

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Mark

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Mark

1 I am going to tell you the good news about Jesus, the Messiah. He is the Son of God. 2 This story began as Isaiah, who spoke for God, wrote that it would:

"Listen, I am sending my messenger ahead of you.
He will make things ready for when you come.
3 In the desolate place, someone will be calling
out *to the people*:
'Prepare yourselves to receive the Lord!
Make yourselves ready for when he comes!'"

4 Now there was a man whose name was John. He baptized people in a desolate area. He proclaimed that people should allow him to baptize them. That would show that they were going to stop doing what was wrong. That way, God would forgive their sins. 5 Many people who lived in the region of Judea and many people who lived in the city of Jerusalem often went to listen to John. Many of these people agreed that they had sinned. Then, John baptized them in the Jordan River. 6 John wore rough clothes that he made out of camel's hair. He fastened around his waist a belt that he made from animal skin. He ate grasshoppers and honey that he found in that desolate area. 7 He often preached, "Soon you will see someone else who is greater than I am. It is not appropriate for me even to kneel down and help him take off his sandals. 8 I use water to baptize you. However, he will give you the Holy Spirit, which will be like baptizing you."

9 Now while John was preaching and baptizing people, Jesus traveled from the town of Nazareth, which was in the region of Galilee. *He arrived where John was* and had John baptize him in the Jordan River. 10 As soon as John baptized him, Jesus waded out of the Jordan River. Then, he saw God opening the way from heaven. He saw that the Holy Spirit, who looked like a small bird, was descending *from heaven* to him. 11 Then God spoke from heaven, "You are my Son, the one whom I love dearly. What you do pleases me." 12 As soon as that happened, the Holy Spirit sent Jesus into a desolate area. 13 Jesus stayed for 40 days in that desolate area with the animals that lived there. During that time, Satan tried to make Jesus sin. Also, angels took care of Jesus.

14 Later, after *King Herod Antipas* arrested John, Jesus traveled *back* to the region of Galilee. There, he preached the good news from God. 15 He declared, "This is the moment when God is about to establish his kingdom here. Stop doing what is wrong! Trust the good news!"

16 One day, Jesus was walking next to the Sea of Galilee. He saw *a man whose name was* Simon and that man's *younger* brother, *whose name was* Andrew. They earned money by catching and selling fish. *When Jesus saw them,* they were using nets to try to catch fish. 17 Jesus told them, "Come with me and be my apprentices. I will teach you how to gather people *to be my apprentices*, just as you have been gathering fish." 18 As soon as *Jesus said that*, they stopped working. They went with him and were his apprentices.

19 Then Jesus walked a short distance *next to the sea*. He saw *a man whose name was* James and that man's *younger* brother, *whose name was* John. They were sons of *a man whose name was* Zebedee. *When Jesus saw them,* they were preparing their fishing tools in a boat. 20 As soon as he saw them, Jesus commanded them, *"Come with me and be my apprentices."* They got out of the boat and left Zebedee their father with the workers they had hired. They went with Jesus and were his apprentices.

21 Jesus, along with Peter, Andrew, James, and John, went to the town of Capernaum. As soon as it was the Jewish day of rest, Jesus visited the Jewish meeting place and instructed *the people who were there*. 22 The way that Jesus taught impressed *the people who were there*. *It impressed them* because Jesus did not teach as the teachers of the Jewish law did. Rather, he taught them like someone whom God had authorized to do so. 23 As Jesus was instructing people in the Jewish meeting place, a man whom a demon controlled was there. He shouted, 24 "Jesus from the town of Nazareth, leave us alone! You must be here to punish us. I realize who you are. You are the special one whom God has set apart!"

25 Then Jesus commanded the demon to stop *controlling the man*. He said, "Be quiet. Leave that man!" 26 The demon shook the man violently and shouted loudly. Then, it left the man.

27 *What Jesus had done* impressed all *the people who were in the Jewish meeting place*, and they talked about it with each other. They said, "*What he does* is amazing! He teaches new things as someone whom God has authorized *to do so*. He tells the demons what to do, and they do what he says!" 28 And so, throughout the whole region of Galilee, people kept talking about what Jesus had done.

29 As soon as *Jesus forced the demon out of the man*, he left the Jewish meeting place. He, along with Simon, Andrew, James, and John, went to Simon and Andrew's home. 30 Meanwhile, Simon's mother-in-law was resting in bed because she had a fever. As soon as *Jesus arrived*, the people there told him that she was sick. 31 So, Jesus went to her. He took her hand and helped her stand up. Then, she recovered from the fever and offered Jesus and his disciples some food.

32 When it was late in the evening, people brought to Jesus many men and women who were sick or whom demons controlled. 33 In fact, almost everybody in the town of Capernaum assembled outside the door of *Simon and Andrew's home*. 34 Jesus cured many people who were sick in many different ways. He also forced demons out of many people. Further, because the demons realized that Jesus was *the Messiah*, he did not allow them to say anything.

35 Jesus woke up early the next morning, before sunrise. He left *the house* and walked to a place where no one lived. He prayed *to God* there. 36 *When they realized that Jesus was gone*, Simon and other people with him urgently searched for Jesus. 37 When they found Jesus, they told him, "Almost everybody *in the town of Capernaum* is trying to find you. *We think that you should return there with us.*"

38 Jesus replied, "*I will not return with you.* I need to do what I am here to do. So, we need to visit other towns in this area. That way, I can preach *the good news* in those places too." 39 So Jesus and his apprentices visited all the towns in the region of Galilee. Jesus preached *the good news* in the Jewish meeting places. Also, he forced demons out of people.

40 One day, a man who had a skin disease approached Jesus. He bowed down before Jesus and urged him, "*Please heal me!* I know that you can heal me if you want to do so."

41 Jesus pitied the man. So, he stretched out his hand and
touched the man. Jesus told him, “I want *to heal you*, and I
heal you now!” 42 At that time, Jesus cured the man. He no
longer had the skin disease!
43 As soon as *he healed the man*, Jesus commanded him
to leave. As he was leaving, Jesus sternly told him, 44 “Do
not tell anyone what just happened. Instead, go and show
yourself to a priest *so that he can examine you and see that
you no longer have the skin disease*. Also, present what Moses
required you to offer to become ceremonially clean again.
This will prove to the community *that you no longer have the
skin disease*.” 45 However, after the man left, he frequently
told people about how Jesus had healed him. As a result,
people from many different places kept approaching Jesus.
So, Jesus could no longer walk into any town publicly.
Instead, he stayed outside *the towns* in places where no one
lived.

2 Sometime later, Jesus returned to the town of Capernaum.
Then, people learned that he was in a certain house.
2 So, very many people assembled there. *There were so many
of them* that there was no room for them inside the house
or even outside the door. Jesus preached the good news to
them. 3 Then some people arrived *at the house* where Jesus
was. Four of them were carrying a man who could not move.
4 However, because of how many people were there, they
could not carry the man close to Jesus. So, they went up
on the flat roof of the house and dug a hole through it.
Then, they lowered the man down as he was lying on his
sleeping pad. 5 Jesus perceived that these people believed
that he could heal the man. So, he said to the man who could
not move, “Young man, I forgive you for your sins!”
6 Now some teachers of the Jewish law were there. They
were thinking to themselves, 7 “This man should not be
saying that *he forgives sins*. The only one who can forgive
sins is God. So, he is insulting God!”
8 As soon as *they thought that*, Jesus realized what they
were thinking to themselves. He told them, “You should not
be thinking to yourselves that *I cannot forgive sins*. 9 You may
think that it is easy to claim to forgive this man who cannot
move for his sins*, since it is difficult to prove whether this has
happened*. Similarly, you may think that it is difficult to tell
this man who cannot move to stand up, carry his sleeping
pad, and walk around*, since it is easy to prove whether this
has happened*. 10 However, I want you to know that God has
authorized me, the Son of Man, to forgive people on earth
for their sins.” So, he said to the man who could not move,
11 “Here is what I want you to do: stand up, carry your
sleeping pad, and go home!”
12 Then the man stood up! As soon as *he did that*, he
carried his sleeping pad and left. Everyone saw him *do those
things*, and it impressed all of them. They praised God and
declared that they had never seen anything like that before.
13 Then Jesus returned to the area next to the Sea of
Galilee. A large group of people approached him, and he
instructed them. 14 As Jesus was walking along, he noticed a
man whose name was Levi. He was the son of a man whose
name was Alphaeus. Levi was sitting in the booth *where the
people came to pay him the taxes that the government required*.
Jesus said to him, “Come with me and be my apprentice!”
So, Levi stood up and went with him as his apprentice.
15 Later, Jesus was feasting in Levi’s home. Many people who
collected taxes and other sinful people feasted with Jesus
and his apprentices. All these people went with Jesus as his
apprentices.
16 Then, some Pharisees who taught the Jewish law noticed
that Jesus was eating food with sinful people and people who
collected taxes. They told Jesus’ apprentices, “He should not
be feasting with people who collect taxes and other sinful
people.”
17 Jesus learned what they said. He told them, “People
who are well do not need a doctor. Rather, people who are
sick need a doctor. I am here not to invite those who think
they are righteous to come to me. Rather, *I invite* those who
know that they have sinned *to come to me*.”
18 One day, the Pharisees and the apprentices of John the
Baptizer were abstaining from eating in order to please God.
Meanwhile, some people visited Jesus. They asked him, “The
apprentices of John the Baptizer and the apprentices of the
Pharisees are abstaining from eating in order to please God.
However, your apprentices do not do so. Why not?”
19 Jesus answered, “The friends of the bridegroom do not
abstain from eating while the wedding celebration is still
going on. Indeed, they continue to eat as long as the wedding
celebration continues. 20 However, someday the bridegroom
will no longer be with his friends. Then they will abstain
from eating.
21 People do not attach a piece of unshrunken cloth on old
clothing in order to mend a hole. However, suppose *that they
did*. *When they washed the garment,* the new piece of cloth
would shrink and completely rip out of the old clothing. As
a result, the hole would become even bigger! 22 Similarly,
people do not put fresh wine into old skin bags *to store it*.
However, suppose *that they did*. The fresh wine *would ferment
and expand* and tear open the skin bags. That would ruin
the wine and the skin bags. So, in contrast, people put fresh
wine into new skin bags.”
23 Later, Jesus *and his apprentices* were walking through
grain fields during one of the Jewish days of rest. As the
apprentices were walking along, they picked some grain
and ate it. 24 So, some Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look! Your
apprentices should not be working on a Jewish day of rest.
Our law forbids us to do that.”
25 Jesus replied, “Consider the story in the Scriptures
about what King David did when he and the men who were
with him became very hungry but did not have any food.
26 As you know, David entered the sacred tent while Abiathar
was the ruling priest. He ate some of the bread that had
been on display before God, and he had the men who were
with him eat some of it too. He did that even though the
law allowed only the priests to eat that bread.”
27 Then Jesus told the Pharisees, “God did not create
humans because of the Jewish day of rest. Rather, he created
the Jewish day of rest because of humans. 28 So then, I, the
Son of Man, can decide *what is right for people to do* even
during the Jewish day of rest!”

3 Then Jesus again visited the Jewish meeting place there.
A certain man also was there. He could not move his
hand. 2 Since it was the Jewish day of rest, *the Pharisees
who were there* focused on Jesus to see whether he would
cure the man. They wanted to accuse Jesus *of disobeying the
laws about not working on the Sabbath*. 3 Then Jesus told the
man who could not move his hand, “Stand here in front of
everyone!” *So, the man stood there.*
4 Then Jesus told the Pharisees, “You know that the laws
that God gave Moses allow people to do what is good and

to rescue people on Jewish days of rest. They do not allow people to do what is wrong and to kill people *on Jewish days of rest*." However, the Pharisees did not respond to him.

5 So Jesus stared at them angrily. Because they stubbornly refused to listen to him, he became very sad. Then Jesus commanded the man, "Extend the hand *that you cannot move*!" The man extended his hand, and he could move it again. 6 Then the Pharisees left *the Jewish meeting place*. As soon as *they left*, they met with some people who supported King Herod. Together, they started planning how they could kill Jesus.

7 Jesus and his apprentices went back to the Sea of Galilee. Very many people from the region of Galilee went with him. Also, there were more people from the region of Judea, 8 from the city of Jerusalem, from the region of Idumea, from the east side of the Jordan River, and from the regions around the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Because they learned about all the things that Jesus was doing, all these many people went to where he was. 9–10 Further, because Jesus cured many people, many other people who were sick pushed forward in order to touch him. So, Jesus told his apprentices to prepare a boat for him *to get into*. That way, all those people would not crush him. 11 Also, when demons saw Jesus, they caused the people whom they controlled to kneel down in front of Jesus and yell, "You are the Son of God!" 12 Jesus frequently commanded the demons strongly that they should not tell people about him.

13 Then Jesus went up on a hill. He told the apprentices whom he chose to come to him there. They joined him on the hill. 14 He chose 12 men to be his closest apprentices and to proclaim *the good news*. He called them his representatives. 15 He also authorized them to force demons out of people. 16 Here are the 12 representatives that Jesus chose. He chose Simon, whom he called Peter. 17 He chose James, Zebedee's son, and John, James' *younger* brother. He called the two of them Boanerges, which means "men who are like thunder." 18 He chose Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (who was Alphaeus' son), Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot. 19 Finally, he chose Judas Iscariot. He was the one who helped Jesus' enemies arrest him.

20 Then Jesus *and his apprentices* entered a certain house. A large group of people again assembled there. There were so many people that Jesus and his apprentices did not have enough time even to eat food. 21 Jesus' relatives heard about what was happening. They thought that Jesus was insane. So, they traveled *from the town of Nazareth to where Jesus was* to force him to return with them.

22 Now some teachers of the Jewish law arrived from Jerusalem. They were telling people, "Beelzebul controls this man. In fact, it is the leader of the demons who enables him to force demons out of people!"

23 So Jesus told the people there to come to him. He used stories to teach them. He said, "Satan does not enable people to force out his own demons! 24 Suppose that the people in one nation fight against each other. That nation will not last. 25 Further, suppose that the people in one household fight against each other. That household will not last. 26 Similarly, suppose that Satan and his demons fight against one another. Satan would soon cease to rule over the demons! 27 Here is what is really true: before thieves can break into the home of a strong man and take his belongings, they must first tie up the strong man. After that, they can take the belongings from his home. 28 God will forgive many people who sin in many ways or who frequently insult *God or others*. What I have said is true. 29 However, God will not ever forgive people who insult the Holy Spirit. They will always be guilty because of how they sinned."

30 *Jesus spoke those things* because the scribes had said, "A demon controls this man!"

31 Then Jesus' mother and his *younger* brothers arrived. They waited outside *the house where he was*. They asked someone to go in and ask him to come out to them. 32 A large group of people were sitting with Jesus. They told him, "Your mother and your *younger* brothers are waiting for you outside."

33 Jesus replied, "I will tell you whom I consider to be my mother and my brothers."

34 Then Jesus looked at the people who were sitting with him. He declared, "These are the people whom I consider to be my mother and my brothers! 35 In fact, when a person does what God wants, I consider that person to be my brother or sister or mother."

4 Sometime later, Jesus again started to instruct people while he was next to the Sea of Galilee. A very large group of people assembled to hear him. Because *there were so many people*, he got into a boat on the sea and sat down *to teach*. All the people stood on the shore, by the water. 2 Jesus began to use stories to instruct them about many things. As he was instructing them, he said, 3 "Listen to this: a farmer began to plant some grain seeds 4 As he was scattering them over the soil, some of the seeds fell on the path. Then some birds flew down and ate those seeds up. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil on top of a layer of rocks. Because they were growing in shallow soil, the seeds sprouted very quickly. 6 Then, the sun shone on the new plants and dried them up. Then, because they did not have good roots, the plants died. 7 Other seeds fell onto an area full of thorny plants. These thorny plants grew quickly and crowded out the grain plants. So, the grain plants did not produce a crop. 8 Finally, other seeds fell on fertile soil. They grew quickly, and they produced a crop. Some plants produced 30 *grains of wheat each*, others produced 60 *grains each*, and others produced 100 *grains each*."

9 Then Jesus told them, "You should think carefully about what you just heard me say!"

10 Later, when no one else was with them, Jesus' 12 representatives and some other apprentices asked Jesus to explain the stories he had told. 11 He replied, "God has revealed to you hidden things about his kingdom. However, I use only stories to instruct people who are not my apprentices. 12 That way, *just as you can read in the Scriptures,*

> 'They will look at things, but they will not
> really see them.
> They will hear things, but they will not
> learn from them.
> Otherwise, they would stop doing what is wrong,
> and God would forgive them.'"

13 Then Jesus told his apprentices, "Unless you realize what that story means, you will not be able to realize what any of the other stories *that I tell* mean. 14 *In the story that I told you,* the seeds that the farmer planted represent the good news. 15 Some people are like the seeds that fell on the path. They hear the good news. However, as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and makes them forget the message that they heard. 16 Other people are like the seeds that fell on shallow soil on

top of a layer of rocks. When they hear the good news, they rejoice and quickly believe it. 17 However, they are like plants without good roots, which do not live very long. In fact, when bad things happen or when people hurt them because they accepted the good news, they quickly stop believing it. 18 Other people are like the seeds that fell onto an area full of thorny plants. They hear the good news. 19 However, they continue to focus on things in this world. They try to become rich, even though being rich is not as helpful as they think it will be. Also, they desire many other things. When they do those things, it makes the good news ineffective, just as thorny plants crowd out the good plants and keep them from producing a crop. 20 Finally, other people are like the seeds that fell on fertile soil. When they hear the good news, they believe it. They are like the plants that produced a crop. Some plants produced 30 *grains of wheat each*, others produced 60 *grains each*, and others produced 100 *grains each*."

21 Then he told the people who were there, "People do not bring an oil lamp *into a house* in order to cover it with a basket or a bench. Instead, they put it on a lampstand *so that it shines brightly*. 22 Here is what I mean: some things are secret, but that is only because God will *eventually* let everyone know about them. 23 You should think carefully about what you just heard me say!"

24 Then he told the people who were there, "Make sure that you are listening carefully *to what I tell you*. How carefully you listen is how much God will enable you to learn and understand. 25 God will reveal even more to people who already know some things *about the good news*. However, God will cause people who know very little *about the good news* to know nothing about it at all."

26 Then Jesus said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like: a farmer planted some seeds. 27 During a period of many days, those seeds started to grow. The farmer did not really know how they grew. 28 The plants grew out of the ground on their own. First, the stalks grew. Then, the parts where the seeds would appear grew. Finally, the grain seeds grew in that part. 29 As soon as the plants produced grain, it was time to harvest it. So, the farmer told people to cut down the plants and collect the grain."

30 Then Jesus said, "I would like us to consider together what God's kingdom is like. I will use a story to make sure that we all understand it. 31 Here is what it is like: someone plants a tiny mustard seed in the ground. This kind of seed is smaller than every other kind of seed in the world. 32 Once someone plants it, the seed *sprouts and* grows quickly. The plant becomes bigger than every other kind of plant that people grow. It has big branches. In fact, birds can land in the shade it creates and make nests there."

33 Jesus used many stories like these to teach the good news to the people who were there. He taught them as much as they could understand. 34 He taught them by using stories only. Later, when no one else was with them, he told his apprentices what all the stories meant.

35 When it was evening on the same day, Jesus told his apprentices, "Let us go *by boat* to the other side of the Sea of Galilee." 36 Since Jesus was already in the boat, the apprentices sailed away with Jesus from the large group of people. Other people sailed with them in other boats. 37 Then there was a powerful windstorm! High waves were splashing into the boat and quickly filling it up with water.

38 Meanwhile, Jesus was in the back part of the boat. He was asleep, with his head on a pillow. The apprentices woke him up and told him, "Instructor! We are going to die. You should be paying attention!"

39 Then Jesus got up. He scolded the wind. He told the water, "Become still!" The wind stopped blowing, and everything became calm. 40 Then Jesus told his apprentices, "You should not be so afraid. You should be trusting God by now!"

41 The apprentices became very afraid. They kept asking each other, "Who could Jesus be? The wind and the water do what he says!"

5 Then Jesus and his apprentices arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, in the region where the Gerasene people lived. 2 As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man whom a demon controlled came up to him. This man had come from the burial caves. 3 In fact, he lived in the burial caves. The people who lived nearby could not tie him up, not even with *metal* chains. 4 In the past, they had frequently tied him up with *metal* chains and bonds. However, he always snapped the *metal* chains and broke apart the bonds. He was so strong that nobody could overpower him. 5 All day long, this man would yell and hurt himself with rocks while he wandered around among the burial caves and the hills.

6 *After Jesus arrived,* this man saw him from far away. He ran to where Jesus was and knelt before him. 7–8 Then Jesus said, "You demon, leave this man!"

Then the demon shouted loudly. It said, "Jesus, Son of the greatest God, leave me alone! I want you to have God guarantee that you will not make me suffer."

9 Then Jesus asked the man, "What do people call you?"

He replied, "People call me 'Thousands.' *They call me that* because there are many of us demons in this man." 10 Then the demon repeatedly urged Jesus not to make the many demons leave that area.

11 While all that was happening, a large herd of pigs was grazing nearby on a hillside. 12 The demons urged Jesus, "*When you force us out of this man,* please allow us to go to those pigs. That way, we can control them."

13 Jesus allowed them to do that. So, the demons left the man and began to control the pigs. Then, the herd of pigs rushed down the steep bank into the Sea of Galilee! There were about 2,000 of them, and they drowned there in the sea.

14 Then those who were taking care of the pigs ran away. They told all the people who lived around them *about what they had seen*. Those people went to see what had happened. 15 When they arrived where Jesus was, they saw the man whom the thousands of demons had controlled. He was sitting down, he had clothes on, and he was thinking normally. So, *they realized how powerful Jesus must be, and* they became afraid. 16 The people who had seen what Jesus did explained everything to the people who had just arrived. They told them about what Jesus did for the man whom the demons had controlled. They also told them what happened to the pigs. 17 Then the people who were there started to urge Jesus to leave their area.

18 While Jesus was entering the boat *to leave*, the man whom the demons had controlled urged Jesus to allow him to go with Jesus as his apprentice. 19 However, Jesus did not allow the man *to go with him*. Instead, he told him, "Go home to your friends and family. Tell them about everything that the Lord *God* has done for you and how he has helped you." 20 So, the man traveled around the region of the Ten Towns.

He told people how much Jesus had done for him. *What the man said* impressed all the people *who heard it*.

21 Meanwhile, Jesus *and his apprentices* sailed in a boat
back to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus stayed next
to the Sea of Galilee, and a large group of people assembled
near him. 22 Then, a certain man arrived. He was a leader of
the Jewish meeting place there. His name was Jairus. When
he saw Jesus, Jairus knelt before him. 23 He urged Jesus
repeatedly, "My young daughter is about to die. Please come
with me and touch her. That way, you will rescue her, and
she will stay alive."

24 So Jesus *and his apprentices* left with Jairus *to go to his house*.

A large group of people went with them, and they were
almost crushing Jesus. 25 Now there was a woman *in the crowd* who had been suffering for 12 years from a disease
that caused continual bleeding. 26 *During those 12 years,* she
had spent all the money that she had to pay for doctors.
However, these doctors only hurt her more. So, she did
not get any better. Instead, she actually became more sick.
27–28 When she learned what Jesus had done, she thought,
"Just touching Jesus' clothing will cure me." So, in the large
group of people, she approached Jesus from behind. She
touched his robe. 29 As soon as *she did that,* her bleeding
stopped. She could feel inside herself that she was no longer
sick.

30 As soon as *she touched his robe*, Jesus recognized that
someone had benefited from how powerful he was. So, in
the middle of the large group of people, he spun around and
asked, "Which of you touched my clothing?"

31 His apprentices replied, "Look at the large group of
people that is almost crushing you! *Probably many people have touched you.* So, it does not make sense to ask who
touched you."

32 However, Jesus kept trying to see the person who had
touched his clothes. 33 Then the woman came up to Jesus.
She realized what had happened, and she shook because she
was afraid. She knelt before Jesus and told him exactly what
had happened. 34 Jesus replied, "Young woman, because you
believed *that I could heal you*, you are now well. Now go on
your way, and may God make you peaceful. You will not be
sick in that way again."

35 While Jesus was still talking *with that woman*, some
messengers arrived from the house of Jairus, the leader of
the Jewish meeting place. They told Jairus, "Your daughter
is dead. You should not continue to ask the instructor to
help."

36 Jesus listened to what the messengers said. Then, he
told Jairus, "You should stop being afraid! You just need to
trust *that I can help your daughter*."

37 Then Jesus took only Peter, James, and James' *younger* brother John with him. He did not allow anyone else to come
with them. 38 Then they arrived at the house of Jairus, the
leader of the Jewish meeting place. Jesus noticed that the
people there were making a lot of noise. They were crying
very sorrowfully. 39 Then Jesus went into the house. He told
the people there, "You should not be making much noise
and crying sorrowfully! The young woman is not dead! She
is only sleeping." 40 The people made fun of him *for saying that*.

However, Jesus made all of them leave *the house*. Then, he
went to where the young woman was. He took with him the
young woman's father and mother as well as Peter, James,
and John. 41 Jesus took hold of the young woman's hand. He
said to her, "Talitha koum!" That means, "Young woman, I
tell you to get up!" 42 As soon as *Jesus said that*, the young
woman *became alive again,* stood up, and walked around (in
fact, she was 12 years old). That greatly impressed everyone
who was there. 43 Jesus ordered them firmly, "Do not tell
anyone about what I have done here!" Also, he told them to
serve the young woman some food to eat.

6 After that, Jesus left *the city of Capernaum*. He traveled
to *the city of Nazareth,* where he had grown up. His
apprentices went with him. 2 When it was the Jewish day
of rest, he started to instruct the people there when they
gathered in the Jewish meeting place. What they heard him
say impressed the many people *who were there*. They said *to each other*, "We do not know how this man is able to do what
he does. We do not know how he is so wise and does such
powerful things. 3 He is just a woodworker! He is Mary's
son, and he is an *older* brother to James, Joses, Judas, and
Simon. His *younger* sisters live here in our town." So, these
people rejected Jesus.

4 So, Jesus told them, "The only ones who do not respect
people who speak for God are those from where they grew
up, their clans, and their own families."

5 Jesus could do very few powerful things in that place.
He only touched a few people who were sick and cured
them. 6 How little the people trusted him surprised Jesus.
After that, Jesus traveled through the small towns in that
area, and he instructed the people there.

7 One day, Jesus told his 12 representatives to come to
him. *He told them that* he was going to have them travel
around in groups of two. He authorized them *to force* demons
out of people. 8–9 He told them to wear sandals and to bring
a walking stick. However, he instructed them not to pack
anything else to bring with them, including food, a traveler's
bag, money, or an extra shirt. 10 He also told them, "When
someone welcomes you into their home, continue to stay
there until you leave that area. 11 Whenever people in a
certain place do not welcome you or listen to you, you
should leave *that place*. As you are going, shake the dust
from that place off your feet to warn them *that God will punish them*."

12 Then Jesus' 12 representatives left *to travel around*. They
preached that people should stop doing what was wrong.
13 They forced demons out of many people. They put olive
oil on many people who were sick. Then, they cured them.

14 By this time, Jesus had become famous. So, King Herod
Antipas*, the ruler over the region of Galilee,* heard *people talking* about him. Some people declared, "God has made John the
Baptizer alive again *as Jesus*, and that is why he does these
powerful things."

15 Other people declared, "He is the prophet Elijah*, who has returned to us*."

Other people declared, "He is a person who speaks for
God, just like one of the people who spoke for God long
ago."

16 King Herod Antipas listened *to those people*. Then he
declared, "I had someone cut John the Baptizer's head off!
However, God must have made him alive again *as Jesus*."

17–18 *Herod said that because John had already died.* Here
is how that happened: Herod married Herodias, who had
previously been the wife of Herod's brother Philip. John
the Baptizer told Herod, "Our law forbids you to marry
Herodias, your sister-in-law." So, Herod told his soldiers to
go and arrest John. They tied him up and put him in jail.

19–20 Herodias was so upset with John that she wanted to
have someone execute him. However, Herod realized that
God had set John apart and that John did what was right. So,
Herod was afraid *to do anything to John*. Also, he prevented
Herodias from doing what she wanted *to John*. Whenever
Herod listened to John, he was not sure how to respond, but
he enjoyed listening to him.

21 Then, one day, Herodias realized that she might be
able *to have someone execute John*. It was Herod's birthday,
and he had invited his important officials, some military
commanders, and the most important people in the region of
Galilee to feast with him. 22 *While they were feasting*, Herod's
stepdaughter, the daughter of Herodias, came in. She danced
for Herod and his guests, and they greatly enjoyed *her*
dancing. So, King Herod told her, "I will give you whatever
you request!" 23 Further, he solemnly promised, "You can
even ask for half of what I rule over. I will still give you
whatever you request!"

24 So, the young woman left *that place and went to her*
mother, Herodias. She asked her mother, "What should I
request?"

Her mother replied, "Request *that someone cut off* John
the Baptizer's head *and give it to you*."

25 As soon as *her mother said that,* the young woman
hurried back to King Herod. She told him, "I want *you to cut*
off John the Baptizer's head right now and bring it to me on
a plate!"

26 King Herod was sad *about what she asked for*. However,
because he had solemnly promised in front of all his guests
to give her what she asked for, he decided to do what she
requested. 27 So, King Herod told a soldier to go to *the jail*
where John was*, cut off his head,* and bring his head back.
The soldier left and cut off John's head while he was in
jail. 28 Then, the soldier put John's head on a plate and
gave it to the young woman. She *left and* gave it to her
mother*, Herodias*. 29 When John's apprentices learned *what*
had happened, they went to the jail. They took John's dead
body and buried it.

30 As for Jesus' representatives, they returned to Jesus
from where they had traveled. They told him about everything
that they had done and everything that they had instructed
people about. 31 Now people were arriving and leaving *where*
they were all the time. In fact, they did not even have enough
time to eat food. So, Jesus told his representatives, "Come
to a place where no one lives and where no one else will be
with us. Then, you can rest some!"

32 So, they sailed in a boat to a place where no one lived
and where no one else would be with them. 33 Now people
noticed them sailing away. Many of those people realized
that it was Jesus and his apprentices. So, they left all their
towns and ran to where *Jesus and his apprentices were sailing*.
They got there before Jesus and his apprentices did! 34 When
Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large group of people.
He noticed that they were like sheep who did not have a
sheepherder *to lead them and to take care of them*. So, he
pitied them and started to instruct them about many things.

35 When it was already late in the day, the apprentices
approached Jesus. They said to him, "This is a place where
no one lives, and it is already late in the day. 36 So, please
tell these people to walk to the places that are near us, where
they can buy food to eat."

37 Jesus replied, "I want you to provide them with food
to eat!"

They responded, "Surely you do not want us to go and
spend 200 coins to buy enough loaves of bread to provide
these people with food!"

38 Then Jesus asked his apprentices, "How many loaves
of bread do you have? Find out!"

Once they had found out *how many they had*, they told
Jesus, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

39 Then Jesus told all the people who were there to sit
down in groups on the fresh grass *that was growing on the*
ground. 40 So, they sat down in groups. Some groups had 100
people, and some groups had 50 people. 41 He picked up
the five loaves of bread and the two fish. Then he thanked
God for the food. After that, he tore the bread into pieces
and gave the pieces to his apprentices. That way, they could
serve them to the people who were there. He similarly *had*
his apprentices serve the two fish to everyone *who was there*.
42 Everyone ate *the bread and the fish*, and they all had enough
to eat. 43 Then the apprentices gathered what was left of
the bread and fish. They filled 12 large containers *with the*
leftovers! 44 There were about 5,000 men who ate the bread
and fish.

45 As soon as *everyone finished eating*, Jesus had his
apprentices get into a boat and sail without him across
the Sea of Galilee to the town of Bethsaida. He stayed behind
to tell the large group of people to go home. 46 After he
said goodbye to the people who were there, he walked to
the top of a hill to pray *to God*. 47 When it became dark,
the apprentices were in the boat in the middle of the Sea of
Galilee. Meanwhile, Jesus was on the hill by himself. 48 Now
the wind was blowing from where the apprentices wanted
to go, so they were struggling to row *the boat across the Sea*
of Galilee. Jesus noticed that. So, soon before morning, he
joined them. He was walking on top of the Sea of Galilee! He
planned to walk right past them. 49–50 When the apprentices
saw Jesus walking on top of the Sea of Galilee, it disturbed
them. *They did not know that it was Jesus, so* they thought
that he must be a dangerous spiritual being. So, they shouted
loudly.

However, as soon as *they shouted loudly*, Jesus told them,
"Do not worry! I am *Jesus*. Stop being afraid!" 51 Then Jesus
joined the apprentices in the boat. At that moment, the
wind stopped blowing. *When that happened,* it impressed
them greatly. 52 *They reacted that way* because they did not
realize what it meant *when Jesus fed the large group of people*
with the loaves of bread. In fact, they stubbornly refused to
understand it.

53 After Jesus and his apprentices finished sailing across
the Sea of Galilee, they landed on the shore in the region
of Gennesaret. They tied the boat there. 54 As soon as they
got out of the boat, people realized that Jesus was there.
55 Those people hurried to all the places within that region.
Whenever people *in those places* learned that Jesus was in a
specific place, they started to bring there on sleeping pads
many other people who were sick. 56 Jesus visited many
villages, towns, and farms. Wherever he visited, people put
those who were sick in the open areas. These people who
were sick asked Jesus to allow them just to touch the hem
of his robe. Everyone who did so became healthy.

7 After that, some Pharisees and some teachers of the
Jewish law arrived from the city of Jerusalem. They
assembled where Jesus was. 2 Then, they noticed that some of
Jesus' apprentices did not cleanse their hands before eating
food. So, their hands were unclean *when they ate the food*.

3 *The Pharisees and the teachers of the Jewish law noticed that*
because most Jewish people, and especially the Pharisees,
always cleanse their hands in a special way before they
eat food. That is the teaching that they received from their
ancestors.
4 Also, *when they come home* from the open areas in their
towns, they always cleanse themselves before they eat food.
They have many other similar teachings. *For example,* they
cleanse many different kinds of dishes and containers. 5 So,
the Pharisees and the teachers of the Jewish law told Jesus,
"Your apprentices have unclean hands when they eat food.
They are disobeying the teachings we received from our
ancestors. They should not do that!"
6 Jesus replied, "Isaiah *the prophet* was right when God
spoke through him about you. You say that you obey God,
but you really do not! Here is what Isaiah wrote:

'You people treat me respectfully when you talk,
but you do not really care about me.
7 When you worship me, it is useless.
That is because you use only what humans have
commanded to instruct others.'

8 You carefully obey human teachings, but you ignore the
laws that God gave us."
9 Further, Jesus told them, "You easily stop obeying the
laws that God gave us in order to obey the teachings that you
received. You should not be good at doing that! 10 For example,
Moses gave this law: 'Treat your parents respectfully.' *He*
also *gave this law*: 'Execute anyone who insults his or her
parents.' 11 However, you tell people that they can say to
their parents, 'I designated as Corban everything that I could
have used to provide for you.' (That means that they gave
it to God.) 12 Then, you allow them to stop helping their
parents. 13 In that way, you use what you learned and teach
to ignore what God commanded. There are many things that
you do that are like that."
14 Then Jesus again told the large group of people to
come to him. He told them, "You all should listen to what
I *am about to say* and learn *from it*. 15 Whatever people eat
cannot make them unclean. Rather, it is what people do and
say that makes them unclean. 16 [You should think carefully
about what you just heard me say!]"
17 Later, Jesus went into a house *with his apprentices*, away
from the large group of people. Then, the apprentices asked
him to explain the example *he had given*. 18 Jesus answered,
"So, you too have not yet learned what I mean. You should
know that whatever people eat cannot make them unclean.
19 In fact, what people eat does not become part of what they
think. Rather, it simply goes into their stomachs. Eventually,
their bodies expel what they ate into toilets." So, *Jesus was*
implying that no food is unclean.
20 Then Jesus told them, "It is what people do and say
that makes them unclean. 21 In fact, it is because of what
people think and care about that they think wrong things.
They have improper sex, steal things, and kill others. 22 They
are sexually unfaithful to their spouses, want more than they
need, and do what is evil. They trick others, fail to restrain
themselves, and are jealous. They say bad things *about God*
or others, think too highly of themselves, and are foolish.
23 People do and say those wicked things, and that makes
them unclean."
24 After that, Jesus *and his apprentices* left the region of
Gennesaret. They traveled to the areas near the cities of Tyre
and Sidon. Jesus tried to keep people from learning where
he was staying. However, people soon found out where he
was. 25 In fact, as soon as *he arrived*, a certain woman learned
about him. A demon was controlling this woman's young
daughter. So, she walked to where Jesus was and knelt before
him. 26 It is important to know that this woman was not
Jewish. Instead, her ancestors were people from the regions
of Syria and Phoenicia. *While she was kneeling before Jesus,*
she begged him to force the demon out of her daughter.
27 Jesus told her, "Suppose that someone takes food for
children and gives it to dogs instead. That is not appropriate!
So, the children should eat before *the dogs do*. *That is why I*
am not helping you."
28 The woman replied, "My Lord, what you say is correct.
However, dogs lying nearby do eat leftovers from the
children's food. *What I am asking you to do is like those*
leftovers."
29 Jesus replied, "Because of what you have said, *I will do*
what you asked. You can go home. *I have forced* the demon
to stop controlling your daughter."
30 So, the woman went home. She saw that her daughter
was resting. The demon had stopped controlling her.
31 Then, Jesus *and his apprentices* left the areas near the
city of Tyre. They walked through the areas near the city
of Sidon and eventually arrived near the Sea of Galilee in
the region of the Ten Towns. 32 Then, people led to Jesus
a man who could not hear and who could not speak well.
They urged Jesus to *heal him by* touching him. 33 So, Jesus
brought the man to a place where no one from the large
group of people was with them. He stuck one of his fingers
into each of the man's ears. Then, he spit and touched the
man's tongue. 34 Next, Jesus groaned as he prayed to God.
Then he told the man, "Ephphatha!" That means, "Open up!"
35 After that, the man could hear. Also, Jesus had corrected
what was wrong with his mouth, so he could speak properly.
36 After that, Jesus ordered the people *who were nearby*
not to tell anyone *about what he had done*. However, every
time he ordered them *not to do so*, they told even more
people *about what he had done*. 37 When people learned what
Jesus had done, it greatly impressed them. They declared,
"Everything that he does is good! He enables people who
could not hear to hear. He enables people who could not
speak to speak."

8 Sometime later, there was again a large group of people
near Jesus, and they did not have any food to eat. So,
Jesus told his apprentices to come to him. He told them,
2 "I pity the large group of people. They have already spent
three days with me, and they do not have any food to eat.
3 Further, suppose that I tell them to go home while they are
hungry. Some of them live far away from here. They would
pass out while they are walking home."
4 His apprentices replied, "In this place where no one lives,
no one has enough food for these people to have enough to
eat!"
5 Then Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do
you have with you?"
They replied, "We have with us seven loaves of bread."
6 Then Jesus told the large group of people to sit down on
the ground. He picked up the seven loaves of bread. Then
he thanked God for the food. After that, he tore the bread
into pieces and gave the pieces to his apprentices. That way,
they could serve them to the large group of people, which
they did. 7 The apprentices also had some little fish. So, Jesus

thanked God for these fish and told the apprentices to serve them too *to the large group of people*. 8 The people ate *the food*, and they had enough to eat. Then the apprentices gathered the food that was left. *They filled* seven large containers! 9 About 4,000 people were there. Then Jesus told them to go home. 10 As soon as *he told them that*, Jesus and his apprentices climbed into a boat. They sailed to the region of Dalmanutha.

11 Some Pharisees came to Jesus and started to debate with him. They wanted to investigate him, so they asked him to perform a miracle that showed that God had sent him. 12 Jesus groaned to himself. Then he said, "You people who are alive right now should not ask me to perform a miracle *that proves that God sent me*. I will never do that kind of miracle for you people! What I have said is true."

13 Then Jesus went away from the Pharisees. He *and his apprentices* again entered a boat and sailed to the other side *of the Sea of Galilee*. 14 Now the apprentices had not remembered to pack any food. In fact, the only food that they had in the boat was one loaf of bread. 15 *While they were sailing,* Jesus ordered the apprentices, "Make sure that you guard against the yeast that the Pharisees use and the yeast that Herod uses."

16 Then the apprentices told each other that they had very little food.

17 Jesus realized *what they were saying to each other*. He told them, "You should not be telling each other that you have very little food. You should already realize *what I can do*! However, you stubbornly refuse to understand it. 18 You look at things, but you do not really see them. You hear things, but you do not really listen. You should remember *what I have done*! 19 When I tore five loaves of bread into pieces and used them to feed 5, 000 people, you gathered what was left of the food. How many large containers did you fill *with the leftovers*?"

The apprentices replied, "*We filled* 12 *large containers*."

20 *Then Jesus asked,* "Again, when *I tore* seven *loaves of bread into pieces* and used them to feed 4, 000 people, you gathered the food that was left. How many large containers did you fill?"

The apprentices replied, "*We filled* seven *large containers*."

21 Then Jesus told his apprentices, "You should already realize *what I can do*!"

22 After that, Jesus and his apprentices arrived at the town of Bethsaida. The people there took a blind man to Jesus. They urged Jesus to *heal the man* by touching him. 23 So, Jesus took one of the blind man's hands. He brought the blind man outside the town. Then Jesus spat saliva onto the man's eyes, and Jesus touched him. After that, he asked the man, "Can you see anything?"

24 So, the man looked around. He said, "*Yes,* I can see people! They look like trees, but I can tell that they are walking around."

25 After that, Jesus again touched the blind man's eyes. When the man looked around carefully, he could see everything properly. Jesus had cured him! 26 Jesus commanded the man, "Do not go into the town *of Bethsaida*!" Then he told the man to go home.

27 After that, Jesus and his apprentices left *the town of Bethsaida* and walked toward the small towns near the city of Caesarea Philippi. While they were walking, Jesus asked his apprentices, "Who do people say that I really am?"

28 The apprentices replied, "People say that you are one of the prophets *who has come back to life*. *More specifically,* some people say that you are John the Baptizer. Other people say that you are the prophet Elijah."

29 Then Jesus asked them, "As for you, who do you say that I really am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah!"

30 Then Jesus ordered the apprentices not to tell anyone who he really was.

31 After that, Jesus started to instruct his apprentices about what had to happen to him, the Son of Man. People would hurt him very much. The Jewish leaders, the ruling priests, and the teachers of the Jewish law would refuse to listen to him. Then, people would kill him. Three days after he died, he would live again. 32 Jesus told that to them clearly. Then Peter spoke to Jesus privately. He started to scold him.

33 Jesus turned around and looked at his *other* apprentices. Then he scolded Peter, "Do not try to stop me. You are behaving as Satan does! You are thinking about what humans care about instead of thinking about what God cares about."

34 Then Jesus told his apprentices and the large group of people to come to him. He told them, "People who want to come with me and be my apprentices must refuse to do what they want to do. They must be willing to suffer or die as if they were carrying their own crosses when they come with me as my apprentices. 35 *That is* because people who are willing to do anything to stay alive will not truly live. However, people who are willing to die because they are my apprentices and because they believe the good news will truly live. 36 Suppose that some people acquire everything they could possibly want. However, they can no longer truly live. That is not worth it! 37 In fact, people cannot acquire anything that is as valuable as truly living. 38 The men and women who are alive right now sin often and do not remain faithful. As they live among those men and women, some people consider it shameful to say that they believe in me and what I say. Then I, the Son of Man, will consider it shameful to say that those people belong to me. That will happen when I return with the angels whom God has set apart. At that time, I will be as glorious as God my Father."

9 Then Jesus told his apprentices and the large group of people, "Some of you who are here with me will definitely see God powerfully establish his kingdom before you die. What I have said is true!"

2 Six days later, Jesus climbed up a tall mountain. He had Peter, James, and John go with him. No one else was with them. Then, the three apprentices saw Jesus change how he appeared. 3 His clothes became very bright white. They were whiter than anyone on earth could make them by bleaching them. 4 After that, Elijah and Moses*, who were prophets from long ago,* appeared to the three apprentices! These prophets were speaking to Jesus.

5 Peter responded by saying to Jesus, "Teacher, it is appropriate for all of us to be here. We should build three shelters. You, Moses, and Elijah can each use one." 6 *Peter said that* because he and the other two apprentices were extremely afraid. So, he did not know how to respond *to what he saw*.

7 Then a cloud covered all of them! God spoke from the cloud, "This man is my Son, the one whom I love dearly. Do what he says."

8 When the three apprentices looked around, suddenly, the only person whom they still saw with them was Jesus.

9 While they were walking down the mountain, Jesus told them that they should not tell anyone about what they had

just seen until he, the Son of Man, had become alive again.
10 So they did not tell others about what had happened.
However, they talked with each other about what it meant
when Jesus said that he would become alive again.

11 Then those three apprentices asked Jesus, "The teachers
of the Jewish law tell us that the prophet Elijah has to be
here before *the Messiah gets here*. Are they right about that?"

12 Jesus replied, "*Yes, the prophet* Elijah must be here
before *the Messiah gets here*. He will make everything as it
should be. However, consider this: *the prophets* wrote in
the Scriptures that people would reject me, the Son of Man, and
hurt me very much. 13 *That makes sense only because of* what
I am about to tell you. *The prophet* Elijah has already been
here. Further, people treated him badly, just as *the prophets*
wrote in the Scriptures about him."

14 Then Jesus and those three apprentices arrived where
the other apprentices were. They saw a large group of people
around the other apprentices. Some teachers of the Jewish
laws were debating with them. 15 As soon as *Jesus arrived*,
the large group of people noticed him, and it surprised them
very much. So, they hurried to him and said hello to him.

16 Then Jesus asked his apprentices, "What are you
debating with the teachers of the Jewish law?"

17 A man in the large group of people replied, "Instructor,
I came here to you with my son *so that you would heal
him*. A demon controls him and keeps him from speaking.
18 Whenever the demon chooses, it makes my son fall down.
Then, my son drools, grinds his teeth together, and becomes
rigid. I asked your apprentices to force the demon out of
him. However, they could not *do it*."

19 Jesus replied to them, "You people who are alive right
now do not believe! It is hard for me to live here with you.
It is difficult for me to be patient with you." *Then he said to
them,* "Bring the man's son to me!"

20 So, some people brought the man's son to Jesus. As
soon as the demon noticed Jesus, it shook the man's son
violently. He fell down and writhed around as he drooled.

21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been
like this?"

The boy's father replied, "*He has been like this* since he
was a child. 22 The demon also frequently makes him fall
into fires and bodies of water in order to kill him. So, if you
can do so, please pity us and help us!"

23 Jesus replied, "You should not talk about whether I can
help you. God can do anything for people who trust him!"

24 As soon as *Jesus said that*, the boy's father shouted, "I
do trust *God*. Please help me trust *him* more!"

25 Then Jesus noticed that a large group of people was
quickly assembling. So, he commanded the demon *who was
controlling the man's son* to stop *doing so*. He said, "You demon
who are keeping this boy from speaking and hearing, I tell
you to stop controlling him! You may not control him again."

26 The demon shouted and shook the boy violently. Then
it stopped controlling him. After that, the boy lay so still
that he looked like a corpse. In fact, many people said that
he was dead. 27 However, Jesus took hold of the boy's hand
and helped him get up. The boy stood up!

28 Later, Jesus entered a house, and only his apprentices
were with him. They asked him, "Why could we not force
out that demon?"

29 Jesus replied, "You can only force this type of demon
out by praying and by not eating in order to please God."

30 After Jesus and his apprentices left that area, they
traveled through the region of Galilee. Jesus did not want
anyone else to know *where he was*. 31 *Jesus did not want
people to know where they were* because he was instructing his
apprentices. He told them, "Somebody will help my enemies
arrest me, the Son of Man. They will have people kill me.
Then, three days after I die, I will live again." 32 However,
the apprentices did not understand what Jesus was telling
them, and they were afraid to ask him *what he meant*.

33 Then Jesus and his apprentices arrived at the town
of Capernaum. When they were in the house *where they
were staying*, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing
about while we were walking here?" 34 However, while the
apprentices were walking, they had been arguing with each
other about which one of them was the most important. So,
they did not answer *Jesus*.

35 Then Jesus sat down. He called his 12 representatives
to come close to him, and then he said to them, "If anyone
wants God to consider him to be the most important person
of all, he must consider himself to be the least important
person of all, and he must serve everyone else."

36 Then Jesus had a young child stand among them.
He hugged the child, and he told his apprentices, 37 "When
people, because they are my apprentices, welcome any young
child such as this one here, it is the same as welcoming me.
Further, when people welcome me, they are also welcoming
God, who sent me here."

38 John said to Jesus, "Instructor, we noticed someone
who was forcing demons out of people. He claimed that he
represented you as he did that. So, we told him to stop doing
that, because he was not one of us apprentices."

39 Jesus said, "People will not say bad things about me
soon after doing something powerful while they claim to
represent me. Because of that, do not tell that man to stop
forcing demons out of people. 40 *I say that* because those who
are not opposing us are supporting us. 41 As for those who
offer you water to drink because they know that you are
apprentices of me, the Messiah, God will most certainly
reward them. What I have said is true.

42 On the other hand, suppose that an insignificant person
who trusts me sinned because of certain people. *God will
punish those people so severely that* they would prefer to have
someone tie a heavy stone around their necks and cast them
into the ocean. 43 Suppose that you sinned because you
touched something. You should never do that again, even
if you have to chop off your hands to make sure of it! *You
should respond that drastically because* it is better for you to
truly live without hands than to have both hands but end
up in hell, which is like a fire that never goes out. 44 [In
that place maggots feed on the people there forever, and the
fires never go out.] 45 Suppose that you sinned because you
went somewhere. You should never do that again, even if
you have to chop off your feet to make sure of it! *You should
respond that drastically because* it is better for you to truly
live without feet than to have both feet but end up in hell.
46 [In that place maggots feed on the people there forever,
and the fires never go out.]

47 Suppose that you sinned because you looked at
something. You should never do that again, even if you
have to remove your eyes to make sure of it! *You should
respond that drastically because* it is better for you to participate
in God's kingdom with only one eye than to have both eyes
but end up in hell. 48 In that place maggots feed on the
people there forever, and the fires never go out.

49 Indeed, God will treat everyone like an offering that
people season and burn.

50 Salt is very useful. However, if salt were to stop seasoning
food well, you cannot make it season food well again. Be
people who make this world better, just as salt makes food
better. Also, live peacefully with each other."

10 After that, Jesus *and his apprentices* left the town of
Capernaum. They traveled to the region of Judea and
to the east side of the Jordan River. Yet again, large groups
of people assembled where Jesus was. Jesus instructed them,
as he usually did.

2 Then some Pharisees came to Jesus and asked him,
"Does our law allow a husband to divorce his wife?" *They
asked that* in order to investigate him.

3 Jesus replied, "What did Moses include in our Law *about
this issue*?"

4 They answered, "Moses allowed each husband to give
his wife a document that states that he is divorcing her. Then,
he could divorce her."

5 Jesus told them, "Moses knew that you were unwilling to
obey. That is why he included *in the Law* what you just said.
6 However, when God first created everything, *as you can read
in the Scriptures*, he created people to be male and female.
7 *You can also read in the Scriptures* that is why men*, when they
marry,* no longer live with their parents, 8 and each husband
and wife together become like one person. Consequently,
each husband and wife are not like two different people any
longer. Rather, they are like one person. 9 Since that is true,
no one should divide people whom God has united."

10 Later, when they were in a house again, the apprentices
asked Jesus about what he had said. 11 Jesus told them, "When
a man divorces his wife and marries another woman, he sins
against his first wife by disobeying what God commanded
about being sexually faithful to one's spouse. 12 Also, when
a woman divorces her husband and marries another man,
she disobeys what God commanded about being sexually
faithful to one's spouse."

13 Sometime later, some people took young children to
Jesus. They wanted him to bless the children by touching
them. However, the apprentices told them to stop. 14 When
Jesus noticed *what they were doing*, he was very upset. He
told his apprentices, "Allow the young children to come
here. Do not stop them! *I say that because* they and people
like them are part of God's kingdom. 15 You must be like
young children when you welcome God's kingdom. That is
the only way to participate in God's kingdom. What I have
said is true." 16 Then Jesus hugged the young children. He
blessed them by touching them.

17 One day, Jesus was walking along *with his disciples*. A
certain person ran to where he was and bowed down before
him. He said, "Instructor, you are a good person! What is
something that I can do so that I will live with God forever?"

18 Jesus replied, "You should not so quickly call me a
good person! God is the only one who is good. 19 *But to
answer your question,* you know what God commanded: Do
not murder others. Do not be sexually unfaithful to your
spouse. Do not steal things. Do not speak what is untrue. Do
not cheat people. Treat your parents respectfully."

20 The man replied, "Instructor, I have obeyed all those
things that God commanded ever since I was young."

21 Then, Jesus looked at the man and cared for him. He
said to the man, "There is one thing that you have not yet
done. Go *home* and sell what you own. Give *that money* to
poor people. *If you do that,* God will reward you in heaven.
Then, come with me as my apprentice."

22 However, the man was rich *and did not want to lose
what he owned*. So, he was upset by what Jesus said. He felt
very sad and left. 23 Then Jesus looked at his apprentices.
He told them, "It is very hard for rich people to participate
in God's kingdom!"

24 What Jesus said surprised the apprentices. Jesus
responded by saying again, "My dear apprentices, it is
very hard to participate in God's kingdom. 25 Large animals
like camels cannot fit into very small spaces. However, it is
even harder for rich people to participate in God's kingdom."

26 That greatly surprised the apprentices. They told Jesus,
"It must be that God does not actually rescue anyone!"

27 Jesus looked directly at his apprentices. He said, "God
can do anything! So, people cannot *rescue themselves*, but
God can *rescue them*."

28 Peter started to tell Jesus, "We left behind everything
we had and went with you as your apprentices!"

29 Jesus replied, "What I am about to say is true. Some
people leave behind houses, siblings, parents, children, or
fields. They do that because they are my apprentices and
because they believe the good news. 30 God will give those
people many times *what they left behind* right now before
he renews everything that he has made. *He will give them*
houses, siblings, mothers, children, and fields. Also, people
will hurt them. Further, God will enable them to live with
him forever after he renews everything that he has made.
31 *At that time,* many people who are important right now
will become unimportant. Many people who are unimportant
right now will become important."

32 Sometime later, Jesus and his apprentices were walking
toward the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was walking ahead of
them, which impressed them. However, the rest of the people
with them were afraid. Then Jesus again spoke to his 12
representatives privately. He started to tell them about what
people were going to do to him. 33 He said, "We are walking
toward the city of Jerusalem! There, somebody will help
the ruling priests and the teachers of the Jewish law arrest
me, the Son of Man. They will decide that I am guilty and
that someone should kill me. They will bring me to the
non-Jewish authorities. 34 Those people will make fun of me,
spit on me *to insult me*, beat me, and execute me. Then, three
days after I die, I will live again."

35 After that, Zebedee's sons, James and John, came to
Jesus. They said, "Instructor, we want you to do for us what
we are about to request."

36 Jesus replied, "What do you want me to do for you?"

37 They answered, "Please promise us that, when you are
very great, you will honor us by having one of us sit at your
right side and the other one sit at your left side."

38 Jesus replied, "You do not realize what you have
actually requested. Are you willing to suffer as I will soon
suffer? Are you willing for people to hurt you as they will
soon hurt me?"

39 They told Jesus, "Yes, we are willing *to do those things*."

Then Jesus told them, "You will certainly suffer as I will
soon suffer. People will certainly hurt you as they will soon
hurt me. 40 However, I am not the one who chooses whom to
honor by having them sit at my right side or at my left side.
Rather, God has already chosen who *will sit in those places*."

41 When the ten other apprentices learned *what James
and John had requested*, they started to be very upset with
them. 42 So, Jesus told his apprentices to come to him. He
said to them, "You understand that the people whom the
non-Jews allow to govern them dominate them. Further,

important people among them control everyone else. 43 You
must not behave like that. Rather, when one of you wants to
be important, that person must serve the others. 44 Likewise,
when one of you wants to be most important, that person
must work for all the others. 45 *You should behave like that*
because I, the Son of Man, am here to serve other people. I
am not here so that other people will serve me. Indeed, I am
going to die in order to free many people *from their sins*."

46 Then, Jesus and his apprentices arrived at the city of
Jericho. When they were leaving the city of Jericho along
with a very large group of people, a man who could not
see and who often asked others for money was sitting down
next to the path. His name was Bartimaeus, and his father's
name was Timaeus. 47 He learned that Jesus from the town
of Nazareth was there. So he started to shout, "Jesus, you
who are a descendant of King David, please help me!"

48 Many people were scolding him to keep him quiet.
However, he shouted even more loudly, "You who are a
descendant of King David, please help me!"

49 Then, Jesus stopped walking. He told people, "Tell him
to come over here!"

Those people spoke to *Bartimaeus,* the man who could
not see. They said, "Do not worry! Jesus wants you to come
to him. So, stand up *and go to him*!" 50 So Bartimaeus took
off his outer garment and jumped up. Then, he hurried to
Jesus.

51 Jesus asked him, "How would you like me to help
you?"

Bartimaeus, the man who could not see, replied, "Teacher,
I want to be able to see again!"

52 Jesus told him, "You can go on your way. Because you
believed *that I could heal you*, you are now well." As soon as
Jesus said that, Bartimaeus could see again. Then, he began
to walk with Jesus.

11 After that, Jesus and his apprentices continued to
walk toward the city of Jerusalem, and they were
getting closer. They were near the Mount of Olives, just
outside the villages of Bethphage and Bethany. Jesus told
two of his apprentices to go *ahead of them*. 2 He instructed
them, "Enter the village *of Bethphage*, which you see ahead
of you. As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey
that someone has tethered. It is an animal that no one has
ever ridden. Remove the tether *from the young donkey* and
lead it to me here. 3 People might ask you, 'What are you
doing?' In that case, tell them, 'The Lord needs this young
donkey. As soon as *he finishes using it*, he will return it here.'"

4 So the two apprentices left *for the village*. They saw the
young donkey standing on the road. Someone had tethered
it to the door of a house. They started to remove its tether.

5 Some people who were there asked the two apprentices,
"Why are you removing the tether from the young donkey?"

6 The two apprentices told those people what Jesus had
instructed them to say. Then, those people allowed the two
apprentices *to take the young donkey*. 7 They led the young
donkey to Jesus. Then they spread their coats on the young
donkey, and Jesus rode on it. 8 Then, *to honor Jesus,* many
people laid their coats down on the path *in front of Jesus*.
Other people cut down leafy plants that were growing in
nearby farms *and laid them down on the path too*. 9 People
walked in front of Jesus and behind him. They were shouting,

"Praise God!
May God bless him who is here to represent the Lord!
10 The kingdom that our ancestor King David ruled is
now here again! May God bless it!
May everything in heaven praise God!"

11 Then Jesus went into the city of Jerusalem and he
visited the temple area. He examined everything that was
there. After that, because it was evening, he and his 12
representatives returned to the village of Bethany.

12 The following day, when Jesus and his apprentices
were leaving the village of Bethany, Jesus became hungry.
13 He saw a fig tree further down the path. It had leaves, so
he walked to it to pick some figs from it *to eat*. However,
when he arrived at the fig tree, it had *no figs but* only leaves.
That was because it was not yet the normal time of year
when fig trees would produce ripe figs. 14 Jesus responded
by saying to the fig tree, "No one will eat figs that they pick
from you ever again." The apprentices listened *to him say
that*.

15 Then Jesus and his apprentices arrived at the city of
Jerusalem. Jesus again visited the temple area. Some people
were selling and buying things there. He started to force
them to leave. Other people were exchanging *regular* money
for special temple money, and other people were selling small
birds *for people to sacrifice*. Jesus flipped over their tables and
chairs. 16 Also, he did not allow people to take items through
the temple area. 17 Then Jesus instructed those people, "You
know that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures, 'People
should say that my temple is a place where all groups of
people pray.' However, you have turned it into 'a hideout
for thieves'!"

18 What Jesus taught impressed the large group of people.
Because of that, when the ruling priests and the teachers of
the Jewish law learned *what Jesus had said and done*, they
became afraid of him. So, they planned how they might
have someone execute Jesus. 19 That evening, Jesus and his
apprentices left the city *of Jerusalem and again spent the night
in the village of Bethany*.

20 The next morning, Jesus and his apprentices walked
past *the same fig tree that they had passed the previous morning*.
The apprentices noticed that it had completely died. 21 Then
Peter remembered *what Jesus had said to the fig tree*. He told
Jesus, "Teacher, look! The fig tree that you cursed has died!"

22 Jesus replied by telling his apprentices, "You should
trust God! 23 Suppose that you trusted that *God* would do
what you said, and you were not unsure *that God would do
it*. Then, you could tell the hill we are near to leave *this place*
and fall into the ocean, and it would happen. What I have
said is true. 24 Because that is true, here is what I want to
tell you. Trust that God will give you whatever you ask him
for, and he will give it to you. 25 Further, suppose that when
you are praying, you remember that someone has offended
you. You should forgive them. That way, God your Father,
who rules from heaven, will also forgive you when you sin
against him. 26 [However, God your Father, who rules from
heaven, will not forgive you when you sin against him as
long as you do not forgive *other people*.]"

27 After that, Jesus and his apprentices again arrived at
the city of Jerusalem. While Jesus was walking around in the
temple area, some of the ruling priests, the teachers of the
Jewish law, and the other Jewish leaders approached him.
28 They asked him, "In what way did someone authorize you
to do what you have done? Who was it that authorized you
to do those things?"

29 Jesus replied, “I, too, will ask you a question. When
you answer it, I will answer your question about the way in
which someone authorized me to do what I have done. 30 Did
God authorize John the Baptizer from heaven to baptize
people, or did people authorize *him to do that*? Answer that
question!”
31 Then the ruling priests, the teachers of the Jewish law,
and the other Jewish leaders told each other, “Suppose that
we answer that *God authorized John* from heaven. Then, he
will tell us that we should have listened to John. 32 On the
other hand, we cannot answer that people *authorized John*.”
They said that because they knew that the large group of people
believed that John had truly spoken for God, which made
them afraid of how the large group of people would react.
33 So they answered Jesus, “We do not know *who authorized*
John.”
Jesus responded, “Because you did not answer my question,
I will not tell you the way in which someone authorized me
to do what I have done.”

12 Then Jesus started to tell a story to the ruling priests,
the teachers of the Jewish law, and the other Jewish
leaders. He said, “A certain man planted a vineyard. He
built a fence around it *in order to protect it*. He made a stone
tank *to collect the grape juice that they would press out of the*
grapes. He also built a tower *for someone to sit in to guard his*
vineyard. He rented the vineyard to some people who would
take care of it, and he left to travel to a different country.
2 When it was time *to harvest the grapes*, the man told one
of his servants to go to the people who were taking care
of the vineyard. He wanted them to give him his share of
the grapes that the vineyard had produced. 3 However, the
people who were taking care of the vineyard grabbed the
man’s servant. They beat him up and told him to go away
without giving him any of the grapes. 4 After that, the man
told another servant to go to the people who were taking
care of the vineyard. However, they beat this servant on the
head and insulted him. 5 After that, the man told another
servant to go *to the people who were taking care of the vineyard*.
However, they killed this servant. After that, the man sent
many other servants. However, they beat up some of them
and killed the others.
6 Finally, the man still had only one other person with
him, his son, whom he loved very much. So, the man told his
son to go to them last of all. He thought that they would treat
his son well *and give him his share of the grapes*. 7 However,
when the people who were taking care of the vineyard *saw the*
man’s son arriving, they told each other, ‘This man is the one
who will inherit the vineyard. We should kill him, and then
we can take the vineyard for ourselves.’ 8 So, they grabbed
the man’s son and murdered him. Then, they dragged his
corpse outside the vineyard.
9 I will tell you how the man who owned the vineyard
will act. He will arrive *at the vineyard*, and he will kill the
people who were taking care of the vineyard. Then, he will
arrange for other people to take care of it. 10 *What I have*
said fits with this scripture that you have read:

> ‘The people who were constructing a building
> refused to use a certain stone.
> However, that stone is now
> the most important one in the building.
> 11 The Lord *God* did that,
> and we think it is amazing.’”

12 Then the ruling priests, the teachers of the Jewish law,
and the other Jewish leaders realized that Jesus was accusing
them when he told that story. Because of that, they wanted
to arrest him. However, they were afraid of how the large
group of people would react. So, they left where he was
without arresting him.
13 Then, the ruling priests, the teachers of the Jewish law,
and the other Jewish leaders told some of the Pharisees and
some people who supported King Herod to go to Jesus. *They*
instructed them to try to cause him to make a mistake in what
he said. 14 When they arrived where Jesus was, they said to
him, “Instructor, we realize that you say what is true. You do
not pay attention to how important or powerful people are.
So, you do not care about what other people think. Further,
you truthfully instruct people about what God wants them
to do. *So, we want to ask you this*: Does our law allow us
to pay taxes to the Roman government, or *does it* not *allow*
that? Should we pay the taxes, or should we not pay them?”
15 However, Jesus realized that they were only pretending
to respect him. He replied, “You are trying to make me say
something wrong. Hand me a Roman coin so I can examine
it.”
16 So, someone handed him *a Roman coin*. Then Jesus
asked, “Whose picture and name are on this coin?”
They replied, “*It is* the leader of the Roman government’s
picture and name.”
17 Then Jesus told them, “*So then,* give to the Roman
government what belongs to it and give to God what belongs
to him.”
What Jesus said impressed the Pharisees and the people
who supported King Herod.
18 After that, some Sadducees approached Jesus. They
are a Jewish group that does not believe that God will
make people who have died alive again. They asked Jesus,
19 “Instructor, Moses wrote for us *in the Scriptures* about what
should happen when a man with a wife, but no children,
dies. When that happens, the dead man’s brother should
marry the *dead man’s* wife. When they have a child, they
should consider it to be the child of the dead man. 20 *So,*
consider this situation: there were seven brothers. One brother
married a woman, but then he died before he had children.
21 Then, the second brother *obeyed this law and* married the
woman. However, he too died before he had children. The
same thing happened to the third brother. 22 In this way,
each of the seven brothers *married the woman but* died before
they had children. Finally, the woman died too. 23 So, of
those brothers, whose wife will she be when God makes
people alive again? *We ask* because she got married to all
seven brothers *at different times*.”
24 Jesus replied, “You do not realize what the Scriptures
mean or how powerful God is. Because of that, you believe
what is wrong! 25 Here is what I mean: when God makes
people alive again, they will not get married. Instead, they
will be like angels who dwell in heaven *and do not get married*.
26 Now I will speak about whether God makes people who
have died alive again. You have read in the section of the
Scriptures that Moses wrote the story about *how God appeared*
to Moses in a bush. In that story, God told Moses, ‘I am the God
whom Abraham worships, the God whom Isaac worships,
and the God whom Jacob worships.’
27 It is living people who worship God, not dead people.
So, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who all have died, must become
alive again! So, you have believed many things that are
wrong.”

28 Then a man who taught the Jewish law approached
Jesus. He heard Jesus and the Sadducees debating. He noticed
that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So, he
asked Jesus, “Which of the laws *that God gave us* is the most
important?”
29 Jesus replied, “Here is the most important law:
‘Listen, you people of Israel! The Lord God
whom we worship is the only Lord. 30 You must
love the Lord, the God whom we worship, with
everything that you desire, everything that you
do, everything that you think, and everything
that you accomplish.’
31 Here is the next most important law: ‘You must care
for people you know as much as you care for yourselves.’
No other laws are more important than these two laws!”
32 The teacher of the Jewish law replied, “That is a good
answer, instructor. You are right when you say that God is
the only God and that no other gods exist. 33 Further, we
should love God with everything that we desire, everything
that we think, and everything that we accomplish. Also, we
should care for people we know as much as we care for
ourselves. Doing those things is more important than burning
or presenting any offering to God.”
34 Jesus realized that the teacher of the Jewish law had
responded in a wise way. So, Jesus told him, “You are close
to participating in God’s kingdom.” After that, nobody was
bold enough to ask him any more questions.
35 Then, while Jesus was instructing people in the temple
area, he asked a question of his own. He said, “Does it make
sense when the teachers of the Jewish law claim that the
Messiah must be a descendant of King David? 36 *I ask that
because* the Holy Spirit caused King David to write that the
Lord God said to David’s Lord,

‘Rule with me
while I defeat all of your enemies!’

37 So, King David called the Messiah ‘Lord.’ *However, people
do not describe their descendants as their lords.* Therefore, how
is it possible for the Messiah to be a descendant of King
David?”
A very large group of people enjoyed listening to Jesus
say these things.
38 While Jesus was instructing those people, he told them,
“Make sure that you do not act like the teachers of the
Jewish law. They like to put on long robes and walk around
so they look important. They also like people to greet them
respectfully in the open areas of towns. 39 They like to sit in
the places for important people when they go to the Jewish
meeting places or attend feasts. 40 They steal the property of
women whose husbands have died. To make other people
think that they are righteous, they pray for a long time. God
will punish them very severely.”
41 Later, Jesus sat down *in the temple area* in front of the
offering boxes that were there. He observed the large group of
people drop coins into the boxes. Many wealthy people gave
large amounts of money. 42 Then a woman whose husband
had died and who did not have much money arrived. She
dropped *into one of the offering boxes* two small copper coins.
Those two coins together were worth only the least valuable
Roman coin.
43–44 Then Jesus told his apprentices to come to him. He
told them, “Most of these people have a lot of money, but
they gave only a small part of it. However, this woman, who
does not have very much money, has given all the money
that she had to pay for the things she needs. So, she has
given to God more than what everyone else gave! What I
have said is true.”

13 After that, Jesus *and his apprentices* left the temple
area. *As they were walking,* one of his apprentices
said to him, “Instructor, pay attention to how marvelous
these huge blocks of stone in the walls are and how beautiful
these structures are!”
2 Jesus replied, “Look at these impressive structures!
Enemies will completely destroy them. They will not leave
anything standing.”
3 Later, Jesus *and his apprentices* sat down on top of the
Mount of Olives in front of the temple. When no one else
was with them, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Jesus,
4 “Please explain to us when what you have described will
happen. Also, *please explain to us* how we can tell when
everything that you have described is about to happen.”
5 Jesus started to reply, “Make sure that no one deceives
you! 6 Many people will meet you and say that God has
authorized them as he has authorized me. They will say
that they are *the Messiah*. *By doing that,* they will deceive
many people. 7 Whenever people tell you about wars that
are happening and about wars that could happen, do not
be afraid. Things like that have to happen. However, what
I have said about the temple will not yet happen. 8 Further,
groups of people will attack each other. Earthquakes will
happen in many places. Many people will not have enough
food to eat. Those events are like the first pains a pregnant
woman feels when she is going to have a child. They are
bad, but many more bad things will still happen after them.
9 Make sure that you are ready *for what people will do to
you*. They will arrest you and accuse you in front of groups of
important people. They will beat you in the Jewish meeting
places. Because you are my apprentices, people will accuse
you before local rulers and kings. That way, you will tell
those rulers *about me*. 10 Indeed, my apprentices must preach
the good news to all groups of people before *what I have
said about the temple will happen*. 11 Whenever people arrest
you and then accuse you, do not worry about how you will
respond. In fact, you will not speak for yourselves. Instead,
the Holy Spirit *will speak through you*. So, you should say
whatever God reveals to you at that time. 12 *During this
time,* men will have someone arrest their own brothers, and
they will ask the judge to execute them. Fathers *will do the
same thing* to their own children. Children will rebel against
their parents and cause them to die. 13 Because you are my
apprentices, many people will be hostile to you. However,
if you persevere *in being my apprentices* while people harm
you, God will rescue you.
14 At some point, you will realize that the detestable thing
that destroys is where it does not belong.” (Anyone who is
reading this should know what Jesus meant.) “When you
realize that, those of you who are in the region of Judea
should escape to the hilly areas nearby. 15 Those of you who
are outside your homes should not go back into your homes
to get anything. 16 Those of you who are working in fields
should not go back home to get your coats. 17 When what I
have described happens, how terrible it will be for pregnant
women and for nursing mothers! 18–19 People will suffer very
severely when what I have described happens. People have
not suffered that severely since God created everything up to
now, and no one will ever suffer that severely again. So, ask

God to keep these things from occurring during the winter season*, when it is difficult to travel*. 20 Suppose that the Lord *God* were to allow what I have described to continue. In that case, nobody would survive. However, because of the people whom he has chosen *to belong to him*, God will not allow what I have described to continue. 21–22 While those things are happening, there will be people who lie when they claim to be the Messiah or to speak for God. They will do amazing miracles. They will try to deceive the people whom God has chosen *to belong to him*, and they will almost succeed in doing so. Therefore, when people tell you that the Messiah is here or there, do not trust *what they say*. 23 Make sure that you are ready *for what will happen*. I have warned you about this before it happens!

24 While what I have described is happening, once people suffer in the ways I have described, God will cause the sun to become dark. The moon will not shine. 25 Stars will drop down from the sky. God will disrupt the angels in heaven. 26 After that, people will see me, the Son of Man, arriving by means of clouds. I will be very powerful and great. 27 After that, I will tell the angels to collect the people whom I have chosen. They will collect them from every place that exists.

28 Listen to this story about how fig trees grow. Whenever they begin to produce new branches and leaves, you can tell that it is almost the summer season. 29 Similarly, whenever you realize that what I have described is happening, you can tell that I will act very soon. 30 Most of the people who are alive right now will still be alive when what I have described happens. What I have said is true. 31 Everything that God has created will eventually change or disappear. However, what I have said will never change or disappear. 32 However, as for when *I will return to this world*, no human being knows that. The angels who dwell in heaven do not know that. Even I, the Son, do not know that. Only God my Father knows that. 33 So, you do not know at what moment I will return to this world. Because of that, you need to make sure that you are ready. You need to focus and pray. 34 *Here is a story* that illustrates *what I mean*. A man decided to travel to a different country. Before he left home, he authorized each of his servants to do something specific *to manage the household*. Then, he told the man who guarded the house to be ready *for him to return*. 35 So then, I am like the man who owned that house. You cannot know at what moment I will return *to this world*. It might be at sunset or at midnight. It might be very early in the morning or after sunrise. Because of that, you need to be ready *at all times*. 36 Otherwise, when I return *to this world* when you do not expect me, I might discover that you are not ready *for me*. 37 I am telling you that you need to be ready *at all times*. In fact, I am telling that to all people!"

14 At that time, it was only two days until the Passover festival, which was the first day of the Celebration of Unleavened Bread. The ruling priests and the teachers of the Jewish law were planning a clever way to arrest Jesus and have people execute him. 2 *They were planning something clever* because they agreed that they would not act during the festival period. Otherwise, the people who were there in Jerusalem might riot.

3 Now Jesus was in the village of Bethany. He was in the home of Simon, who used to have a skin disease. While Jesus was feasting *there*, a woman arrived. She brought with her a stone jar that contained nard, a very valuable, fragrant ointment. She shattered the jar and poured the ointment on Jesus' head.

4 Some of the people there were very upset. *They said* to each other, "She wasted the fragrant ointment! 5 She could have sold this fragrant ointment for at least 300 coins! Then, she could have given *that money* to poor people." So, they rebuked her.

6 However, Jesus told *those people*, "Stop rebuking this woman. Do not bother her! What she did for me was right. 7 There will always be poor people with you, so you can help them whenever you want to. However, I will not always be with you. 8 This woman used what she possessed to do *something for me*. When she poured this ointment on me, she was preparing me ahead of time for when someone buries me. 9 In every place where my apprentices proclaim the good news, they will also tell what this woman just did. That way, people will remember her. What I have said is true."

10 Then Judas Iscariot visited the ruling priests to talk about helping them arrest Jesus. He was one of the 12 men whom Jesus had chosen to represent him. 11 When the ruling priests heard from Judas, they were very happy. They agreed to pay money to Judas *to help them arrest Jesus*. So, Judas tried to find a good time to help *the ruling priests* arrest Jesus.

12 Then it was the first day of the Celebration of Unleavened Bread, the time when people slaughter lambs for the Passover festival. Jesus' apprentices asked him, "Where should we go to set up the meal for the Passover celebration?"

13 So, Jesus told two of his apprentices *to prepare everything*. He instructed them, "Enter the city of Jerusalem. There you will encounter a certain man. He will be holding a jar with water in it. Go wherever he does. 14 When he goes into a house, tell the man who owns the house, 'Our instructor wants to eat the meal for the Passover celebration with us, his apprentices. He asks you to show us the room that is ready for him.' 15 He will take you to a large room that is upstairs. It will already have everything that we need for preparing and eating a meal. Then, set up the meal for us in that room."

16 So the two apprentices went away and entered the city of Jerusalem. Everything that Jesus had spoken about happened. Then they set up the meal for the Passover celebration. 17 When it was evening, Jesus arrived at that house with his 12 representatives.

18 Then, they began to feast. As they ate, Jesus told them, "One of you is going to help *my enemies* arrest me. This person is eating with me right now! What I have said is true."

19 The apprentices started to become sad. One after another they told Jesus, "I will not do that!"

20 Jesus responded, "One of you 12 men whom I have chosen to represent me *will do that*. It is one of you who is sharing food from this dish with me. 21 *I say that* because I, the Son of Man, will die. That is what you can read in the Scriptures about me. Nevertheless, how terrible it will be for the man who helps *my enemies* arrest me, the Son of Man. In fact, that man would be better off if he had never existed."

22 Then, as they ate, Jesus picked up a loaf of bread. He thanked God *for the loaf of bread*. He tore it into pieces and handed the pieces to the apprentices *to eat*. He said, "This *bread* is my body. Receive it."

23 Then Jesus picked up a cup *of wine*. He thanked God *for the wine*. Then, he handed *the cup of wine* to the apprentices. All of them drank wine from it.

24 Then Jesus told them, “This wine is my blood, which
inaugurates the agreement *God is making with you*. My blood
will flow from my body *when my enemies kill me*. That will
help many people. 25 I will no longer drink any more wine
until the time when I drink it again when we participate
together in God’s kingdom. What I have said is true.” 26 After
they sang a song praising God, Jesus and his apprentices
walked to the Mount of Olives.
27 Then Jesus told them, “*God had Zechariah* write in the
Scriptures,

> ‘I will kill the one who is like a shepherd.
> Then, the people who are like sheep will flee.’

So, all of you will reject me! 28 However, once God has made
me alive again, I will go ahead of you to the region of Galilee
and meet you there.”
29 Then Peter told Jesus, “Suppose that everyone else
rejects you. Despite that, I will never *do that*!”
30 Jesus replied, “During this day, tonight, before a male
chicken crows two times, you will say three times that you
are not my apprentice! What I have said is true.”
31 Peter replied strongly, “I will always say that I am your
apprentice, even if I die with you because of that!” The rest
of the apprentices said similar things.
32 After that, Jesus and his apprentices walked to a place
that people call Gethsemane. He told the apprentices, “Stay
here while I pray *to God*.” 33 Jesus had Peter, James, and John
go with him. Then, Jesus started to become very anxious
and upset. 34 He told those three apprentices, “I am so sad
that I feel like I am dying. Stay here and stay awake!”
35 After saying that, Jesus walked a little further. Then,
he kneeled down to pray. He asked God to prevent him from
experiencing what was about to happen, if there was any
way to do so. 36 He prayed, “Abba (which means Father), you
are able to do anything. Please prevent me from suffering
terribly. However, please do what you want to do, not what
I want you to do.”
37 Then he returned *to the three apprentices*. He discovered
that they were asleep. He *woke them up and* told Peter,
“Simon, it disappoints me that you were asleep. You could
not stay awake for even a short time! 38 You *men* want to do
what I say, but you are not strong enough. Stay awake and
pray! That way, nothing can convince you to sin.”
39 Then Jesus walked a short distance away a second time.
He prayed again what he had prayed previously. 40 Then he
returned a second time *to the three apprentices*. He discovered
that they, because they were so sleepy, had fallen asleep
again. They did not know how to respond to him *when he
woke them up*.
41 *After Jesus walked away and prayed again*, he returned a
third time *to the three apprentices*. He *woke them up and* told
them, “It disappoints me that you continue to sleep! You
have slept enough. The time *when I will suffer* is beginning!
Someone is about to help sinful people arrest me, the Son
of Man. 42 Stand up! We are going to leave *this place*. The
person who is helping *my enemies* arrest me has arrived!”
43 While Jesus was still talking *to the three apprentices*,
Judas came. He was one of the 12 men whom Jesus had
chosen to represent him. *He brought* with him a large group
of people carrying swords and clubs. The ruling priests, the
teachers of the Jewish law, and the other Jewish leaders had
sent them *to arrest Jesus*.
44 Previously, Judas, who was helping *Jesus’ enemies* arrest
him, told the group of people how they would know which
man was Jesus. He instructed them, “The man you should
arrest is the one whom I will greet affectionately. Guard him
while you take him away.”
45 As soon as he arrived, Judas went to Jesus and said,
“Teacher!” and he greeted Jesus affectionately. 46 Then the
large group of people arrested Jesus.
47 One of the men who were there pulled his sword *out of
its sheath*. He attacked a man who served the ruling priest,
but he *only* cut off that man’s ear. 48 Jesus responded by
saying to the group of people, “You did not need to treat me
like a dangerous bandit by arming yourselves with swords
and clubs to arrest me. 49 Each day I was instructing people
in the temple area, and you were there. You did not arrest
me then! However, *as these things have happened*, what you
can read in the Scriptures has come true.” 50 Then all *the
apprentices* deserted Jesus and ran away. 51 Now there was
a young man there. He was wearing only one thin garment.
He had been walking around with Jesus. The people who
arrested Jesus tried to arrest him too. 52 However, *he escaped
by* slipping out of his garment, and he ran away naked.
53 The people who had arrested Jesus took him to *the
house where* the ruling priest *lived*. All the ruling priests, the
other Jewish leaders, and the teachers of the Jewish law
assembled there. 54 Peter followed Jesus, but he stayed a safe
distance away. *He went* into the area just outside *the house
where* the ruling priest *lived*. He sat there with the servants
near a fire to keep from getting cold.
55 The ruling priests and all *the rest of* the Jewish council
tried to find something for which they could accuse Jesus.
That way, they could have *the Roman authorities* execute
him. However, they did not find *anything for which they could
accuse him*. 56 In fact, many people said what was untrue
about Jesus. However, these people did not agree about what
Jesus had done.
57 Then, some other people got up to say what was
untrue about Jesus. They declared, 58 “We heard him tell
people that he would tear down this temple, which humans
have built. Then he said that within three days he would
construct another temple that God, not humans, would build.”
59 However, even these people did not agree about exactly
what Jesus had said.
60 Then the ruling priest got up in front of everyone. He
asked Jesus, “Are you going to reply? How do you respond
to what these people have said about you?” 61 Despite that,
Jesus kept quiet. Then the ruling priest asked him another
question. He asked, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of *the
God* whom we praise?”
62 Jesus replied, “That is who I am. You will see me, the
Son of Man, ruling powerfully with God. *You will see me*
arriving by means of clouds.”
63 When he heard that, the ruling priest was so upset that
he ripped his clothes. He said, “We certainly do not need
anyone else to say anything about him. 64 You have heard
him insult God! What do you think we should do?” The
whole Jewish council agreed that he was guilty and that
someone should execute him because of what he had said.
65 Then some of them started to spit on Jesus *to insult
him*. They covered his eyes and then struck him *with their
fists*. They demanded, “Speak for God!” When the servants
led Jesus away, they slapped him.
66 Meanwhile, Peter was down in the area just outside the
ruling priest’s house. A female servant, one of the servants

who served the ruling priest, was there. 67 She noticed Peter,
who was near a fire to keep from getting cold. She stared at
him and declared, "*I can tell that* you were an apprentice of
Jesus, that man from the town of Nazareth."
68 However, he told her that he was not Jesus' apprentice.
He said, "I do not at all understand what you are talking
about!"
Then Peter left *the area just outside the house and walked*
to the place where people entered that area. 69 The female
servant noticed him again, and she started to tell the people
who were there, "This man belongs to *Jesus'* group."
70 However, Peter again said that he was not Jesus'
apprentice. A little later, some people who were there told
Peter, "You are from Galilee, *where Jesus is from*. So, you
really must belong to *Jesus'* group."
71 Then Peter started to ask God to punish him if he was
lying. He solemnly promised, "I have never met the man
about whom you are speaking!"
72 As soon as he said that, a male chicken crowed for a
second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told
him. He had said, "Before a male chicken crows two times,
you will say three times that you are not my apprentice."
Then Peter became very upset. He cried.

15 As soon as it was morning, the entire Jewish council,
including the ruling priests, the other Jewish leaders,
and the teachers of the Jewish law, planned *what to do with*
Jesus. They had their guards tie Jesus up and take him from
there to Pilate*, the Roman local ruler*. They wanted Pilate to
condemn him.
2 Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you claim to be king over the
Jewish people?"
Jesus replied, "What you are calling me is right."
3 Then the ruling priests claimed that Jesus had done
many bad things. 4 After that, Pilate again spoke to Jesus.
He said, "Listen to all the bad things they claim that you
have done! Are you going to reply?"
5 However, Jesus did not respond anymore. How Jesus
was acting greatly impressed Pilate.
6 It is important to know that during the festival period,
Pilate usually set free one person who was in jail. *He set*
free whomever the people who were in the city of Jerusalem
chose. 7 It is also important to know that a man whose name
was Barabbas was in jail with some other men who had
rebelled against the Roman government. While they were
rebelling, they had murdered some people. 8 The large group
of people *who were there* approached Pilate. They started to
ask him *to set someone free*, as he usually did for them.
9 Pilate replied, "Would you like for me to set free for you
the man who claims to be king over you Jewish people?"
10 *Pilate asked that question* because he realized that the ruling
priests had arrested Jesus and brought him to Pilate because
they were jealous *of Jesus*.
11 However, the ruling priests convinced the large group
of people *to ask* Pilate to free Barabbas rather than *Jesus*.
12 Then Pilate again replied, "So what do you want me to do
with the person whom you claim is king over you Jewish
people?"
13 The large group of people shouted, "*Have your soldiers*
kill him by nailing him to a cross!"
14 Pilate replied, "But he has not done anything wrong!"
However, they shouted even louder, "*Have your soldiers*
kill him by nailing him to a cross!"
15 Pilate decided to do what the large group of people
wanted. So, he set Barabbas free. Then, he had his soldiers
whip Jesus and take him away to kill him by nailing him to
a cross.
16 After that, Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the area just
outside *Pilate's palace*. That place was their headquarters.
They summoned the rest of the soldiers who were there.
17 They clothed Jesus with a purple robe*, the kind that kings*
wear. Also, they took some branches with thorns and laced
them together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head.
18 Then the soldiers started *to mock him by* saying hello to
him. They said, "Greetings, you who claim to be king over
the Jewish people!" 19 They kept hitting Jesus' head with a
staff. They kept spitting on Jesus *to insult him*. They bowed
down in front of him *to pretend* to honor him. 20 After the
soldiers made fun of Jesus, they pulled the purple robe off
of him. They put his own clothes back on him. Then, some
of the soldiers took him *from there to the place where* they
were going to kill him by nailing him to a cross.
21 Meanwhile, a man was walking nearby. He had left
the farm areas *and was entering the city of Jerusalem*. He was
from the city of Cyrene, and his name was Simon. His sons
were Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers forced this man to
carry the cross for Jesus. 22 The soldiers took Jesus to a place
that people called Golgotha. That name means "Skull Place."
23 The soldiers offered Jesus wine into which they had mixed
a resin that people called "myrrh." However, Jesus refused
to drink it. 24 After nailing Jesus to the cross, the soldiers
split up his clothes by gambling for them. They did that to
determine which piece of clothing each soldier would get.
25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed
Jesus to the cross. 26 The soldiers wrote on a sign why *they*
were executing Jesus. Here is what they wrote: "The king over
the Jewish people."
27 The soldiers also nailed two bandits to crosses near
Jesus. They put one bandit on one side of Jesus and the
other bandit on the other side of Jesus. 28 [*When those things*
happened, what someone wrote in the Scriptures came true:
"People considered him to be one of the people who do what
is wrong."]
29 The people who walked past Jesus insulted him by
shaking their heads *at him*. They said *to him*, "Ha! You said
that you could tear down God's temple and construct it again
within three days. 30 So, rescue yourself by getting down
from that cross!"
31 Similarly, the ruling priests and the teachers of the
Jewish law made fun of Jesus among themselves. They
declared, "He has rescued other people. However, he cannot
rescue himself! 32 *He claims to be* the Messiah and the king
over the people of Israel. So, he should get down now from
that cross! That way, when we watch *him do that*, we will
accept what he says." The two men whom the soldiers had
nailed to crosses near Jesus also insulted him.
33 When it was noon, it became dark in that whole area.
It stayed dark until three o'clock in the afternoon. 34 At three
o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema
sabachthani?" That means, "My God, my God, why did you
abandon me?"
35 Some people who were there heard *what Jesus said and*
misunderstood it. They declared, "Listen! He is speaking to
the prophet Elijah!"
36 Then one man quickly went to soak a sponge in sour
wine. He attached the sponge to the top of a staff. Then, he
held it up to Jesus so that Jesus could suck *the sour wine* from

it. Then the man said, “Do not do anything else for him! We should wait to find out whether Elijah appears to help him get down.” 37 After that, Jesus shouted loudly. Then he stopped breathing and he died. 38 And then the drape hanging *in front of the Most Holy Place* in the temple ripped in half; it tore from the top to the bottom.

39 There was a Roman officer standing there in front of Jesus. He observed how Jesus stopped breathing and died. He exclaimed, “This man really was God’s Son!” 40 *While all that was happening,* some women were there. They observed *what was happening* from farther away. These women included Salome, Mary from the town of Magdala, and Mary who was the mother of young James and Joses. 41 When Jesus was in the region of Galilee, these women had gone with him as his apprentices and had taken care of him. Additionally, many other women were there *observing what was happening*. They had walked to the city of Jerusalem with Jesus.

42–43 Now there was a man from the city of Arimathea whose name was Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish council, and people respected him. He too was eagerly expecting God’s kingdom. When he arrived *in the city of Jerusalem*, it was Preparation Day, the day before the Jewish day of rest, and the evening had already begun. Because *it was Preparation Day*, this man went boldly to Pilate. He asked Pilate to allow him to take Jesus’ body *to bury it*. 44 When Pilate heard that Jesus might already be dead, it surprised him. So, he summoned the Roman officer *who was in charge of executing Jesus*. Pilate asked the officer, “Is Jesus already dead?” 45 When the officer told Pilate *that Jesus was certainly dead*, Pilate *had his soldiers* give Jesus’ body to Joseph. 46 So, Joseph purchased a fresh sheet of cloth. Then, he removed Jesus’ body *from the cross*. He *prepared to bury it by* winding the fresh sheet of cloth around it. Then, Joseph put Jesus’ body into a grave that Joseph’s workers had made by digging into a rock cliff. After that, Joseph rolled a flat stone to block the entrance to the grave. 47 *While that was happening,* Mary from the town of Magdala and Mary who was the mother of Joses observed where Joseph had placed Jesus’ body.

16 When the Jewish day of rest was over, Salome, Mary from the town of Magdala, and Mary, who was the mother of James, purchased fragrant ointments. They planned to visit *Jesus’ grave* and pour the ointments on his body *to finish burying him properly*. 2 At dawn on Sunday morning, the three women visited Jesus’ tomb. 3 *As they were walking,* they asked each other, “Who will help us by rolling the flat stone to open the entrance to the grave?”

4 *When they arrived,* they looked *at the grave* and noticed that someone had already rolled the flat stone *to open the entrance to the grave*. And that flat stone was huge! 5 Then, the three women walked into the grave, where they saw a young man. He was wearing a white robe and was sitting down to their right. What they saw startled them!

6 The young man told them, “Do not let what you see startle you! *I know that* you are looking for the body of Jesus from the town of Nazareth. He was the one whom soldiers killed by nailing him to a cross. God has made him alive again! He is no longer in this grave. Look at where people placed his body. 7 Now depart to his apprentices and tell them, especially Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of them to the region of Galilee. *Tell them that* Jesus will meet them there, which is what Jesus already told them.”

8 The three women were shaking because what had happened amazed them. So they left the grave and ran away. Because they felt afraid, they did not speak to anyone *about what had happened*.

9 [When Jesus lived again early on Sunday morning, Mary from the town of Magdala was the first person to see him. Jesus had forced seven demons out of her. 10 She approached Jesus’ apprentices, who were grieving very much. She told them *what she had seen*. 11 So, the apprentices learned that Jesus was alive and that Mary had seen him. However, they did not accept what she said.

12 Sometime later, two of Jesus’ apprentices were traveling to farm areas. They saw Jesus, although he looked different. 13 Then, the two apprentices went back *to Jerusalem*. They told the other apprentices what had happened, but the others did not accept what the two apprentices said.

14 Sometime later, Jesus revealed himself to his 11 representatives while they were eating. Because they had not accepted it when people told them that they had seen Jesus after God made him alive again, Jesus scolded them. He told them that they should not have stubbornly refused to accept what those people said.

15 Then he told them, “Visit every place and proclaim the good news to every person! 16 God will rescue all people who trust in me and who have someone baptize them. However, God will punish all people who do not trust in me. 17 I will enable those who trust in me to perform miracles. Specifically, they will represent me by forcing demons out *of people*. They will talk in languages that they have not learned. 18 They will be able to hold snakes and drink poison without becoming sick or dying. When they touch sick people, it will cure them.”

19 After the Lord Jesus said that to his apprentices, God brought him up into heaven. There, Jesus sat down to rule with God *the Father*. 20 As for the apprentices, they left *Jerusalem* and proclaimed *the good news* in every place. The Lord *Jesus* helped them and enabled them to perform miracles. That way, people could see that the good news was true. May it be so!]