilee

,When Herod saw Jesus⁸ .he sent Jesus to him. Herod was also in Jerusalem at that time he was very glad, because he had wanted to see Jesus for a long time. This was because .Herod had heard many things about Jesus, and he wanted to see him perform a miracle And the¹⁰ .So he asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus did not reply to any of them⁹ chief priests and some experts in the Jewish laws stood near Jesus, accusing him very Then Herod and his soldiers insulted Jesus and¹¹ .of committing many crimes strongly Then .to pretend that he was a king made fun of him. They put expensive clothes on him Until that time the two men had been very hostile to each¹² .Herod sent him back to Pilate .other, but on that day Herod and Pilate became friends

Pilate then gathered together the chief priests and other Jewish leaders and the¹³ He said to them, “You brought this man to me, saying that he¹⁴ .crowd that was still there has been leading the people to revolt. But I want you to know that after examining him while you were listening, I conclude that he is not guilty of doing any of the things you said That means that he too .without punishing him Also, Herod sent him back to us¹⁵ .he did So it is clear that this man has not done anything for which .concluded that he was not guilty⁵¹⁷ ”.whip him and then set him free tell my soldiers to So I will¹⁶ .he deserves to die [he had to set one prisoner free at every Passover celebration Pilate said this because] But the whole crowd shouted together, “Put this man to death! Set Barabbas free for us¹⁸ to of Jerusalem Now Barabbas was a man who had led some people in the city¹⁹ ”!instead rebel against the Roman government. He was also a murderer. He was in prison because of But Pilate wanted very much to set Jesus free, so he tried to speak to the²⁰ .these crimes Pilate then²² ”!But they kept on shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him²¹ .crowd again spoke to the crowd a third time. “No! He has not committed any crime! He has not done anything for which he deserves to die. So I will have my soldiers whip him, and then I will But the people in the crowd kept shouting to insist that Pilate execute²³ ”.set him free .Jesus on a cross. Finally, because they continued to shout so loudly, they persuaded Pilate Then Pilate set free the man²⁵ .So Pilate declared that he would do what they wanted²⁴ whom the crowd was asking him to release. That man was in prison because he had fought against the government and murdered people! Pilate then commanded the soldiers to take .Jesus and do what the crowd wanted

He .in Africa Now there was a man named Simon, who was from the city of Cyrene²⁶ ,was coming into Jerusalem from the countryside. As the soldiers were leading Jesus away ,took from Jesus the cross that they had made him carry they grabbed hold of Simon. They .put it on Simon’s shoulders. They told him to carry it and follow behind Jesus and they

Now a large crowd was walking behind Jesus. In the crowd were many women who²⁷

But²⁸ .for him sorrowfully and wailing to show their grief were beating on their chests
Jesus turned to these women and said, “You women of ,instead of accepting their sympathy
the terrible things that are going to Jerusalem, do not weep for me! Instead, weep over
be a time soon For I want you to know that there will²⁹ !you and your children happen to
when people will say, ‘How fortunate are the women who have never given birth to
Then the people in this city will say, ‘We wish that the³⁰ ’!children or nursed babies
Right now it is³¹ ’!mountains would fall on top of us and that the hills would cover us up
.difficult for people to do bad things to others, just as it is difficult to set fire to fresh wood
But later, people will easily be able to do terrible things to others, just as it is easy to set fire
”.to dry wood

Two other men, who were criminals, were also walking with Jesus to the place³²

When they got to the place whose name was³³ .where the Romans would execute them
The Skull, there the soldiers crucified Jesus, nailing him to a cross. They did the same thing
to the two criminals. They put one of them at the right side of Jesus and the other at his left

But Jesus said, “Father, please forgive these people. They do not realize what] ⁶³⁴ .side
they are doing.”] Then the soldiers divided his clothes and gambled with something like

Many people stood³⁵ .dice to determine which piece of clothing each one would get
.nearby, watching. They were making fun of Jesus. The Jewish leaders did the same thing

They said, “He saved other people! If God has really chosen him to be the Messiah, he
The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him and offered³⁶ ”!should save himself
”!They said to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself³⁷ .him some sour wine

On the cross above his head, the soldiers also fastened a sign that stated, “This is the³⁸
”.King of the Jews

insulted him. He on a cross next to Jesus also One of the criminals who was hanging³⁹
said, “If you really were the Messiah, you would save yourself, and you would save us
He told him, “You should be .for saying that But the other criminal scolded him⁴⁰ ”!too
.and soon God will judge you ,You are also dying on a cross !punishing you afraid of God
They are punishing us as we deserve for the evil things that .to die The two of us deserve⁴¹

,Then he said to Jesus⁴² ”!we did. But the man you are insulting did nothing wrong
Jesus⁴³ ”!Jesus, please think about me and treat me well when you begin to rule as king“
”!replied, “I want you to know that today you will be with me in paradise

By then it was about noontime. But it became dark throughout that whole area until⁴⁴
curtain thick There was no light from the sun. And the⁴⁵ .three o’clock in the afternoon

When that⁴⁶ .in the temple split into two pieces **that closed off the Most Holy Place** ,happened, Jesus shouted loudly, “Father, I put my spirit into your care!” After he said that .he stopped breathing and died

,saw what happened, he said **who was commanding the soldiers** When the centurion⁴⁷ When the crowd of⁴⁸ .Indeed, this man did nothing wrong!” What he said honored God“ people who had gathered to see these men die saw what had actually happened, they went **But when the**⁴⁹ .back to their homes, hitting their chests to show that they were sorrowful all of Jesus’ acquaintances, including the women who had come with ,**rest of the crowd left** Galilee, kept watching what happened from where they were **the region of** him from .standing, some distance away

He was a good and righteous .**who lived in Jerusalem** There was a man named Joseph⁵⁰ But he had not agreed with the other⁵¹ .man who was a member of the Jewish Council Council members when they decided to kill Jesus and when they planned how to do it. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea. He was waiting expectantly for the time when Joseph went to Pilate and asked Pilate to⁵² .God would send his king to begin to rule So Joseph took⁵³ ,**Pilate gave him permission** .permit him to take Jesus’ body and bury it He wrapped it in a linen cloth. Then he put Jesus’ body in .**from the cross** Jesus’ body down a burial chamber that someone had cut into a rock cliff. No one had ever put a body in that This happened on the day when the Jewish people got ready for their⁵⁴ .chamber before The women who had⁵⁵ .day of rest. It was soon going to be sunset, the start of the Sabbath .**Joseph and the men who were with him** Galilee followed **the district of** come with Jesus from Then⁵⁶ .They saw the burial chamber, and they saw how the men laid Jesus’ body inside it the women went back to where they were staying in order to prepare spices and ointments However, they stopped working when the Sabbath began, just as the .**to put on Jesus’ body** .Jewish law required

Very early in the morning on Sunday, those women went to the burial¹ **24** **to put on the body of** chamber. They brought with them the spices that they had prepared **that they discovered that somebody had rolled away the stone ,When they arrived**² .Jesus ,**the burial chamber** They went into³ .to the burial chamber **had been closing off the entrance** They did not know what to think about that. Then⁴ !but the body of Jesus was not there This made the women⁵ !suddenly two men stood by them wearing bright, shining clothes very frightened. They bowed down low to the ground. The two men said to them, “You should not be looking for someone who is alive in a place where they bury the bodies of

He is not here. No, he has come back to life! Recall that while he was still⁶ !dead people
 They will have to hand me, the Son of Man, over to⁷ ,with you in Galilee, he said to you
 sinful men. Those men will kill me by nailing me to a cross. But two days later, I will
 So they left the⁹ .The women recalled what Jesus had told them⁸ ”.become alive again
 burial chamber and went to Jesus’ 11 representatives and the other disciples of Jesus and
 The women who told these things to them were Mary from¹⁰ .told them what happened
 Magdala village, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who were with
 .But they thought this report was foolishness, so they did not believe the women¹¹ .them
 .He ran to the burial chamber .to see whether the story was true However, Peter decided¹²
 in which Jesus’ body had been He saw the linen cloths .and looked inside He stooped down
 .So he left the tomb, puzzling over what had happened .wrapped, but Jesus was not there

That same day two of Jesus’ disciples were walking to an outlying village named¹³
 They were talking with each other¹⁴ .Emmaus. It was about ten kilometers from Jerusalem
 While they were talking and discussing¹⁵ .to Jesus about all the things that had happened
 But God¹⁶ .Jesus himself approached them and started walking with them ,those things
 Jesus said to them, “What have you two¹⁷ .prevented them from realizing that it was Jesus
 been talking about while you were walking?” They stopped, and they had very sad
 ,But then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, replied¹⁸ .expressions on their faces
 You must be the only person who is visiting Jerusalem who does not know about the“
 He said to them, “What events?” They¹⁹ ”!events that have happened there in recent days
 .replied, “The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth, who was a prophet
 God enabled him to perform great miracles and to teach wonderful messages. Most people
 to the But our chief priests and leaders handed him over²⁰ .thought he was wonderful
 They sentenced him to die, and they killed him by nailing him to a .Roman authorities
 We were hoping that he was the one who would free us Israelites from our²¹ .cross
 enemies! But this does not seem possible now, since three days have passed since the
 In spite of this, some women from our group amazed us. Early²² .Romans executed him
 but the body of Jesus²³ ,where Jesus was buried this morning they went to the chamber
 was not there! They came back and told us they had seen some angels in a vision. The
 when the women Then some of those who were with us²⁴ !angels said that Jesus was alive
 went to the burial chamber. They saw that things were exactly as the came and said this
 Then Jesus said to them, “You two²⁵ ”.women had reported. But they did not see Jesus
 foolish men! You are so slow to believe all that the prophets have written about the
 You should certainly have known that it was necessary for the Messiah to²⁶ !Messiah

.Some ancient manuscripts include the first part of verse 34 .6

Then Jesus²⁷ ”!and then receive great honor from God ,and die suffer all those things explained to them all the things that the Scriptures said about himself. He started with what .Moses wrote, and then he explained what all the prophets had written

When they had nearly reached the village where the two men were going, it²⁸

But they pleaded with²⁹ .appeared that Jesus was going to keep walking down the road They said, “Stay with us tonight, because it is late in the afternoon and it .not to do that him When they all sat down³⁰ .to stay with them to the house will soon be dark.” So he went in to eat, Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and began

And then God enabled them to recognize him. But³¹ .to give some to the two men

They said to each other, “While we were walking along³² !immediately he disappeared the road and he was talking with us and enabling us to understand the Scriptures, we got so

It all made sense that the Messiah would have to suffer but then receive great !excited inside

So they left immediately and returned to Jerusalem. There they found Jesus’ 11³³ ”.honor

They told those³⁴ .representatives and some others who had gathered together with them

”!two men, “It is true that Jesus has become alive again. He has appeared to Simon

Then those two men told the others what had happened as they were walking along the³⁵ .road. They also told them how they both recognized Jesus as he broke some bread for them

As they were saying that, Jesus himself suddenly appeared among them. He said to³⁶

They were startled and .they were not peaceful But³⁷ ”!them, “May God give you peace He said to them, “You should³⁸ !afraid because they thought that they were seeing a ghost

the wounds in my Look at³⁹ .that I am alive not be alarmed! And you should not doubt and my feet! That way you can be sure that it is really I myself. Ghosts do not have hands

”.bodies, as you see that I have, and you can touch me to prove that my body is real

They were⁴¹ .his hands and his feet the wounds in After he said that, he showed them⁴⁰

So he said to them, “Do .that he was really alive so glad that they could still hardly believe

.So they gave him a piece of roasted fish⁴² ”?you have something here that I could eat

.While they were watching, he took it and ate it⁴³

.Then he said to them, “I will repeat what I told you while I was with you before⁴⁴ throughout .the Messiah ,God was going to make happen everything that he said about me the Scriptures things that Then he enabled them to understand the⁴⁵ ”.all of the Scriptures

This is what you can read in the Scriptures: that the“⁴⁶ ,He said to them .said about him .but on the third day after that, he would become alive again ,and die Messiah would suffer those who believe in the Messiah would go and announce on The Scriptures also say that⁴⁷

.Some ancient manuscripts include verses 43 and 44 .3

his behalf that God will forgive people who stop sinning. I want you to do this, starting here
must tell people that you You⁴⁸ .in Jerusalem and going to every people group in the world
And⁴⁹ .saw everything happen to me that the Scriptures said would happen to the Messiah
I am going to send the Holy Spirit to you, as my Father promised. But you must stay in this
”.of the Holy Spirit city until God gives you the power

.Bethany the village of until they came near the city Then Jesus led them outside⁵⁰
As he was doing that, he left them and⁵¹ .There he lifted up his hands and blessed them
.After they worshiped him, they returned to Jerusalem very joyfully⁵² .went up to heaven
.Each day they went to the temple and spent time worshiping God there⁵³