

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Luke

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Luke

1 Many people have already been writing about the things
that happened among us. 2 They have been recording
what the people who saw these things happen told us about
them. Those people were there from the time when everything
first started happening, and they have been sharing the story
ever since. 3 I myself have carefully investigated everything
that happened from the very beginning. So I decided that I
should also write an accurate account for you. Your Excellency,
Theophilus, 4 I want you to know that what people have told
you about Jesus is true.

5 When Herod was the ruler of Judea, there was a Jewish
priest named Zechariah. He was a descendant of Abijah, and
so he took his turn serving in the temple with other priests
who were also descendants of Abijah. His wife was named
Elizabeth. She was a descendant of Aaron*, and so she was also
from the priestly line*. 6 God considered that both of them were
righteous because they always obeyed everything that the
Lord had commanded. 7 But they did not have any children,
because Elizabeth had been unable to bear children. And now
she and her husband were too old to have children.

8 The time came for Zechariah's group of priests to take
its turn *serving in Jerusalem*. So Zechariah was there working
as a priest for God. 9 The priests chose Zechariah to go into
the Lord's temple and burn incense there. They chose him in
their usual way, by casting lots *to determine whom God wanted
to perform a particular task*. 10 When it was time to burn the
incense, many people were praying *in the courtyard* outside *the
temple*. 11 Just then, an angel of the Lord came to Zechariah.
He stood at the right side of the altar where he was burning
incense. 12 When Zechariah saw the angel, he became agitated
and terrified. 13 But the angel said to him, "There is no reason
to be afraid *of me*, Zechariah. You have been praying, and God
is going to answer your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will give
birth to a son for you. Give him the name John. 14 You will be
very happy, and many other people will also be happy when
he is born. 15 You and they will be happy because your son will
be very influential for God. He must never drink wine or any
other alcoholic drink. The Holy Spirit will begin to influence
him even before he is born. 16 Your son will persuade many
of the Israelites to stop sinning and to start obeying the Lord
their God again. 17 Your son will go in advance of the Lord
and he will be powerful in his spirit like the prophet Elijah
was. He will cause parents to love their children again. He
will cause many people who do not obey God to want to obey
him and to live wisely and righteously. He will do this so that
the Lord's people will be ready for him when he comes."

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

19 Then the angel replied to him, "I am Gabriel! I stand in
God's presence! God sent me to tell you this good news about
what will happen to you. 20 Now listen! What I have told you
will certainly happen at the time that God has decided. But
since you did not believe my message, God will keep you from
talking. You will not be able to speak until the day that your
son is born!"

21 *While Zechariah and the angel were talking in the temple,*
the people in the courtyard were waiting for Zechariah to
come out. They wondered why he was staying in the temple
for such a long time. 22 Then he came out of the temple, but
he was not able to speak to them. Because he could not talk,
he made motions with his hands to try to explain what had
happened. This made the people conclude that he had seen a
vision from God while he was in the temple.

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

24 Some time after this, his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant,
and she did not go out in public for five months. She said to
herself, 25 "The Lord has enabled me to become pregnant. In
this way, he has shown compassion to me. Thanks to him, I
no longer have to feel ashamed around other people."

26 When Elizabeth had been pregnant for six months, God
sent the angel Gabriel to a town called Nazareth in the district
of Galilee. 27 God sent him there to speak to a virgin whose
name was Mary. *Her parents had promised that* she would marry
a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David.
28 The angel came to where Mary was and said to her, "Hello,
blessed one! You are very special to the Lord!" 29 But when
he said this, she was confused. She had to try to understand
what this greeting could mean. 30 Then the angel said to her,
"God desires to bless you, Mary, so do not be afraid! 31 Now
listen. You will become pregnant, and you will give birth to a
son. Give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and he will
be the Son of God Most High. God the Lord will make him
king over his people, just as his ancestor David was. 33 He will
always be the king over the people of Israel. He will rule over
them forever!"

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "But I am a virgin. So how
can this happen?" 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will
come upon you. The power of God Most High will be like a
shadow falling on you. So the baby you give birth to will be
holy. He will be the Son of God. 36 Also listen to this. Your
relative Elizabeth is also pregnant, and she is going to have
a son. Because she is very old, people thought that she could
not bear children. But she has been pregnant now for almost
six months. 37 So you see, God can do anything!" 38 Then Mary
said, "All right. I am willing to obey the Lord. God can make
the things you have described happen to me." Then the angel
left her.

39 Very soon after that, Mary got ready and traveled as
quickly as she could to the city where Zechariah lived, which
was in the highlands of Judea. 40 She entered Zechariah's house
and greeted Elizabeth, his wife. 41 As soon as Elizabeth heard
Mary greet her, the baby inside Elizabeth suddenly moved.
Immediately the Holy Spirit inspired Elizabeth to speak. 42 She
exclaimed loudly to Mary, "God has blessed you more than he
has blessed any other woman, and he has blessed the baby you
will bear! 43 I am not worthy of this, that you, the mother of
my Lord, should come to visit me! 44 I know all of this because

as soon as I heard you greet me, the baby in my womb started
moving around because he was so excited! 45 You are blessed
because you believed that what the Lord told you would come
true."
46 Then Mary praised God by saying:

"Oh, how I praise the Lord
47 and I feel very joyful about God,
the one who saves me!
48 I am happy because he was gracious to me, even
though I was not very important.
Just imagine this—from now on, people living at all times
in the future will say that God has blessed me.
49 They will say this because God, the Powerful and Holy
One, has done great things for me.
50 He acts mercifully throughout all time periods
to the people who revere him.
51 He has shown people that he is very powerful.
He has routed those who think proudly
within themselves.
52 He has made rulers stop ruling,
but he has honored people who are lowly.
53 He has let people who were hungry eat good
food until they were full,
but he has sent rich people away without
giving them anything.
54–55 He has helped Israel, the people who serve him.
Long ago he promised our ancestors that he
would be merciful to them.
He has kept that promise and has always acted
mercifully toward Abraham and all
who descended from him."

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months. After
that, she went back home.
57 When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth to her child,
she bore a son. 58 When her neighbors and relatives heard
about how kind the Lord had been to her by giving her a son,
they were very happy along with Elizabeth. 59 Eight days later,
people gathered together for the ceremony to circumcise the
baby *to show that he belonged to God*. *This was also the time to
give the baby a name.* The people wanted to name the baby
Zechariah because that was his father's name. 60 But his mother
said, "No, *his name will not be Zechariah.* His name will be
John!" 61 So they said to her, "But John is not the name of any
of your relatives!" 62 Then they made motions with their hands
to his father, asking him to indicate what name he wanted to
give to his son. 63 So he signaled that they should give him
a tablet to write on. *When they gave him one,* he wrote on it,
"His name is John." This amazed all of the people who were
there! 64 Immediately, Zechariah was able to speak again, and
he began praising God. 65 *When* the people who lived nearby
heard about these things, they felt a deep reverence for God.
They told many other people about what had happened, and this
news spread to people throughout the highlands of Judea.
66 Everyone who heard about these things kept thinking about
them. They thought, "Certainly this child will grow up to be
someone very special!" *They thought this* because *they could
see that* the Lord was present in his life in a powerful way.
67 After the child's father, Zechariah, could speak again, the
Holy Spirit inspired Zechariah and he spoke these words from
God:

68 "Praise the Lord, the God whom we people
of Israel worship,
because he has come to set us, his people, free.
69 He has sent someone who will powerfully save us,
someone who is descended from David, whom
he chose to be king.
70 (Long ago God inspired his prophets to say that
he would do these things.)
71 *God is sending this deliverer* to save us from our enemies,
and *he will rescue us* from the power of everyone
who hates us.
72 God has done this because he is faithful to our
ancestors and so he is keeping the holy
promise that he made to them.
73 This is the promise that he solemnly swore
to our ancestor Abraham about what
he would do for us.
74 He promised that he would rescue us from the
power of our enemies
so that we could serve him without being afraid of them.
75 As a result, we could live in the right way, as
people who completely belong to him,
for as long as we live."

76 *Then Zechariah said to his baby son,*

"And as for you, my child, you will be a prophet
of the Most High God.
You will begin your work before the Lord comes
so that you can prepare the people to be ready for him.
77 You will tell God's people that he wants to save
them by forgiving their sins.
78 God wants to save us because he is compassionate
and merciful.
That is why he is sending this Savior from
heaven to help us.
79 This Savior will show the truth to those who do
not know it, even to those who do not
know it at all. He will show us how to
live in a way that pleases God."

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

2 Also during that time, Caesar Augustus*, who ruled over the
whole Roman Empire,* commanded that every person living
in his empire had to register *his name in an official list of the
people who lived there*. 2 This was the first time that the Romans
recorded the names of everyone living in their empire. They
did this during the time when Quirinius was the governor of
the province of Syria. 3 So everyone had to go to his family's
hometown to register. 4–5 Joseph also traveled to his family's
hometown, along with Mary, who was engaged to him and
was pregnant. Because Joseph was a descendant of King David,
they left the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee and

traveled to the region of Judea, to the town of Bethlehem,
which is also known as the city of David. Joseph and Mary
went there to be registered in the public record. 6–7 When they
arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay in
a place where visitors usually stayed. So they had to stay in
a place where animals slept overnight. While they were there
the time came for Mary to give birth and she gave birth to her
first child, a son. She wrapped him in wide strips of cloth and
laid him down where the food was kept for the animals inside
the barn.

8 There were some shepherds camping out in the open
country near Bethlehem that night. They were there taking
care of their sheep. 9 Suddenly they saw an angel from the Lord
standing in front of them. A glorious light from the Lord shone
all over them. They became very afraid. 10 But the angel said
to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, because I have
come to tell you very good news! This news is for all people,
and should make everyone rejoice! 11 They will rejoice because
today, in Bethlehem, King David's hometown, the person was
born who will save you *from your sins*! He is the Messiah, the
Lord! 12 And here is a sign for you. *If you go to Bethlehem,* you
will find a baby there wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in
a feeding place for animals."

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

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

15 When the angels left them and returned to heaven, the
shepherds said to each other, "We should go right now to
Bethlehem and see this wonderful thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about!" 16 So they went quickly,
and when they had found *the place where* Mary and Joseph
were staying, they saw the baby lying in a feeding place for
animals. 17 After they had seen him, they told everyone what
the Lord had revealed to them about this baby. 18 All the people
who were listening thought that what the shepherds told them
was amazing. 19 But Mary carefully remembered all of these
things and thought about them continually. 20 The shepherds
returned *to the fields where their sheep were*. They kept talking
about how great God is and praising him for all of the things
that they had heard and seen. Everything had been exactly as
the angel had told them it would be.

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

22 Mary and Joseph waited the number of days that the law
of Moses required for her to become ceremonially clean again
after having a baby. Then they brought him to Jerusalem so
that they could dedicate him to the Lord *in the temple*. 23 They
did this to obey the law of the Lord, which says, "You must
set apart for the Lord every male offspring who is the first
to be born." 24 There they offered the sacrifice that the law
of the Lord told the parents of a newborn son to offer, "two
turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem whose name
was Simeon. He did what was pleasing to God and obeyed
God's laws. He was eagerly waiting for God to send the Messiah
to encourage the people of Israel. The Holy Spirit was directing
him. 26 The Holy Spirit had previously revealed to him that
before he died, the Lord would send the Messiah and he would
get to see him. 27 So the Holy Spirit led Simeon to go into the
temple courtyard. He was there when Joseph and Mary brought
in the baby Jesus so that they could perform the ceremony
for him that God had commanded in the law. 28 *When Simeon
saw Jesus,* he picked him up in his arms and thanked God, and
then he said,

29 "Lord, you have kept your promise to me, and now I
am content for you to let me die.
30 Because I have seen the one whom you have
sent to save people,
31 the one whom you have prepared for all people to see.
32 He will be like a light that will reveal your truth to the
other nations. He will show how glorious
your plan is for Israel, your people."

33 Jesus' father and mother marveled at what Simeon said
about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Jesus'
mother, Mary, "Note well what I say: God has determined
that, because of this child, many people in Israel will reject
God and many will submit themselves to God. He will be a
sign *from God* that many people will oppose. 35 As for you, *the
cruel things that people will do to him will make you so sad that*
it will feel as if a sword is piercing through your very soul.
But this is necessary so that he can reveal the secret thoughts
of many people."

36 A prophetess named Anna was also there *in the temple
courtyard*. She was very old. She was the daughter of Phanuel,
who was from the tribe of Asher. As a young woman, she had
been married for seven years*, and then her husband had died*.
37 After that, she had lived as a widow for 84 more years. It
seemed as if she was always in the temple, worshiping God by
fasting and praying, *at all times of the* night and day. 38 At that
same time, Anna approached *Joseph and Mary and the baby*.
Anna began thanking God *for the baby*. Afterwards, she kept
speaking about Jesus to many other people who were also
expecting *God to send* the Messiah who would set the people
of Israel free.

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

41 Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate
the Passover festival. 42 So when Jesus was 12 years old, they
all traveled to Jerusalem together when it was time for the
Passover festival. 43 When the days for celebrating the festival
ended, Jesus' parents started to return home, but their son,
Jesus, stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know
that he was still there. 44 They thought that he was with the
other people who were traveling with them. But after walking
for one day, they started to look for him among their relatives
and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to
Jerusalem to search for him. 46 Three days after *Mary and
Joseph had left Jerusalem*, they found Jesus at the temple.
He was sitting among the Jewish religious teachers. He was

listening to them teach and he was asking them questions.
47 All the people who heard what he said were amazed at how
much he understood and how well he answered *the questions
that the teachers asked*.
48 When his parents saw him, they were
very surprised. His mother said to him, "My son, you should
not have done this to us. Listen to me! Your father and I have
been very worried as we have been searching for you!"
49 He
said to them, "I am surprised that you needed to search for me.
I thought you would know that I needed to be at my Father's
house*, learning about him*."
50 But they did not understand the
meaning of what he said to them.
51 Then he returned with
them to Nazareth, and he always obeyed them. His mother
kept thinking deeply about all the things that had happened.
52 As the years passed, Jesus continued to become wiser,
and he grew taller. God and people continued to approve of
him more and more.

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

"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!'
5 *When an important person is going to arrive by a certain
road,* people fill in all the ravines and
level off all the steep places in it.
They make the road straight wherever it is crooked,
and they smooth out all the bumps. *In the same
way, God will make sure that there will be
people who are ready for the Messiah.*
6 Then everyone will recognize God's way of
saving people."

7 Large groups of people were coming out *to the desolate
place where John was* so that he would baptize them. So John
said to them, "You people are sneaky and dangerous like
poisonous snakes! You think that if I baptize you, God will
spare you when he punishes sinners. *But I did not say that!*
8 You
need to do the things that show that you have truly rejected
your previous sinful way of living! And do not even begin to
say to yourselves, '*Certainly God will not punish us, because* we
are descendants of Abraham!' *That does not impress God.* Let
me assure you, God could turn these stones into descendants
of Abraham!
9 You are like fruit trees that do not produce good
fruit. God is like a man who is positioning the head of his
axe at the base of those trees, ready to chop them down and
throw them into the fire. God is ready to punish you like that
if you continue sinning."
10 Then *several of the people in* the
crowd asked him, "What kinds of things, then, does God want
us to do?"
11 He answered them, "If any of you has two shirts,
you should give one of them to someone who does not have a
shirt. If any of you has plenty of food, you should give some to
those who do not have food."
12 Some tax collectors also came,
wanting John to baptize them. They asked him, "Teacher, what
does God want us to do?"
13 He said to them, "Do not collect
more money *from the people* than the Roman government tells
you to collect!"
14 There were also some men there who were
soldiers. Even they asked him, "And what about us? What does
God want us to do?" He said to them, "Do not force people
to give you money by threatening to harm them or by falsely
accusing them *of doing something wrong*. Be content with the
amount of money that you earn as a soldier."
15 People had
been waiting *for a long time for the Messiah to come. But now
they were getting very hopeful about John*. They thought that he
might be the Messiah.
16 But John said to all of them, "*I am
not the Messiah.* He is coming, and he is far greater than I am.
He is so great that I am not worthy even to be like the slave
who would untie the straps of his sandals *when he comes in the
house*! When I baptized you, I used only water. But *when the
Messiah comes,* he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, who
will judge and purify you.
17 *The Messiah is ready to do this,
just like* a farmer who has his winnowing fork ready to use.
A farmer separates all the good grain from the useless chaff.
He stores the grain safely in his barn, but he burns the chaff
until it is all gone. *That represents how the Messiah will gather up
the people who are pleasing to God, and he will punish the people
who are displeasing to God.*"
18 In many different ways like this,
John urged the people *to stop sinning and to submit themselves to
God*, as he kept telling them the good news *from God*.
19 John
even rebuked King Herod for all of the many evil things that
Herod had done. But when John rebuked Herod for marrying
his brother's wife, Herodias, while his brother was still alive,
20 Herod did another evil thing. He had his soldiers put John
in prison.
21 But before Herod did that, while John was still
baptizing many people, John also baptized Jesus. Afterwards,
while Jesus was praying, the sky opened.
22 Then the Holy
Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down and landed on Jesus.
Then God spoke *to Jesus* from heaven. He said, "You are my
Son, the one whom I love dearly. I am very pleased with you!"
23 At that time Jesus began his work for God. He was about 30
years old. This is Jesus' lineage: People considered Jesus to be
the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Heli.
24 Heli was the
son of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi. Levi was the son
of Melchi. Melchi was the son of Jannai. Jannai was the son of
Joseph.
25 Joseph was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was
the son of Amos. Amos was the son of Nahum. Nahum was the
son of Esli. Esli was the son of Naggai.
26 Naggai was the son of
Maath. Maath was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was the
son of Semein. Semein was the son of Josech. Josech was the
son of Joda.
27 Joda was the son of Joanan. Joanan was the
son of Rhesa. Rhesa was the son of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel
was the son of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the son of Neri.
28 Neri
was the son of Melchi. Melchi was the son of Addi. Addi was
the son of Cosam. Cosam was the son of Elmadam. Elmadam
was the son of Er.
29 Er was the son of Joshua. Joshua was the
son of Eliezer. Eliezer was the son of Jorim. Jorim was the son
of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi.
30 Levi was the son of

Simeon. Simeon was the son of Judah. Judah was the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Jonam. Jonam was the son of Eliakim. 31 Eliakim was the son of Melea. Melea was the son of Menna. Menna was the son of Mattatha. Mattatha was the son of Nathan. Nathan was the son of David. 32 David was the son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed. Obed was the son of Boaz. Boaz was the son of Salmon. Salmon was the son of Nahshon. 33 Nahshon was the son of Amminadab. Amminadab was the son of Admin. Admin was the son of Arni. Arni was the son of Hezron. Hezron was the son of Perez. Perez was the son of Judah. 34 Judah was the son of Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham. Abraham was the son of Terah. Terah was the son of Nahor. 35 Nahor was the son of Serug. Serug was the son of Reu. Reu was the son of Peleg. Peleg was the son of Eber. Eber was the son of Shelah. 36 Shelah was the son of Cainan. Cainan was the son of Arphaxad. Arphaxad was the son of Shem. Shem was the son of Noah. Noah was the son of Lamech. 37 Lamech was the son of Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. Enoch was the son of Jared. Jared was the son of Mahalalel. Mahalalel was the son of Cainan. 38 Cainan was the son of Enos. Enos was the son of Seth. Seth was the son of Adam. Adam came from God.

4 After John baptized him, Jesus came back out of the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit was fully empowering him. Then the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness. 2 Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days. While he was there, the devil kept tempting him. During that entire time, Jesus did not eat anything. So when the 40 days were over, he was very hungry. 3 Then the devil said to Jesus, “If you really are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread *for you to eat*!” 4 Jesus replied, “*No, I will not do that, because* the Scriptures say, ‘People need more than just food in order to live.’” 5 Then the devil took Jesus up *to the top of a high mountain* and showed him all the nations of the world in an instant. 6 Then the devil said to Jesus, “I will make you the ruler over all of these nations and you will possess all of their wealth. I can do this because God has permitted me to control all of them, and so I can give them to whomever I wish. 7 All you have to do is bow down and worship me. Then I will let you rule them all!” 8 But Jesus replied, “*No, I will not worship you, because* the Scriptures say, ‘You must only worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you may serve!’”

9 Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem. He set him on the highest part of the temple and said to him, “If you really are the Son of God, jump down from here. 10 You will not be hurt, because the Scriptures say,

‘God will command his angels to protect you.’
11 And the Scriptures also say,
‘The angels will hold you up in their hands when
you are falling, so that you will not get
hurt.’” 12 But Jesus replied, “*No, I will not
do that, because* the Scriptures also say:
‘Do not test the Lord your God’.”

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

14 After this, Jesus *left the desolate area and* returned to the district of Galilee. The Holy Spirit was empowering him. Throughout that whole region, people heard about Jesus and told others about him. 15 He taught people in their Jewish meeting places. *As a result,* all of the people praised him.

16 Then Jesus went to Nazareth, the town where he had grown up. As he usually did on the Jewish day of rest, he went to the Jewish meeting place. *At the appropriate time,* he stood up to read *something aloud from the Scriptures*. 17 *Jesus wanted to read some of the words that* the prophet Isaiah *had spoken long ago. So he asked for* the scroll that contained these words, and a synagogue attendant handed it to him. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place from which he wanted to read. *He read these words:*

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is empowering me,
because he has specially appointed me to declare God’s
good news to people who are poor.
He has sent me to declare to people who are in
prison that they will go free,
and to tell those who are blind that they will see again.
He has sent me to release people whom
others are oppressing,
19 and to announce that now is the time when the Lord
will act favorably toward people.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant, and he sat down *to teach the people*. Everyone in the Jewish meeting place was looking intently at him. 21 He began to teach them by saying, “I have made this Scripture passage come true right now, as you heard me read it.” 22 Everyone there approved of him and they were amazed at the wonderful things that he said. Many of them said to each other, “*It is surprising that he can speak like this!* This man is only Joseph’s son!” 23 He said to them, “Surely some of you will quote to me the proverb that says, ‘“Doctor, heal yourself!” *What you will mean by it is, People told us that* you did miracles in the town of Capernaum. *If you want us to believe that you are a prophet, then* do the same kind of miracles here in your hometown!’” 24 Then he said, “It is certainly true that the people in a prophet’s own hometown do not accept that he is a prophet. 25 Think about this: There were many widows in Israel during the time when the prophet Elijah lived. At that time there was no rain for three and a half years. This caused a great famine throughout the whole country. 26 And yet God did not send Elijah to help any of the widows in Israel. Instead, God sent him to the town of Zarephath near the city of Sidon, to help a *non-Israelite* widow there. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel during the time when the prophet Elisha lived. But Elisha did not heal any of them. Instead, he healed only Naaman, *a non-Israelite man* from the country of Syria.” 28 When all the people in the Jewish meeting place heard him say those things, they became very angry. 29 So they stood up, grabbed Jesus, and dragged him out of the city. They took him to the edge of the cliff outside of their city in order to throw him off of the cliff and kill him. 30 But Jesus simply walked through the crowd and went away.

31 From there Jesus went down to Capernaum, a city in the district of Galilee. On each Jewish day of rest, he taught the people *in the Jewish meeting place there*. 32 The things that Jesus

taught the people amazed them, because he spoke as someone
who knew what he was talking about. 33 Now in that Jewish
meeting place there was a man whom an evil spirit controlled.
He shouted very loudly, 34 "Aah! Jesus, from Nazareth! What
do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know
who you are! You are the Holy One from God!" 35 But Jesus
spoke sternly to the evil spirit. He said, "Be quiet and come
out of him!" The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground
in the middle of the people. But then he came out of the man,
without harming him. 36 All of the people *in the Jewish meeting
place* were amazed. Many of them said to each other, "We
have never seen anything like this! His words are so powerful!
He commands the evil spirits as if they must obey him, and
when he commands them, they come out *of people*!" 37 In every
place throughout the surrounding region, people kept talking
about what Jesus had done.

38 Then Jesus left the Jewish meeting place and went to the
house of a man named Simon. His mother-in-law was there.
She was sick and had a high fever. The people there asked
Jesus to heal her. 39 So Jesus went over to where she was and
stood next to her. He commanded the fever to leave her, and
it did! She immediately got up and served them some food.

40 When the sun was setting*, which ended the Jewish day of
rest*, many people whose friends or relatives were sick with
various diseases brought them to Jesus. He put his hands on
each one of them and healed them. 41 *As Jesus put his hands on
the sick people,* evil spirits also came out from many of them.
As the evil spirits came out, they shouted *to Jesus*, "You are the
Son of God!" But he commanded those evil spirits not to tell
people about him, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

42 Early the next morning, Jesus went out to an uninhabited
place. Crowds of people went looking for him. When they
came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving
them. 43 But Jesus said to them, "I must also tell people in
other cities the good news that they can have God rule their
lives, because that is what God sent me here to do." 44 So he
went on preaching in the Jewish meeting places throughout
the province of Judea.

5 One day while many people were crowding around Jesus
and listening to him teach God's message, he was standing
next to Lake Gennesaret. 2 He saw two fishing boats there at
the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left the boats and
were washing their fishing nets. 3 Jesus stepped into one of the
two boats, the one that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him
to move the boat out a short distance away from the shore.
Then Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the
crowds from there. 4 After he finished teaching them, he said
to Simon, "Take the boat out to deeper water and let your
nets down into the water to catch some fish." 5 Simon replied,
"Master, we worked hard through the whole night and yet
we did not catch any fish. But I will let down the nets again
because you told me to." 6 So Simon and his crew let down
their nets and they caught such a large number of fish that
their nets began to break. 7 They motioned to their fishing
partners in the other boat to come and help them. So they
came and filled both boats so full with fish that the boats
began to sink. 8 Seeing this, Simon Peter bowed down before
Jesus and said, "Please leave me, because I am a sinful man,
Lord." 9 *He said this* because he marveled at the huge number
of fish that they had caught. All the men who were with him
also marveled. 10 James and John, the two sons of Zebedee,
who were Simon's partners, were just as amazed. But Jesus
said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! *Until now you gathered in
fish, but* from now on you will gather in people to become my
disciples." 11 So after the men brought the boats to the shore,
they left their fishing business and everything else and went
with Jesus.

12 Jesus went to one of the towns nearby. There was a
man there who was covered with a skin disease. When he
saw Jesus, he bowed down to the ground in front of him. He
pleaded with him, "Lord, *please heal me!* I know that you are
able to heal me if you are willing!" 13 Then Jesus reached out
his hand and touched the man. He said, "I am willing to heal
you, and I heal you now!" Immediately the man was healed.
He no longer had leprosy! 14 Then Jesus told him, "Do not
tell anyone that I healed you. First, go and show yourself to a
priest so that he can examine you and see that you no longer
have leprosy. Bring the sacrifice that Moses commanded you
to offer to become ceremonially clean again." 15 But instead
even more people heard *about how Jesus had healed the man*.
As a result, large crowds came to hear *Jesus teach* and to have
him heal them from their sicknesses. 16 But he would often go
away from them to isolated areas and pray.

17 One day when Jesus was teaching, some men from the
Pharisee sect and some expert teachers of the Jewish law
were sitting nearby. They had come from many villages in the
district of Galilee and also from Jerusalem and other cities
in the province of Judea. At that same time, the Lord was
giving Jesus the power to heal people. 18 While Jesus was
there, several men brought him a man who was paralyzed.
They were carrying the man on a sleeping pad and trying to
bring him into the house to lay him down in front of Jesus.
19 But because there was such a large crowd of people in the
house, they were not able to bring him in. So they went up
the outside steps onto the flat roof. *They removed some of the
tiles from the roof to make an opening.* Then they lowered the
man on his sleeping pad through the opening into the middle
of the crowd. He came down right in front of Jesus. 20 When
Jesus perceived that they believed that he could heal the man,
he said to him, "Friend, I forgive your sins!" 21 The teachers
of the law and the Pharisees began to think to themselves,
"This man insults God by saying that! Nobody except God can
forgive sins!" 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he
said to them, "You should not question what I said within
yourselves! 23 Here is something I want you to think carefully
about. Which is easier to say, 'I forgive your sins,' or, 'Get up
and walk'? *You might think that saying 'I forgive your sins' is
easier because it does not require any visible proof.* 24 But I want
you to know that God has given me, the Son of Man, authority
to forgive people on earth their sins. *To demonstrate that, I will
also tell this man to get up.*" Then he said to the man who was
paralyzed, "To you I say, get up, pick up your sleeping pad,
and go home!" 25 Immediately *the man was healed!* He got up
in front of them all. He picked up the sleeping pad on which
he had been lying, and he went home, praising God. 26 All
the people there were astonished! They praised God and were
completely amazed *at what they had seen Jesus do*. They kept
saying, "We have seen wonderful things today!"

27 Then Jesus left that place and saw a man named Levi
who collected taxes *for the Roman government*. He 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 disciple!" 28 So Levi left his work and went with Jesus.
29 Later on Levi prepared a big feast in his own house for
Jesus *and his disciples*. There was a large group of tax collectors
and others eating together with them. 30 Then some men who
belonged to the Pharisee sect, including some of them who
taught Jewish laws, complained to Jesus' disciples. They said,
"You should not be having a banquet with tax collectors and
other sinners." 31 Then Jesus said to them, "People who are
well do not need a doctor. People who are sick need a doctor.
32 Similarly, I did not come from heaven to invite those who
think they are righteous to come to me. On the contrary, I
came to invite those who know that they are sinners to turn
from their sinful behavior and come to me."
33 Those Jewish leaders responded to Jesus, "The disciples
of John the Baptizer often abstain from food and pray. The
disciples of the Pharisees do that too. But your disciples keep
on eating and drinking! Why do they not fast like the others?"
34 Jesus answered, "No one tells the friends of the bridegroom
to fast while the wedding celebration is still going on! 35 But
some day the bridegroom will no longer be with his friends.
Then, at that time, they will abstain from food."
36 Then Jesus gave other examples to explain what he
meant. He said, "People never tear a piece of cloth from a new
garment and attach it to an old garment to mend it. If they
did that, they would ruin the new garment by tearing it, and
the piece of cloth from the new garment would not match the
old garment. 37 And no one puts newly squeezed wine into old
skin bags *to store it*. If anyone did that, the skin bags would tear
open *because they would not stretch when the new wine fermented and expanded*. Then the skin bags would become useless, and
the wine *would also become useless because it* would spill out.
38 On the contrary, new wine must be put into new skin bags.
39 Those who have only drunk old wine do not want to try
new wine, because they think, 'The old wine is good enough!'"

6 One Sabbath day, as Jesus and his disciples were walking
through some grain fields, the disciples picked some heads
of grain. They rubbed them in their hands to separate the grain
from the husks. Then they ate the grain. 2 Some Pharisees *were watching this. They* said *to them*, "You should not be doing work
like that! Our law forbids us to do work on the Sabbath day!"
3 Jesus replied to the Pharisees, "Consider what the Scriptures
say about what David did when he and the men who were with
him were hungry. 4 As you know, David entered the tabernacle
and asked for some food. The priest gave him the bread that
had been on display before God. David ate some, and he also
gave some to the men who were with him, even though the
law said they could not do that. Only priests could eat that
bread." 5 Jesus also said to them, "I, the Son of Man, have
the authority *to determine what is right for people to do* on the
Sabbath!"
6 On another Sabbath day Jesus went to the synagogue
and taught *the people*. A man was there who could not move
his right hand. 7 Some teachers of the Jewish laws and some
Pharisees *were there. They* were watching Jesus closely. They
wanted to see whether he would heal the man. If he did, then
they would accuse him *of disobeying their laws about not working on the Sabbath*. 8 But Jesus knew what they were thinking. So
he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand
here in front of everyone!" So the man got up and stood there.
9 Then Jesus said to them, "I want to ask you a question. Do
the laws that God gave Moses command people to do good on
the Sabbath, or to do harm? Do they command people to save
a life on the Sabbath, or to destroy it?" 10 *No one answered him, so* he looked around at them all and then said to the
man, "Stretch out your withered hand!" The man did that, and
his hand became completely well again! 11 But the religious
leaders were very angry, and they discussed with one another
about what they could do to *get rid of* Jesus.
12 Around that time, Jesus went up into the hills to pray.
He prayed to God all night there. 13 The next day he called
all his disciples to come to him. From among them he chose
12 men and made them his representatives. 14 *These are their names:* Simon, to whom Jesus gave the new name Peter;
Andrew, Peter's brother; James and his brother, John; Philip;
Bartholomew; 15 Matthew*, whose other name was Levi*; Thomas;
another man named James whose father was named Alphaeus;
Simon the Zealot; 16 Judas, the son of a different man named
James; and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.
17 Jesus came down from the hills with his disciples and
stood on a level area. There was a great crowd of his disciples
there. There was also a large group of people who had come
from Jerusalem and from many other places in the region of
Judea, and from the coastal areas near the cities of Tyre and
Sidon. 18 They came to hear Jesus *teach them* and heal them
from their diseases. He also healed those whom evil spirits had
troubled. 19 Everyone in the crowd tried to touch him, because
he was healing everyone by his power. 20 Then he looked at
his disciples and said, "It is very good for you who are poor,
because God is ruling you. 21 It is very good for you who are
hungry now, because God will give you everything you need.
It is very good for you who are grieving now, because God
will someday make you laugh with joy.
22 It is very good when other people hate you, when they
reject you and insult you and say that you are bad because
you follow me, the Son of Man. 23 When that happens, rejoice!
Jump up and down because you are so happy! Keep in mind
that God is going to give you a great reward in heaven! Do
not forget that the ancestors of the people who are treating
you this way did similar things to God's prophets *long ago*.
24 But how sad it is for you who are rich. You have *already*
received all the comfort you are going to get *from your riches*.
25 How sad it is for you who can stuff yourselves with food
now. Later you will go hungry.
Woe to the ones who are laughing now. Later you will be
very unhappy. 26 How sad it is for you when everyone says
good things about you. In the same way, their ancestors used
to say good things about people who falsely claimed to be
God's prophets.
27 But I say this to each of you who are listening to what I
say: Love your enemies*, not only your friends*! Do good things
for those who hate you! 28 Ask God to bless those who curse
you! Pray for those who treat you badly! 29 If someone *insults you by* striking you on one of your cheeks, turn your face so that
he can strike the other cheek also. If someone wants to take
away your coat, let him also have your shirt. 30 Give something

to everyone who asks you. If someone takes things that belong to you, do not make him return them. 31 In whatever way you want others to act toward you, that is the way that you should act toward them.

32 If you love *only* those who love you, do not expect God to reward you for doing that. Even sinners love those who love them. 33 Do not expect God to reward you because you do good things for people who do good things for you. After all, even sinners do that. 34 If you lend *money or property* only to those who will give it back to you, do not expect God to reward you for doing that. Even sinners lend to other sinners who will give everything back to them. 35 Instead, love your enemies! Do good things for them! Lend to them, and do not expect them to pay anything back! Then God will give you a great reward. And you will be children of God the Most High, since God is kind even to people who are unthankful and wicked. 36 So you should act mercifully toward other people, just as God, your Father, acts mercifully toward people.

37 Do not harshly criticize *other people*. Then God will not harshly criticize you. Do not condemn *other people*. Then God will not condemn you. Forgive *others for the wrong things they have done to you*. Then God will forgive you. 38 Give *to others*. Then God will give to you. It will be as if he is trying to give you as much grain as possible in a container you have. He will press the grain down. He will shake it together. He will keep filling the container until it overflows. So when you give to others, it should be as if you are using a big scoop, because God will use the same size scoop to give to you."

39 He also gave his disciples this example: "A blind person should not try to lead another blind person *down the road*. If he did, they both would fall into the ditch *on the side of the road*! 40 A disciple is not greater than his teacher. But once the teacher has finished training him, he will become like his teacher.

41 *None of you should be concerned about the small faults of another person. You should be concerned about your own serious faults.* Otherwise, that would be like noticing a speck in the eye of that person while not noticing a huge wooden plank in your own eye. 42 You should not tell another believer, 'Friend, let me help you correct your faults,' when you have not dealt with your own faults yet. If you do that, you are a hypocrite! You should first *stop committing your own sins. That will be like* removing a large plank from your own eye. Then, as a result, you will have the spiritual insight you need to help others get rid of the *smaller faults that are like* little specks in their eyes.

43 Everyone knows that healthy trees do not produce bad fruit and unhealthy trees do not produce good fruit. 44 You can tell what a person is like inside by the things that they do. *Then you know what to expect from them. You would not look for kindness or good advice from someone who does bad things.* That would be like looking for figs on a thornbush or looking for grapes on a bramble vine. 45 Good people do good things because they think good things. Evil people do evil things because they think evil things. This is because people speak and act based on what they are thinking about."

46 *Jesus said to the people,* "Why do you call me 'Lord' when you do not obey what I tell you to do? 47 Let me tell you what people are like who come to me, hear my teachings, and obey them. 48 Such people are like a person who dug deep into the ground to prepare to build his house. He made sure to build the foundation *for the house* on solid rock. Then there was a flood. A torrent of water was beating against that house. But it could not destroy it, because the person had built the house on a solid foundation. 49 But some people who hear my teachings do not obey them. They are like a person who built a house on top of the ground without digging a foundation first. When the floodwaters came, it collapsed immediately. The waters destroyed that house completely."

7 After Jesus finished saying all these things to the people who were listening, he went to the town of Capernaum. 2 In that town there was a centurion in the Roman army who had a slave who was dear to him. This slave was so sick that he was about to die. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to Jesus to ask him to come and heal his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly asked him *to help the centurion's slave*. They said, "He deserves to have you do this for him, 5 because he loves our people and he built our synagogue for us." 6 So Jesus went with them *to the officer's house*. When he was almost there, the officer sent some friends to give this message to Jesus: "Lord, do not go to the trouble *of coming here*, since I am not worthy to have you come into my house. 7 That is why I did not feel that I was worthy to come to you in person. I knew that you could heal my dear slave just by speaking *a command*. 8 *I know that you can do this* because I myself am a man who must obey the orders of my superiors. I also have soldiers who must obey my orders. When I say to one of them, 'Go!' he goes. When I say to another one, 'Come!' he comes. When I say to my slave, 'Do this!' he does it." 9 When Jesus heard what the officer had said, he was amazed at him. Then he turned to the crowd that was with him and said, "Let me tell you, I have not met any Israelite who trusts me as much as this Gentile does!" 10 When the friends who had come from the centurion returned to his house, they found that the slave was in good health again.

11 Soon after that Jesus traveled to the town of Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went with him. 12 As Jesus came near to the town gate, he saw a large crowd coming out of the town. A man had just died, and they were carrying him out to bury him. His mother was in the crowd. She was a widow, and he had been her only son. *He had taken care of her while he was alive.* 13 When Jesus saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not cry!" 14 Then he came close *to them* and touched the stretcher *on which the body was lying*. The men carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 Then the man who had died sat up and began to talk! And Jesus led him back to his mother. 16 Everyone there was awestruck. They praised God and said *to each other*, "A great prophet has come among us!" and "God has come to care for his people!" 17 Then this news about *what* Jesus *had done* spread throughout the region of Judea and all the other areas nearby.

18–19 The disciples of John the Baptizer told him about all these things. So John called for two of his disciples and told them to go to the Lord and ask him: "Are you the one whom God promised would come, or should we be expecting someone else?" 20 When those two men came to Jesus, they told him, "John the Baptizer sent us to ask you, 'Are you the one whom God promised would come? Or should we wait for someone else?'" 21 At that same time Jesus was healing many people

from sicknesses and serious diseases, and he was delivering them from evil spirits. He also gave many blind people the ability to see again. 22 So he answered those two men, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard. People who were blind are now seeing. People who were lame are now walking. People who had skin diseases no longer have them. People who were deaf can now hear. People who were dead have come back to life. I am proclaiming good news to poor people." 23 *And also tell him,* "God will bless anyone who *sees what I do and hears what I teach and* continues to believe in me."

24 When the men whom John had sent left, Jesus began to talk to the crowd of people about John. He said, "What did you go into the wilderness to see? A thin stalk of a plant shaken by the wind? 25 But what did you go out to see? A man wearing fancy clothing? Listen, those who wear splendid clothes and who have the best of everything live in kings' palaces. 26 Then what did you go out there to see? A prophet? Yes*, that is who John is*! But I tell you that John is more significant than an ordinary prophet. 27 He is the one about whom the prophet wrote long ago: 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare people for your coming.'

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

29 When all the people whom John had baptized heard what Jesus said—including the tax collectors—they agreed that God had done the right thing *by sending John*. 30 But the Pharisees and the experts in the Jewish law, whom John had not baptized, rejected God's will for them.

31 *Then Jesus also said,* "*I will tell you* what you people living in this time period are like. 32 You are like children playing games in an open area. They call out to each other, saying, 'We played happy music for you on the flute, but you did not dance! Then we sang sad funeral songs for you, but you did not cry!' 33 Similarly, when John came to you and did not eat ordinary food or drink wine, you *rejected him and* said, 'A demon is controlling him!' 34 But when the Son of Man came to you and he ate *ordinary food* and drank *wine as others do*, then you *rejected him and* said, 'Look! This man eats too much food and drinks too much wine, and he associates with tax collectors and other sinners!' 35 But those who are wise themselves recognize that what John and I do is also wise."

36 One day a certain Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to eat a meal with him. So Jesus went to the man's house and reclined at a table to eat. 37 There was also a woman in that city who had a bad reputation. When she heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, *she went there,* bringing a stone jar that contained perfume. 38 *As Jesus was reclining to eat, the woman stood behind him at his feet.* She was crying, and her tears fell on Jesus' feet. She continually wiped his feet with her hair. She kept kissing them and anointing them with the perfume. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw *what the woman was doing*, he thought, "If this man really were a prophet, he would have known who this woman is who is touching him. He would have known what kind of person she is, that she is a sinner." 40 In response, Jesus said to him, "Simon, there is something I want to tell you." He replied, "Teacher, what is it?" 41 *Jesus told him this story:* "Two people owed money to a man who had a business lending money. One of these people owed him 500 silver coins. The other one owed him 50 silver coins. 42 Neither of them was able to pay back what he owed, so the man very kindly said that they both did not have to pay back anything. So, which of those two men will love that man more?" 43 Simon replied, "I assume that the one who had owed him the larger amount will love him more." Jesus said to him, "You are correct." 44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Think about what this woman has done! When I entered your house*, you did not do what hosts usually do to welcome their guests.* You did not give me any water to wash my feet. But this woman has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair! 45 You did not greet me with a kiss. But from the moment I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet! 46 You did not anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with fragrant perfume. 47 So I tell you that God has forgiven her many sins, and that is why she loves me very much. But a person who thinks that God has only had to forgive him for a few sins will love me only a little bit." 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "I have forgiven your sins." 49 Then those who were eating with him said among themselves, "Who is this man who says that he can even forgive sins?" 50 But Jesus said to the woman, "Because you have believed in me, God has saved you. May God give you peace as you go!"

8 After that, Jesus and his 12 representatives traveled around through various cities and villages. As they went, Jesus preached to people, telling them the good news that they could have God rule their lives. 2 *Also traveling with them were* several women whom he had delivered from evil spirits and healed from sicknesses. These included Mary from the village of Magdala. Jesus had forced seven evil spirits to leave her. 3 *Another of these women was* Joanna. She was the wife of Chuza, who was a manager for King Herod. *These women also included* Susanna and many others. They were using their own money to support Jesus and his disciples.

4 One day a very large crowd was gathering. People were traveling from many different towns to see Jesus. He told them this story: 5 "A farmer went out to plant some grain seeds. As he was scattering them over the soil, some of the seeds fell onto the hard pathway. People stepped on those seeds, and birds ate them all up. 6 Some of the seeds fell on *shallow soil above a layer of* rock. As soon as those seeds grew, the plants dried up because their roots could not get past the rock to reach to the moisture. 7 Some of the seeds fell on ground where thorn plants had left their own seeds. The new thorn plants grew up together with the young grain plants. The *stronger* thorns crowded out the grain plants, so that the grain did not grow well. 8 But some of the grain seeds fell on fertile soil. They grew so well that they produced a crop that had a hundred times as many seeds." After saying these things, Jesus called out to the crowd, "You should think carefully about what you just heard me say!"

9 Then Jesus' disciples asked him, "What does that story mean?" 10 And he said, "God has given you the privilege of knowing hidden things about how God will rule as king. But *I speak* to everyone else only in parables, so that,

> 'Although they see, they may not perceive, and although they hear, they may not understand.'

11 Now, this is what the story means: The seeds represent
what God wants people to understand. 12 The seeds that fell
on the pathway *show what happens when* people understand
the message from God only superficially. This makes it easy
for the devil to come and take that message away from their
minds. As a result, they do not believe it, and so God does not
save them. 13 The seeds that fell on the rocky ground *show what*
happens when people hear the message from God and receive
it joyfully, but they do not commit themselves seriously. They
only believe for a short time. As soon as difficult things happen
to them, they stop trusting in God. 14 The seeds that fell among
the thorny plants *show what happens to some other* people who
hear the message from God. As they go on in life, they allow
the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life to occupy all their
attention. As a result, they do not become spiritually mature.
15 But the seeds that fell on the fertile ground *show what happens*
when people hear the message about God and accept it with
great sincerity. They make a firm commitment, and because
they keep this commitment, they become spiritually mature.
16 Think about this. When people light a lamp, they do not
cover it with a basket. They do not put it under a bed. Instead,
they put it on a lampstand. That way everyone who enters
the room can see by its light. 17 This illustrates that someday
everyone will be able to see everything that is now hidden.
And someday everyone will see in the open everything that is
now secret. 18 So make sure that you are listening carefully *to*
what I tell you, because if someone believes God's truth, God
will enable him to understand even more. But if someone does
not believe God's truth, God will cause him not to understand
even *the little* he thinks he has understood."
19 One day Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him,
but they could not get near him because there was *such* a *large*
crowd *around him in the house where he was*. 20 Then people told
him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside,
wanting to see you." 21 But he replied to them, "Those who
hear the message from God and obey it are as dear to me as
my mother and my brothers."
22 On another day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples.
He said to them, "I would like us to go across to the other side
of the lake." So they started to sail across the lake. 23 But as
they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep. Then a powerful windstorm
began on the lake. Soon the boat was filling with water, and
they were in danger. 24 So Jesus' disciples came over to wake
him up. They said to him, "Master! Master! We are all going to
die!" He woke up and scolded the wind and the violent waves.
The wind stopped blowing, the waves stopped hitting the boat,
and everything became calm. 25 Then he said to them, "You
acted as if you had no faith!" The disciples were alarmed and
amazed *because of what had just happened*. They kept asking
each other, "Who could Jesus be? He is able to command even
the winds and the waves, and they obey him."
26 Jesus and his disciples continued sailing and came to
the region where the Gerasene people lived. It was on the
opposite side of the lake from the district of Galilee. 27 When
Jesus came out of the boat onto the land, a certain man from
the town in that area met him. This man had demons in him.
For a long time this man had not worn clothes and had not
lived in a house. Instead, he lived in the burial caves.
28 When the man saw Jesus, he cried out and lay facedown
before him. He shouted, "What do you want with me, Jesus,
Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!"
29 *The man said this because* Jesus had just commanded the evil
spirit to come out of him. In the past, people had bound him
with chains and shackles and kept a close watch on him. Even
so, many times the evil spirit would suddenly seize him by
force. Then the man would break free, and the demon would
make him go out into deserted places. 30 Then Jesus asked
him, "What is your name?" The demon replied, "*My name is*
Thousands." He said that because many demons had entered
the man. 31 The demons kept begging Jesus not to command
them to go into the deep pit where God punishes demons.
32 There was a large herd of pigs grazing on the hillside nearby.
The demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter the pigs, and
he allowed them. 33 So the demons left the man and entered
the pigs, and the herd of pigs rushed down the steep bank into
the lake and drowned.
34 When those who were taking care of the pigs saw what
happened, they ran away! They reported what they had seen
to all the people who lived around them. 35 Then the people
went out to see what had happened. When they came to where
Jesus was, they saw that the man from whom the demons had
gone out was sitting at the feet of Jesus. They saw that he
had clothes on and his mind was normal again. *They realized*
how powerful Jesus must be, and they became afraid. 36 Those
who had seen what had happened told the people who had
just arrived how Jesus had rescued the man who had been
controlled by demons. 37 Then many people from that place
where the Gerasenes lived asked Jesus to leave their area,
because they were very afraid. So Jesus and his disciples got
into the boat to go back across the lake. 38 Before they left,
the man from whom the demons had gone out begged Jesus,
saying, "Please, let me go with you!" But instead, Jesus sent
him away by saying to him, 39 "No, go back to your home and
tell *everyone* how much God has done for you!" So the man
went away and told people throughout the whole city how
much Jesus had done for him.
40 And when Jesus and his disciples got back across the lake
to Capernaum, a crowd of people welcomed them. They had all
been waiting for him there. 41 Just then a man named Jairus,
who was one of the leaders of the synagogue there, came near
to Jesus, and he lay facedown before him. He pleaded with
Jesus to come to his house. 42 He did this because he had
an only daughter, who was about 12 years old, and she was
dying. *He wanted Jesus to heal her.*
Now as Jesus went *with him*, many people were crowding
around him. 43 Now in the crowd there was a woman who
had been suffering for 12 years from a disease that caused
continual bleeding. She had spent all her money[a] to pay doctors
to help her, but none of them was able to heal her. 44 She
came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his robe. At
once her bleeding stopped. 45 Jesus said, "Who touched me?"
Everyone *around Jesus* said that they had not touched him.
Peter said, "Master, there are many people crowding around
you and pressing up against you. *So any one of them might*
have touched you!" 46 But Jesus said, "I know that someone
deliberately touched me, because power has gone out from

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

me *to heal that person*." 47 Then the woman realized that she could not hide. She came trembling to Jesus and *respectfully* lay facedown on the ground before him. As the other people were listening, she explained why she had touched Jesus and how she gotten better immediately. 48 And Jesus said to her, "My dear woman, because you believed *that I could heal you*, you are now well. Now go on your way, and may God's peace be with you."

49 While Jesus was still speaking *to the woman*, a man from Jairus' house came and said to Jairus, "Your daughter has died. So do not take up any more of the teacher's time." 50 But when Jesus heard that, he said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid. Just believe *in me*, and she will live again." 51 When he arrived outside the house, Jesus did not allow anyone to go in the house with him except for Peter, John, and James, and the girl's father and mother. 52 And all the people there were loudly demonstrating how sad they were that the girl had died. But Jesus said to them, "Stop crying! She is not dead! She is only sleeping!" 53 And the people laughed at him because they knew that the girl was dead. 54 But Jesus took hold of her hand and called *to her*, saying, "Child, get up!" 55 And immediately she came back to life and she got up. Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 And her parents were amazed, but Jesus told them not to tell anyone else *yet* what had happened.

9 Then Jesus called together his 12 representatives and gave them the right and power to drive out all kinds of demons and to heal *people's* diseases. 2 He sent them out to announce *the good news about* how God would rule as king. He told them to heal people who were sick. 3 *Before they left,* he said to them, "Do not take anything with you for your journey. Do not take a walking stick or a traveler's bag or food or money. Do not bring an extra tunic. 4 Whatever house you enter, stay in that house until you leave that area. 5 If the people in any town do not welcome you, you should not stay there. Instead, leave that town and, as you go, shake its dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them *for rejecting you*." 6 Then Jesus' disciples left and traveled through many villages. Everywhere they went, they talked to people about the good news from God, and they healed sick people.

7 Herod, the ruler over the district of Galilee, heard about everything that was happening, and he was perplexed. Some people were saying that John the Baptizer had become alive again. 8 Other people were saying that the prophet Elijah had appeared again. Still others were saying that one of the other prophets from long ago had become alive again. 9 But Herod said, "It cannot be John, because I had his head cut off. So who is this man? I keep hearing such amazing things about him!" And he kept looking for a way to see Jesus.

10 When Jesus' representatives returned from their trip, they told Jesus everything that they had done. Then he took them aside to go by themselves with him to the town of Bethsaida. 11 But when the crowds learned where Jesus had gone, they followed him there. He welcomed them and spoke to them about how God was going to rule as king. He also healed those who were sick.

12 Now it was getting late in the day, so Jesus' 12 representatives came to him and said, "Please send this large crowd of people away so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms to get some food and find places to stay, since we are out here in this isolated place." 13 But he said to them, "You must give them something to eat!" They replied, "All we have are five small loaves of bread and two small fish. We could never go buy enough food for all these people!" 14 *They said this* because there were about 5,000 men there. Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have the people sit down in groups. Put about 50 people in each group." 15 So the disciples did that, and the people all sat down. 16 Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and praised God for them. Then he divided the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to the disciples for them to distribute to the people. 17 They all ate, and everyone had enough to eat. Then the disciples collected the leftover pieces of food, which filled 12 baskets!

18 One day while Jesus was praying in private, with his disciples nearby, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" 19 They replied, "*Some people say that you are* John the Baptizer, but others say that you are the prophet Elijah, and still others say that you are one of the other prophets from long ago who has come back to life again." 20 He asked them, "What about you? Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, who has come from God." 21 Then Jesus warned them strongly not to tell that to anyone yet. 22 Then he said, "I, the Son of Man, must suffer many things: The elders, chief priests, and teachers of the Jewish laws will reject me and kill me. Then, on the third day after that, I will come back to life again."

23 Then he said to them all, "If any one of you wants to be my disciple, you must not do only what you want to do. Rather, every day you must be willing to suffer, even to the point of giving up your life. That is how to be my disciple. 24 *You must do that* because those who try to save their own lives will lose them eternally, but those who give up their lives in order to become my disciples will save their lives eternally. 25 After all, how does it benefit you if you gain everything in this world but you then end up losing, or even destroying, your own self? 26 Suppose someone is afraid to say that they believe in me and that they follow my teaching. Then, I, the Son of Man, will say that such a person does not belong to me. This will happen when I come back in my glory and in the glory of God the Father and of the holy angels. 27 But you can be sure of this: Some of you who are standing here now will not die until you see God ruling as king!"

28 About eight days after Jesus said those things, he took Peter, John, and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray *there*. 29 While he was praying, the appearance of his face became very different, and his clothes began to shine brightly. 30 All at once, two *prophets from long ago* were there talking with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah. 31 These men appeared surrounded in glory. They spoke with Jesus about how he was going to die. This was something that was going to happen soon in Jerusalem. 32 Peter and the other disciples who were with him were very sleepy. But when they woke up fully, they saw how brightly Jesus was shining. They also saw Moses and Elijah standing with him. 33 As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here! We should make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!" But he really did not realize what he was saying. 34 As he was saying these things, a cloud formed and covered them. The disciples were afraid

as the cloud surrounded them. 35 God's voice spoke to them
from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen;
listen to him!" 36 When the voice had finished speaking, *the
three disciples saw that* only Jesus was there. They kept all this
to themselves. For a long time they did not tell anyone what
they had seen.

37 The next day, when they had come down from the
mountain, a large crowd of people met Jesus. 38 Suddenly a
man from the crowd called out, "Teacher, I plead with you,
do something to help my son! He is my only child. 39 Here
is what is happening. An evil spirit suddenly seizes him and
causes him to scream. It shakes him violently and causes him
to foam at the mouth. This spirit hardly ever leaves my child
and, when it does, it injures him severely. 40 I pleaded with
your disciples to command the evil spirit to come out of him,
but they were not able to do it!" 41 In response, Jesus said,
"This generation of people does not believe, and so its thinking
is corrupt! How much longer must I be with you before you
believe?" *Then he said to the boy's father,* "Bring your son here
to me!" 42 While they were bringing the boy to him, the demon
threw the boy down to the ground and shook him severely.
But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. Then he
returned him to his father. 43 Then all the people there were
completely amazed at the great power God had shown.

While they were all still marveling at all the miracles Jesus
was doing, he said to his disciples, 44 "Listen carefully to what
I am about to tell you, because someone will soon hand me,
the Son of Man, over to my enemies." 45 But the disciples did
not understand what he meant by this. God prevented them
from understanding it so that they would not know yet what
he meant, and they were afraid to ask him about what he had
said.

46 Sometime later, the disciples began to argue among
themselves about which one of them would be the most
important. 47 But Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he
brought a young child over and had the child stand beside
him. 48 He said to them, "If someone welcomes a little child
like this one because of me, it is the same as welcoming me.
And if someone welcomes me, it is the same as welcoming
God, who sent me. Remember that those among you who seem
to be the least important are the ones whom God considers to
be most important."

49 John replied to Jesus, "Master, we saw a man who was
using your name to command demons to come out of people.
But we told him to stop doing that, because he was not
working closely with you the way we are." 50 But Jesus told
John, "Do not stop him from doing that! If someone is not
doing something that is harmful to you, then what he is doing
is helpful to you!"

51 When it was getting close to the time when God would
take him back up to heaven, Jesus firmly resolved to go to
Jerusalem. 52 He sent some messengers ahead of him. They
traveled on and went into a village in the region of Samaria
to try to arrange for him to stay there. 53 But the Samaritans
would not let Jesus stay in their village, because he was on
his way to Jerusalem. 54 Two of his disciples, James and John,
got angry when they saw *that the Samaritans were not going to
welcome them*. So they asked Jesus, "Lord, do you want us to
command fire to come down from heaven and destroy these
people?" 55 But Jesus turned *to them* and sternly told them they
were wrong to say that. 56 So they went to a different village.

57 As Jesus and the disciples were walking along the road,
someone said to him, "I will go with you wherever you go!"
58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes in the ground to live in, and
birds have nests, but I, the Son of Man, do not have a home to
sleep in!" 59 Jesus said to a different person, "Come with me!"
But that person said, "Lord, let me first go home and bury my
father." 60 But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own
dead. I want you to go and tell people everywhere that they
can have God rule their lives." 61 Someone else said, "Lord,
I will come with you and be your disciple, but first let me
go home to say goodbye to my family." 62 Jesus said to him,
"Anyone who is like a farmer who tries to plow his field while
looking behind him is not able to serve God as his ruler."

10 After that, Jesus appointed 72 other disciples *to go and
prepare people to hear him*. He sent them out in pairs
to go ahead of him to every town and village where he was
intending to go himself. 2 He said to them, "Many people are
ready to believe in me, but there are only a few of you whom
I can send out to help them. So pray to God*, who wants all of
those people to believe,* and plead with him for more disciples
who can go and help them. 3 Go now, but remember that I
am sending you out to tell my message to people who will be
hostile to you. 4 Do not bring along any money. Do not bring
a lot of things with you in a pack. Do not bring *extra shoes*. Do
not *stop and* talk with people along the way. 5 Whenever you
enter a house, first say to the people who live there, 'May God
bless everyone in this house with peace!' 6 If the people who
live there desire God's peace, then they will experience the
peace you are offering them. But if they do not desire God's
peace, then you will experience that peace yourselves. 7 Stay
in that same house until you leave that village. Do not move
around from one house to another. Eat and drink whatever
they provide for you, because a worker deserves to receive
payment for his work. 8 If you enter any town and the people
there welcome you, eat whatever food they provide for you.
9 Heal the people in that city who are sick. Tell everyone,
'You are seeing close up what it will be like when God rules
everywhere as king.' 10 But if you enter any town and the
people there do not welcome you, go into its main streets and
say, 11 '*As a warning* against you, we will wipe off even the
dust that sticks to our feet *as we are leaving your town*. But you
must realize that you have seen close up what it will be like
when God rules everywhere as king!' 12 I want you to know
that at the time when God judges everyone, God will punish
the people of that town even more severely than the wicked
people who lived long ago in the city of Sodom!

13 How terrible it will be for you people who live in the
cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida! I say this because I did great
miracles while I was in your cities. If I had performed those
same miracles in *the ancient cities of* Tyre and Sidon, the *wicked*
people who lived there would have been very sorry for their
sins. They would have shown this by sitting on the ground
wearing coarse clothing and putting ashes on their heads. 14 So
when God judges everyone, he will punish you more severely
than the wicked people who lived in Tyre and Sidon. 15 I also
have something to say to you people who live in the town of

Capernaum. You may think that God is going to give you great rewards. No, God is not going to reward you at all!"

16 *Jesus also said to the disciples,* "Whoever listens to your message is*, in effect,* listening to me. Whoever rejects your message is*, in effect,* rejecting me. And whoever rejects me is*, in effect,* rejecting God who sent me."

17 The 72 people whom Jesus appointed *went and did what he told them to do.* When they returned, they were very joyful. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when, by your authority, we commanded them to leave people!" 18 Jesus told them, "*While you were away doing that,* I saw Satan lose a position of advantage as suddenly and quickly as lightning comes down! 19 Listen! I have given you the power to defeat evil spirits. I have even given you enough power to defeat our enemy, Satan. Nothing will hurt you at all. 20 But do not *only* rejoice that the evil spirits must obey you. You should rejoice *even more* that God has written your names in heaven*, because that means you will be with God forever*."

21 Right then, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus great joy. He said, "God my Father, you are Lord over everything in heaven and on earth. I praise you that you have prevented people who think they are smart from understanding things. Instead, you have revealed them to people who accept your truth as readily as little children do. Yes, Father, you have done that because it pleased you to do so. 22 God, my Father, has given everything to me. Only my Father really knows me, his Son. And only I, his Son, really know my Father. But I do choose to show some people who he is."

23 Then Jesus said, just to his disciples, "God has given you a great gift by letting you see the things that I am doing! 24 I want you to know that many prophets and kings would have liked to see the things that you are seeing me do. But they did not get to see them*, because they lived long ago*. They would have liked to hear the things that you have been hearing me say. But they did not get to hear them*, because they lived long ago*."

25 A man who taught Jewish laws was there. He wanted to test Jesus *by asking him a difficult question*. So he stood up and asked, "Teacher, what do I have to do in order to live with God forever?" 26 Jesus said to him, "You have read what Moses wrote in the laws that God gave him. What do those laws say?" 27 The man replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as much as you love yourself." 28 Jesus told him, "You have answered correctly. If you do all that, you will live *with God forever*."

29 But the man wanted to show that God would approve of him. So he said to Jesus, "Which people are my neighbors *whom I should love*?" 30 Jesus replied, "One day, a Jewish man was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some bandits attacked him. They took away most of the man's clothes and everything else that he had. They beat him until he was almost dead. Then they left him there. 31 It happened that a *Jewish* priest was going along that road. When he saw that man, *instead of helping him,* he passed by on the other side of the road. 32 Similarly, a Levite *who worked in God's temple* also came to that place and saw the man. But he too passed by on the other side of the road. 33 Then a man from the region of Samaria came along that road to where the man was lying. When he saw that man, he pitied him. 34 He went over to him and put some olive oil and wine on his wounds *to help heal them*. He wrapped strips of cloth around the wounds. Then he put the man on his own donkey and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next morning he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of this man. If you need to spend more than this amount to care for him, I will pay you back when I return.'" 36 *Then Jesus asked,* "Three people found the man whom the bandits had attacked. Which one of them would you say was a true neighbor to that man?" 37 The teacher of the law replied, "The one who acted mercifully toward him." Jesus said to him, "*That is correct.* So you should go and act like that toward anyone who needs your help."

38 As Jesus and his disciples continued to travel, they entered a certain village. There a woman whose name was Martha invited them to come to her house. 39 Her sister, whose name was Mary, sat near Jesus' feet and listened to what he was teaching. 40 But Martha was worrying about preparing the meal for all of them. She went to Jesus and said, "Lord, my sister has left me to prepare everything by myself. You must know that is not fair. Please tell her to help me!" 41 But Jesus replied to her, "Martha, Martha, you are very worried about many things. 42 But the one thing that is really important *is to listen to what I am teaching*. Because Mary has chosen the best thing to do, I will not tell her to do something else."

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us how to pray. John the Baptist did that for his own disciples, and we would like you to do that for us." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say *things like this*: 'Father, may all people honor your name as holy. May you soon rule all people everywhere. 3 Please give us the food we need each day. 4 Please forgive us for the wrong things that we have done. We ourselves will forgive people for the wrong things they have done to us. Help us to not sin when something tempts us.'"

5 Then he said to them, "Suppose that one of you goes to the house of a friend at midnight. You *stand outside and* call to him, 'My friend, please lend me three loaves of bread! 6 Another friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived at my house. But I do not have any food ready to serve him!' 7 And suppose that he responds from inside the house, 'Do not bother me! I have already locked the door, and my whole family is in bed. It would be too hard for me to get up and give you something!' 8 I tell you, he may not want to get up and give his friend any food just because he is his friend. But if he keeps on asking, the man inside will certainly get up and give him everything he needs. 9 So I tell you: Keep asking God for the things you need, and he will give them to you. Keep seeking those things from God, and you will receive them. Ask God to make things possible for you, and he will act on your behalf. 10 You should do this because anyone who keeps asking God for the things he needs will receive them. Anyone who seeks those things from God will receive them. If anyone asks God to make things possible for him, God will act on his behalf. 11 Suppose one of you fathers had a son who asked you for a fish to eat. You certainly would not give him a poisonous snake instead! 12 Suppose he asked you for an egg. You certainly would not give him a scorpion instead! 13 Even though you people are sinful, you still know how to give good gifts to your children.

So it is even more certain that your Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

14 One day Jesus was forcing out a demon who was keeping a man from speaking. After Jesus forced the demon out, the man began to talk. This amazed the crowd of people that was there. 15 But some of them said, "It is Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, who enables this man to force out demons!" 16 Other people there questioned his authority. They demanded that he perform a miracle to prove that God had sent him. 17 But he knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, "If the people in one nation fight against each other, they will destroy their nation. If the people in one household oppose each other, they will destroy their family. 18 Similarly, if Satan and his demons were fighting against each other, his rule over them would certainly not last! I say this because you are saying that I force out demons by the power of the ruler of demons! 19 If it is true that Beelzebul is enabling me to force out demons, it must also be true that he is enabling your disciples to force out demons. *But you know that is not true.* So your own disciples prove that you are wrong. 20 I must actually be forcing out demons by the power of God. This means that God has begun to rule over you."

21 *Jesus continued,* "When a strong man who has many weapons guards his own house, no one can steal the things inside. 22 But when someone else who is stronger attacks that man and subdues him, he takes away the weapons that the man was depending on. Then he can steal anything he wants from that man's house. 23 Anyone who is not supporting me is opposing me. Anyone who is not bringing people to me is sending them away from me."

24 *Then Jesus said,* "An evil spirit might leave someone and wander around in desolate areas looking for someone else to live in. If it does not find anyone there, it may say, 'I am going to go back to the person I used to live in!' 25 So it goes back and finds that the person is like a house that someone has swept clean and put in order*, but which has no one living in it*. 26 Then this evil spirit goes and gets seven other spirits that are even more evil than it is. They all enter that person and begin living in him. That person's condition was bad before, and it becomes even worse."

27 When Jesus said that, a woman in the crowd *who was listening* called out to him loudly, "God is pleased with the woman who gave birth to you and who nursed you!" 28 Then he replied, "God is even more pleased with those who hear his message and obey it!"

29 More and more people were coming to join the crowd around Jesus. He said, "The people living at this time are evil people. They want me to do a miracle *to prove that I have come from God*. But the only proof they will see is a miracle like the one that happened to Jonah. 30 Long ago God did a miracle for Jonah to show the people living in the city of Nineveh that he had sent him. In the same way, God will do a similar miracle for me, the Son of Man, to show the people living now that he has sent me. 31 Long ago the Queen of Sheba traveled a great distance to hear the wise things that Solomon said. Now someone greater than Solomon is right here with you. *But you have not really listened to what I am saying.* Therefore, at the time when God judges all people, she will stand up and condemn the people who are living now. 32 The people who lived in the ancient city of Nineveh turned from their sinful ways when Jonah preached to them. And now I, who am greater than Jonah, have come and preached to you. *But you have not turned from your sinful ways.* Therefore, at the time when God judges all people, the people who lived in Nineveh will stand up and condemn the people who are living now.

33 People who light a lamp do not hide it or put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so that those who enter the room can see the light. 34 Your eye lets light into your body. If your eye is working right, then your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is not working right, then your body will not get any light. 35 Therefore, be careful not to think that your eye is working right and letting in light if it is actually not working right and not letting in any light. 36 So if light is getting into every part of your body, so that no part of it is in the dark, then all of your body will be full of light. Bright light will shine all over you inside, just as the bright light of a lamp shines all over you outside."

37 After Jesus finished saying those things, a Pharisee invited him to eat a meal with him. So Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table to eat. 38 The Pharisee was surprised when he saw that Jesus did not ritually wash his hands first before eating. 39 Jesus said to him, "You Pharisees wash the outside of cups and dishes before you eat, but within yourselves you are very greedy and wicked. 40 You foolish people! Surely you know that God not only made the outside, but also made the inside! 41 *Instead of worrying about dishes being ritually clean, be merciful and* give whatever is inside the dishes to people in need. Then both the inside and outside of you will be acceptable to God.

42 But how terrible it will be for you Pharisees! You carefully give to God a tenth of all you have, including even the herbs that you grow in your gardens. But then you do not show God's love or fairness toward others. You should make sure that you do that, in addition to giving to God. 43 How terrible it will be for you Pharisees, because you like to sit in the most important seats in the synagogues, and you like people to greet you *with special honor* in the marketplaces. 44 How terrible it will be for you, because you are like unmarked graves that people walk over without realizing it and so become ceremonially unclean."

45 One of the teachers of the Jewish laws who were there complained to Jesus, "Teacher, when you say things like that, you are criticizing us too!" 46 But Jesus responded, "How terrible it will also be for you who are teachers of the Jewish laws! I say this because you tell people to follow so many rules, yet you will not do even the smallest thing to help them. 47 How terrible it will be for you, because you construct buildings to mark the graves of the prophets, but your ancestors are the ones who killed them! 48 So when you build these buildings, you are declaring that you approve of what your ancestors did when they killed the prophets. 49 So God, who is very wise, also said, 'I will send prophets and messengers to guide my people. But they will cause them to suffer greatly. They will even kill some of them.' 50 As a result, the people living at this time will be punished for the murder of all the prophets whom people have killed since the world was created. 51 They will be punished for every murder from that of *Adam's son* Abel*, whose brother Cain killed him,* right through to the murder of *the prophet* Zechariah, whom the king's agents killed *in the temple* between the altar and the holy place. 52 How terrible it will be

for you teachers of the Jewish laws. You are keeping people
from knowing about God! You do not know God yourselves,
and you make things difficult for other people who want to
know God better."
53 *After Jesus finished saying those things,* he left the Pharisee's
house. Then the teachers of the Jewish laws and the Pharisees
began to act in a very hostile way toward him. They questioned
him intensely about many things. 54 They kept listening for
him to say something wrong so that they could accuse him of
false teaching.

12 Meanwhile, many thousands of people gathered *around
Jesus*. There were so many that they were stepping
on each other. The first thing he said to his disciples was, "Be
careful that you do not become like the Pharisees, who act
religious in public but do evil things in secret. 2 It is useless
for people to try to keep their sins a secret. Someday God
will let everyone know everything people are trying to hide.
3 Someday people will hear publicly everything you have said
privately. Someday someone will shout for everyone to hear
what you have whispered in your room.
4 My friends, listen carefully! Do not be afraid of people.
They can kill you, but they cannot do anything more to you
after that! 5 I will tell you whom you should truly be afraid of.
You should be afraid of God. Not only does he have the right
to cause people to die, he also has the right to throw them into
hell afterward! Yes, I tell you, God is the one you should truly
be afraid of! 6 Think about the sparrows. *They have so little
value that* you can buy five of them for only two small coins.
And yet God never forgets any of them! 7 God even knows how
many hairs there are on your head. Do not be afraid, because
you are more valuable *to God* than many sparrows.
8 I tell you also that if people tell others that they are my
disciples, then I, the Son of Man, will say to God's angels that
those people are my disciples. 9 But if they tell others that they
are not my disciples, then I will say to God's angels that those
people are not my disciples. 10 I also tell you that if people say
bad things about me, the Son of Man, God will forgive them
for that. But if people say bad things about the Holy Spirit, God
will not forgive them for that. 11 So when people bring you
into the synagogues *to question you before the religious leaders
there* and to other people who have power in the country, do
not worry about how you will answer them or about what you
should say, 12 because the Holy Spirit will tell you at that very
time what you should say."
13 Then one of the people in the crowd said to Jesus,
"Teacher, tell my brother to divide our father's property with
me!" 14 But Jesus replied to him, "Man, no one made me a
judge to settle arguments that people have about property!"
15 Then he said to the whole crowd, "Be careful not to be
greedy in any way! What matters about a person's life is not
how many things he owns."
16 Then Jesus told the crowd this story: "The lands of a
certain rich man produced abundant crops. 17 He thought to
himself, 'I do not know what to do, because I do not have any
place *big enough* to store all my crops!' 18 Then he thought to
himself, 'I know what I will do! I will tear down my grain bins
and build larger ones! Then I can store all my grain and other
things in the big new bins. 19 Then I will say to myself, "Now I
have stored up enough things to last many years. So I will take
life easy. I will eat and drink and be happy"' 20 But God said
to him, 'You foolish man! Tonight you will die! Then all the
things you have saved up for yourself will belong to someone
else, not to you!'"
21 Then Jesus ended this illustration by saying, "That is what
will happen to those who store up things just for themselves
and do not value the things that God considers valuable."
22 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Here is something you
should learn from the story. Do not worry about whether you
will have enough food to eat to stay alive or enough clothes
to wear to stay warm. 23 After all, your life is more important
than the food you eat, and your body is more important than
the clothes you put on it. 24 Think about the birds. They do not
plant seeds, and they do not harvest crops. They do not have
rooms or buildings in which to store crops, but God provides
food for them. And you are certainly much more valuable
than birds. 25 None of you can add even a minute to his life by
worrying about it! 26 So since you cannot even do that small
thing, you certainly should not worry about anything else.
27 Think about the way that flowers grow. They do not work to
earn money, and they do not make their own clothes. But I tell
you that King Solomon, who *lived long ago and* wore glorious
clothes, never dressed as beautifully as a single flower. 28 God
makes the plants beautiful, even though they grow for only a
short time. Then people cut them down and throw them into
the fire. *But you are very precious to God.* He will care for you
even more than he cares for the plants. You should trust God
more than you do. 29 As for you, do not wonder about what
you will eat and drink, and do not keep worrying *about those
things*. 30 While the people who do not know God all worry
about such things, *you can be confident that* your Father in
heaven knows that you need them. 31 Instead, concentrate on
what you can do for the kingdom of God. When you do, you
can trust God to provide everything you need.
32 So you should not be afraid, my friends. Your Father
in heaven wants you to be part of his kingdom *and receive
all of its benefits*. 33 So sell the things you own and give the
money to people who need food or clothing or a place to live.
Get yourselves wallets that do not wear out. I mean store up
treasure in heaven where it will always be safe. There no thief
can steal anything and no moths will destroy your clothing.
34 After all, whatever it is that you treasure, that is what you
will think about and spend your time on.
35 *Always* be *ready for doing God's work,* like people who
have put on their work clothes and are keeping the lights on
all night. 36 Be *ready for me to return,* like servants who are
waiting for their master to return after being at a wedding
feast. They are waiting to open the door for him as soon as
he arrives and knocks at the door. 37 It will be very good for
those servants if they are awake when their master returns.
Let me tell you this: He will reward them by dressing like a
servant, telling them to sit down, and serving them a meal.
38 Even if he comes home late in the evening or in the middle
of the night, if he finds that his servants are awake and ready
for him, he will be very pleased with them. 39 And I want you
to consider this: If the owner of a house knew that a thief was
coming, and at what time, he would stay awake and not let
the thief break into his house. 40 So be ready, because I, the
Son of Man, will come again at a time when you do not expect
me."

41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you giving this illustration only
for us, your disciples? Or is it for the crowd too?” 42 Jesus
replied, “I am saying it for everyone who is like a faithful
and wise servant who is a manager in his master’s house. His
master puts him in charge of his other servants, to make sure
they get their food at the proper time. 43 If his master comes
home and sees that he is doing that work, he will reward
that servant. 44 Let me tell you this: The master will put that
servant in charge of all he owns. 45 But that servant who was
put in charge might say to himself, ‘My master is going to be
away for a long time.’ Then he might start to beat the other
servants. He might also start to eat and drink a lot and get
drunk. 46 If he does that, his master might return at a time
when the servant does not expect him. Then his master will
punish him severely and assign him a place with those who
do not serve him faithfully. 47 The servant who knew what his
master wanted but did not get ready and do it will be severely
punished. 48 But every servant who did not know what his
master wanted him to do, and then did something wrong, will
only get a mild punishment. The master will expect much from
all servants to whom he has given much. And the master will
expect even more from servants whom he has entrusted with
many responsibilities.

49 I came to stir up spiritual passions in people. I wish
that they were already acting on them! 50 Soon I must go
through terrible suffering. I will continue to be distressed
until I finish my suffering. 51 You should know that I did not
come so that people would live together peacefully. No, you
must understand that instead, people will take sides for and
against me. 52 Be prepared, because this is what is going to
happen. In a family of five people, some will believe in me
and some will not. Three family members will join together
against the other two. 53 Family members will conflict. A
father will oppose his son, or a son will oppose his father. A
mother will oppose her daughter, or a daughter will oppose
her mother. A mother-in-law will oppose her daughter-in-law,
or a daughter-in-law will oppose her mother-in-law.”

54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a dark cloud
forming in the west, you immediately say ‘It is going to rain!’
and that is what happens. 55 When the wind blows from the
south, you say, ‘It is going to be a very hot day!’ and you
are right. 56 You hypocrites! By observing the clouds and the
wind, you are able to discern what is happening regarding the
weather. You should be able to discern what God is doing at
this present time!

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

13 At that time, some people who were there in the crowd
told Jesus about what had recently happened to some
Galileans. Pilate, the Roman governor, had ordered soldiers
to kill the Galileans while they were offering sacrifices in the
temple in Jerusalem. 2 Jesus replied to them, “Do you think
that this happened to those people from Galilee because they
were more sinful than all the other Galileans? 3 I assure you,
that was not the reason! Instead, God will similarly punish
all of you if you do not turn from your sinful behavior. 4 Or
what about those 18 people who died when the tower in
the neighborhood of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that
this happened to them because they were worse sinners than
everyone else in Jerusalem? 5 I assure you, that was not the
reason! But instead, you need to realize that God will similarly
punish all of you if you do not turn from your sinful behavior!”

6 Then Jesus told them this story: “A man planted a fig tree
in his garden. *Each year* he came to pick the figs, but there
were *always* none on it. 7 Then he said to the gardener, ‘Look
at this tree! I have been looking for fruit on it every year for
the past three years, but there have been no figs. Cut it down!
It is just using up the nutrients in the soil for nothing!’ 8 But
the gardener replied, ‘Sir, leave it here for another year. I will
dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it has figs on it next year, we
can allow it to keep growing! But if it does not bear any fruit
by then, you can cut it down.’”

10 On one Jewish day of rest, Jesus was teaching people in
one of the synagogues. 11 There was a woman there whom an
evil spirit had crippled for 18 years. She was always bent over.
She could not stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he
called her over to him. He said to her, “Woman, I have healed
you of this illness!” 13 He put his hands on her. Immediately
she stood up straight and began praising God! 14 But the leader
of the synagogue was angry because Jesus had healed her on
the Jewish rest day. So he said to the people, “There are six
days each week on which our laws permit people to work. If
you need healing, those are the days to come to the synagogue
for someone to heal you. Do not come on our day of rest!”
15 Then Jesus replied to him, “You and your fellow religious
leaders are hypocrites! Each of you *also works on the day of rest
sometimes! For example, you* untie your ox or donkey to lead
it from the stall to a place where it can drink water. 16 This
woman is a Jew, descended from Abraham! But Satan has
kept her crippled for 18 years, as though he had tied her up!
Certainly you would agree that it is right that I free her from
this disabling disease, even if I do it on a day of rest!” 17 After
he said that, his enemies were ashamed of themselves. But all
the other people were happy about all the wonderful things
he was doing.

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

20 Then again he said, “I will tell you in another (way what)
it is like when God rules. 21 It is like a little bit of yeast that
a woman mixed with about 25 kilograms of flour. That small
amount of yeast made the whole batch of dough swell up.”

22 Jesus continued traveling toward Jerusalem. He stopped
in all the towns and villages along the way and taught the
people. 23 Someone asked him, “Lord, will God only save a
few people?” Jesus replied so that everyone there could hear,
24 “You need to try hard to enter, because it is very difficult.
I tell you that many people will try to get in, but they will
not be able to. 25 After the owner of the house gets up and
locks the door, you will stand outside and you will knock on

the door. And you will beg the owner and say to him, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'No, I will not open it, because I do not know you, and I do not know where you are from!' 26 Then you will say, '*You must have forgotten that* we ate meals with you, and you taught us in the streets of our towns!' 27 But he will say, 'I tell you again, I do not know where you are from. You are all wicked people! Get away from here!'" 28 *Then Jesus continued by saying,* "You will see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob *in the distance*. All the prophets who lived long ago will also be there where God rules everything as king. But you will be outside, crying and grinding your teeth in sorrow! 29 But inside there will be people from every part of the world*, including many non-Jewish people*. They will all celebrate together where God rules everything as king. 30 Think about this: Some people who seem the least important now will be the most important then, and others who seem important now will be the least important then."

31 That same day, some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Leave this area, because the ruler Herod Antipas wants to kill you!" 32 He replied to them, "Go and tell that cunning man*, who thinks he can hurt me but who really cannot,* this message from me: 'Listen! I am expelling demons and performing miracles now, and I will continue doing so for a short time. After that, I will finish my work.' 33 But I must also continue my trip to Jerusalem during the coming days, since *the Jewish leaders have always acted as if* it is not appropriate to kill a prophet in a place other than Jerusalem.

34 Oh, people of Jerusalem! You killed the prophets who lived long ago. Then you killed others whom God sent to you. You killed them by throwing stones at them. Many times I have wanted to gather you together to protect you, as a hen gathers her young chicks under her wings. But you did not want me to do that. 35 Now look! God will no longer protect you, people of Jerusalem. I will also tell you this: I will enter your city only once more. After that, you will not see me until the time when I return, and then you will say about me, 'May God bless this man who comes with God's authority!'"

14 One day, which was a day of rest, Jesus went to eat at the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees. *This leader had invited other Pharisees to the same meal.* They were all watching Jesus carefully *to try to find grounds to accuse him*. 2 Right there in front of Jesus was a man who had a disease that caused his arms and legs to be very swollen. 3 Jesus asked the experts in Jewish law and the Pharisees who were present, "Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the day of rest, or not?" 4 They did not reply. So Jesus put his hands on the man and healed him. Then he told him he could go. 5 And he said to the others there, "If one of you had a son or an ox that fell into a well on the day of rest, you would pull him out immediately." 6 Again, they were not able to answer him.

7 Jesus noticed that the people who had been invited to the meal were choosing to sit in the places where important people usually sit. So he gave this advice to them. 8 "When someone invites one of you to a wedding feast, do not sit in a place where important people sit. It may be that he has invited a person who is more important than you to the feast. 9 When the host who invited both of you sees where you are each sitting, he will say to you, 'Let this person have your seat!' Then you will have to take the least important seat, and you will be ashamed. 10 Instead, when someone invites you to a feast, go and sit in the least important seat. Then when the host who invited everyone comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, come sit in a better seat!' Then all the people who are eating with you will see that he is honoring you. 11 For God will humble those who exalt themselves, and he will exalt those who humble themselves."

12 Jesus also said to the Pharisee who had invited him to the meal, "When you invite people to a midday or evening meal, do not only invite your friends, relatives, or rich neighbors, since they will later repay you by inviting you for a meal. 13 Instead, when you give a feast, invite poor people, crippled people, lame people or blind people. 14 If you do that, God will reward you, because they will not be able to repay you. You can be sure that God will pay you back at the time when he causes righteous people to become alive again."

15 One of those who were eating with him heard him say that. He said to Jesus, "God has truly blessed everyone who will get to celebrate where God rules everything as king!" 16 Jesus replied to him, "One time a man decided to prepare a large feast. He invited many people to come. 17 When it was time for the feast, he sent his servant to tell those whom he had invited, 'Come now, because everything is ready!' 18 But when the servant did that, all of the people whom he had invited began to say why they could not come. The first man to whom the servant went said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go there and see it. Please ask your master to forgive me for not coming!' 19 Another person said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I must go to examine them. Please ask your master to forgive me for not coming!' 20 Another person said, 'I have just gotten married, so I cannot come.' 21 So the servant returned to his master and reported what everyone had said. The owner of the house was angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and alleys of the city and find poor and crippled and blind and lame people, and bring them here into my house!' 22 *After* the servant *went out and did that, he came back and* said, 'Sir, I have done what you told me to do, but there is still room for more people.' 23 So his master said to him, 'Then go outside the city. Search for people along the highways. Search also along the narrow roads with hedges. Strongly urge the people in those places to come to my house. I want it to be full of people! 24 Moreover I tell you this, those men whom I invited first will not get to enjoy my feast*, because they refused to come*.'"

25 A large crowd of people was traveling with Jesus. He turned toward the people and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me who loves his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters more than he loves me, he can not be my disciple. He must even love me more than he loves his own life! 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and does not obey me cannot be my disciple. 28 After all, if one of you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and determine how much it would cost. That way you would know whether you had enough money to finish it. 29 Otherwise, if you laid the foundation and were not able to finish the rest of the tower, everyone who saw it would make fun of you. 30 They would say, 'This man started to build a tower, but he was not able to finish it!' 31 Or suppose a king had 10,000 soldiers in his army. And suppose another king who had 20,000 soldiers was coming to attack him. Before sending his army out to battle,

that first king would certainly sit down with his advisors to
determine whether he could defeat the other king's army.
32 Suppose he decided his army could not defeat the other
army. Then he would send messengers to the other king while
his army was still far away. He would tell the messengers to
ask, 'What must I do to have peace with you?' 33 So, similarly,
if any one of you does not first decide that you are willing to
give up all that you have, you cannot be my disciple."

34 *Jesus also said,* "*You are like* salt*, which* is very useful.
But if salt were to lose its saltiness, no one could ever make it
taste salty again. 35 *If salt does not taste salty anymore,* it is no
longer any good even for the soil or the manure heap. People
just throw it away. You should think carefully about what you
just heard me say!"

15 Now, many tax collectors and other people whom the
religious leaders considered to be sinners kept coming
to Jesus to listen to him teach. 2 *When* the Pharisees and
teachers of the Jewish laws *saw this, they* began to grumble.
They said, "This man welcomes sinners and even eats with
them." *They thought Jesus was defiling himself by doing that.* 3 So
Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose that one of you had
100 sheep and you lost one of them. Certainly you would leave
the 99 other sheep in the wilderness and go search for the lost
sheep until you had found it. 5 When you found it, you would
joyfully put it on your shoulders to carry it home. 6 Then when
you arrived home, you would call together your friends and
neighbors and say to them: 'Be joyful with me, because I have
found my sheep that was lost!' 7 You should know that, in a
similar way, there is great joy among those in heaven when
one sinner repents from his sins. That joy is greater than their
joy over many people who are already right with God and do
not need to repent.

8 Or suppose that a woman had ten valuable silver coins but
lost one of them. Certainly she would light a lamp and sweep
the floor and search carefully until she found it. 9 When she
found it, she would call together her friends and neighbors and
say to them, 'Be very happy with me, because I have found
the coin that I lost!' 10 I tell you that, in a similar way, there is
much joy among the angels of God when one sinner repents
from his sins."

11 Then Jesus continued and said, "There once was a man
who had two sons. 12 One day the younger son said to his
father, 'Father, give me now the share of your property that I
would otherwise have received when you died.' So the father
divided his property between his two sons. 13 Only a few days
later, the younger son gathered together all that he owned
and traveled to a country far away. There in that country
he spent all his money foolishly in wasteful, immoral living.
14 After he had spent all his money, there was a severe famine
throughout that country. Soon he did not have anything left
to live on. 15 So he went to a man who lived in that country
and asked him to hire him. So the man sent him out to his
fields to feed his pigs. 16 *He became so hungry that* he wished
he could eat the bean pods that the pigs ate, yet no one gave
him anything. 17 Finally he began to think clearly about how
foolish he had been, and he said to himself: 'All of my father's
hired servants have more than enough food to eat, but here
I am dying because I do not have anything to eat! 18 So I
will leave here and go back to my father. I will say to him,
"Father, I have sinned against God and against you. 19 I do not
deserve to have you consider me your son any more. Please
let me work for you as one of your hired servants."' 20 So he
left there and started traveling back to his father's house. But
while he was still a great distance from the house, his father
saw him and felt deep compassion for him. He ran to his son
and embraced him and kissed him on the cheek. 21 His son
said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against
you. So I do not deserve to have you consider me your son
any more.' 22 But his father said to his servants; 'Go quickly
and bring my best robe and put it on my son. Also put a ring
on his finger and shoes on his feet! 23 And bring the calf that
we have fattened for a special occasion and kill it, so that we
can eat it and celebrate! 24 We need to celebrate because this
son of mine was like a dead man, but he is now alive again!
He was like a lost person, but we have found him again!' So
they all began to celebrate.

25 *While all that was happening,* the father's older son was
out working in the fields. *After he finished working,* he headed
home. As he was getting close to the house, he heard people
playing music and dancing. 26 He called for one of the servants
and asked what was happening. 27 The servant said to him,
'Your brother has come home. Your father told us to kill the
fattened calf to celebrate because your brother returned safe
and healthy.' 28 But the older brother was angry and did not
want to join the celebration. So his father came out and pleaded
with him to come in. 29 But he replied to his father, 'Listen!
For all these years I have worked as hard as a slave for you.
I have always obeyed everything you told me to do. But you
have never given me so much as a young goat that I could
use to host a feast for my friends. 30 But now that this son of
yours has come back home, after wasting all your money on
prostitutes, you have told your servants to kill the fattened
calf for a celebration!' 31 But his father said to him, 'My son,
you are always with me, and all that I own is yours. 32 But it
is right for us to celebrate and rejoice, because it is as though
your brother was dead and is alive again! It is as though he
was lost and we have him found again!'"

16 Jesus also said to his disciples, "Once there was a rich
man who had a household manager. One day someone
informed the rich man that the manager was doing such a bad
job that the rich man was losing lots of money. 2 So he called
the manager to come to him and said to him, 'What I hear
you have been doing is terrible! Give me a final written report
of the things you have been managing, because you will no
longer be my household manager!' 3 Then the manager said
to himself, 'My master is going to dismiss me from being his
manager, so I have to think of what to do. I am not strong
enough to work by digging ditches, and I am ashamed to beg
for money. 4 I know what I will do so that people will take
me into their houses *and provide for me* after he dismisses
me from my management work!' 5 So he asked everyone who
owed his master money to come to him one by one. He asked
the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 The man
replied, '3,000 liters of olive oil.' The manager said to him,
'Take your bill, sit down, and quickly change it to 1, 500
liters!' 7 He said to another man, 'How much do you owe?'
The man replied, '1,000 baskets of wheat.' The manager said
to him, 'Take your bill and change it to 800 baskets!' 8 *When*

the master *heard what his manager had done, he* praised the dishonest manager for being so clever. The truth is, the people who belong to this world are more clever than the people who belong to God in how they relate to those around them. 9 I tell you, use the money you have in this world to make friends for yourselves. Then when that money is gone, those friends will welcome you into their homes, which will last forever. 10 People who faithfully manage small amounts of money will also be honest with much greater amounts. People who are dishonest in the way they manage small amounts of money will also be dishonest with much greater amounts. 11 So if you have not faithfully handled the money *God has given you* in this world, he will certainly not trust you with the true riches *of heaven*. 12 If you have not faithfully managed property that belongs to other people, you should not expect anyone to give you property of your own. 13 No servant is able to serve two different masters at the same time. If he tried to do that, he would hate one of them and love the other one, or he would be loyal to one of them and despise the other one. You cannot devote your life to serving God if you are also devoting your life to acquiring money and other material possessions."

14 When the Pharisees *who were there* heard what Jesus was teaching, they made fun of him because they loved to acquire money. 15 But Jesus said to them, "You try to make other people think that you are righteous, but God knows what you are really like. Keep in mind that God considers to be detestable many things that people praise as very important.

16 The laws that God gave Moses and the things that the prophets wrote were in effect until John the Baptizer came. Since then, I have been preaching the good news about how God will rule as king. Many people *are accepting my message and* are very eagerly trying to become part of the kingdom of God. 17 All of God's laws, even those that seem insignificant, are more permanent than heaven and earth.

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

19 *Jesus also said,* "Once there was a rich man who wore expensive purple and linen clothes. Every day he gave lavish feasts. 20 And *every day* people laid a poor man whose name was Lazarus at the gate of the rich man's house. Lazarus' body was covered with sores. 21 *He was so hungry that* he wanted to eat the scraps of food that fell from the table where the rich man ate. *While he was lying there,* dogs came and licked his sores. 22 Eventually the poor man died. Then the angels took him to be with *his ancestor* Abraham. The rich man also died, and people buried his body. 23 In the place of the dead, the rich man was suffering great pain. He looked up and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus sitting very close to Abraham. 24 So the rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, I am suffering very much in this fire! So please pity me and send Lazarus here so that he can dip his finger in water and touch my tongue to cool it!' 25 But Abraham replied, 'Child, remember that while you were alive on earth you enjoyed many good things. But Lazarus was miserable. Now he is happy here, and you are suffering. 26 Besides that, God has placed a huge ravine between you and us. So those who want to go from here to you there are not able to. Furthermore, no one can cross from there to where we are, either.' 27 Then the rich man said, 'If that is so, Father Abraham, I ask you to send Lazarus to my family home. 28 I have five brothers *who live there*. Tell him to warn them so that they do not also come to this place where we suffer great pain!' 29 But Abraham replied, '*No, I will not do that because* your brothers have what Moses and the prophets wrote long ago. They should obey what they wrote!' 30 But the rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham*, that will not be enough*! But if someone from those who have died goes back to them and warns them, they will turn from their sinful behavior.' 31 Abraham said to him, 'So they would not obey what Moses and the prophets wrote. Then it would not help even if someone from among the people who have died went and warned them. They would still not believe that they should turn from their sinful behavior.'"

17 Jesus said to his disciples, "Things that tempt people to sin will certainly happen. But how terrible it will be for anyone who causes those things to happen! 2 It would be better for that person if someone fastened a huge stone around his neck and threw him into the sea than if he were to cause someone to sin whose faith was weak. 3 Be careful how you act. If another believer sins, you should rebuke him. If he says that he is sorry for having sinned and asks you to forgive him, then you should forgive him. 4 Even if he sins against you seven times in one day, if he comes to you each time and says, 'I am sorry for what I did,' you must continue forgiving him."

5 Then the representatives said to Jesus, "Give us more faith!" 6 Jesus replied, "Even if you had faith that was no bigger than this tiny mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Pull yourself out of the ground, roots and all, and plant yourself in the sea,' and it would obey you!"

7 *Jesus also said,* "Suppose that one of you had a servant who was plowing your fields or taking care of your sheep. After he came into the house from the field, you would not say, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat!' 8 Instead, you would say to him, 'Prepare a meal for me! Then put on your serving clothes and serve it to me so that I can eat and drink! Afterwards you can eat and drink.' 9 You would not thank your servant just for doing the work that he had been told to do! 10 Similarly, when you have done everything that God has told you to do, you should say, 'We are only God's servants. We do not deserve to have you thank us. We have only done the things that he told us to do.'"

11 As Jesus and his disciples were walking along the road to Jerusalem, they were going through the area between the regions of Samaria and Galilee. 12 As Jesus entered a village, ten lepers came toward him, but they stood at some distance away. 13 They called out, "Jesus, Master, please have pity on us!" 14 When Jesus saw them, he said to them, "Go and have the priests examine you." So they went, and on the way, their leprosy disappeared. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he no longer had leprosy, went back, praising God loudly. 16 *He came to Jesus and* he lay down on the ground with his face at Jesus' feet, and he thanked him. This man was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus said, "I healed ten lepers! I would have expected the other nine to come back as well! 18 This foreign man was the only one who returned to thank God. None of the others came back!" 19 Then he said to the man, "Get up and go on your way. God has healed you because you trusted in me."

20 One day some Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will God
begin to rule everyone?” He replied, “That will not happen
with signs that people can recognize if they watch for them.
21 People will not be able to say, ‘Look! God is ruling here!’
or ‘God is ruling there!’ *Contrary to what you think,* God has
already begun to rule within you.”
22 Jesus said to his disciples, “There will be a time when you
will want to see me, the Son of Man, ruling powerfully. But you
will not see that. 23 People will say to you, ‘Look, the Messiah
is over there!’ or they will say, ‘Look, he is here!’ *When they
say that,* do not follow them. 24 For when the lightning flashes
and lights up the sky from one side to the other*, everyone can
see it*. Similarly, when I, the Son of Man, come back again,
everyone will see me. 25 But before that happens, I must suffer
in many ways, and people will reject me. 26 But when I, the
Son of Man, come again, people will be doing things just like
people were doing at the time when Noah lived. 27 At that
time people ate and drank *as usual*, and they got married *as
usual*, up until the day when Noah and his family entered the
big boat. But then the flood came and destroyed all those who
were not in the boat. 28 Similarly, when Lot lived *in the city
of Sodom*, people *there* ate and drank *as usual*. They bought
things and they sold things. They planted crops and they built
houses *as usual*. 29 But on the day that Lot left Sodom, fire
and burning sulfur came down from the sky and destroyed all
those who had stayed in the city. 30 Similarly, when I, the Son
of Man, return to earth, people will be unprepared. 31 On that
day, those who are outside their houses, with all the things
that they own inside the houses, must not take the time to go
inside and get them. Similarly, those who are out working in a
field must not come back home to get anything. *They must flee
quickly.* 32 Remember what happened to Lot’s wife! 33 Anyone
who continues in his own way of living will die. But anyone
who leaves his old way of living *for my sake* will live forever.
34 I tell you this: On the night when I return, there will be two
people sleeping in one bed. God will take the one who believes
in me and leave the other one behind. 35 Two women will be
grinding grain together. God will take one of them and leave
the other one behind.” 36 [a] [“There will be two in the field;
one will be taken and the other left.”] 37 His disciples said
to him, “Lord, where will this happen?” He replied to them,
“Wherever there is a dead body, the vultures will gather to
eat it.”

18 Jesus told his disciples another story to teach them
that they should pray continually and not become
discouraged *if God did not immediately answer their prayers*.
2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not revere
God and did not care about people. 3 There was a widow in that
city who kept coming to that judge, saying, ‘Please get justice
for me against the man who is opposing me in court.’ 4 For a
long time the judge refused to help her. But later, he said to
himself, ‘I do not revere God and I do not care about people.
5 But this widow keeps bothering me! So I will judge her case
and make sure she is treated fairly. I am concerned that if I
do not do that, she will exhaust me by continually coming
to me!’” 6 Then Jesus said, “Think carefully about what the
unjust judge said. 7 *Even more* certainly will God*, who is just,*
bring about justice for his chosen people, who pray earnestly
to him all day long! And he is always patient with them. 8 I tell
you, God will quickly bring about justice for his chosen ones!
Nevertheless when I, the Son of Man, come back to earth,
there will still be many people who do not believe in me.”
9 Then Jesus also told the following story to some people
who thought they were righteous and who looked down on
other people. 10 *He said,* “Two men went up to the temple in
Jerusalem to pray. One of the men was a Pharisee. The other
man was someone who collected taxes from the people for the
Roman government. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed about
himself in this way, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like
other people. Some steal money from others. Some treat others
unjustly. Some commit adultery. I do not do any of those
things. And I am certainly not like this sinful tax collector
who cheats people! 12 I fast on two days during every week,
and I give ten percent of all that I earn to the temple!’ 13 But
the tax collector stood far away from the other people in the
temple courtyard. He would not even look up toward heaven.
Instead, he beat on his chest and said, ‘O God, please forgive
me, because I am a terrible sinner!’” 14 Then Jesus said, “I
tell you that as they left to go home, God had forgiven the
tax collector, but God had not forgiven the Pharisee. This is
because God will humble everyone who exalts himself, and
God will exalt everyone who humbles himself.”
15 One day people were bringing even their babies to Jesus
so that he would put his hands on them and bless them. When
the disciples saw this, they told them not to do that. 16 But
Jesus called for the children to be brought to him. He said,
“Let the little children come to me! Do not stop them, because
it is *humble and trusting* people like these children who let God
rule their lives. 17 Indeed, I say to you that whoever will not
humbly and trustingly let God rule over his life will not accept
God’s rule at all.”
18 Once a Jewish leader asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what
must I do in order to have everlasting life?” 19 Jesus said to
him, “Why do you call me good? God is the only one who is
truly good!
20 *In answer to your question, certainly* you know the
commandments *that God gave to Moses for us to obey*: ‘Do
not commit adultery. Do not murder anyone. Do not steal. Do
not give a false report. Honor your father and mother.’” 21 The
man said, “I have obeyed all those commandments ever since
I was young.” 22 When Jesus heard him say that, he replied to
him, “You still need to do one more thing. Sell all that you own.
Then give the money to people who have very little to live on.
The result will be that you will have spiritual riches in heaven.
Then come and be my disciple!” 23 The man became very sad
when he heard that, because he was extremely rich. 24 When
Jesus looked at the man and said, “It is very difficult for those
who are wealthy to let God rule over them. 25 In fact, it is easier
for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for rich
people to let God rule their lives.” 26 Those who heard Jesus
say that replied, “Then it seems that God will not consider that
anyone should have eternal life!” 27 But Jesus said, “What is
impossible for people is possible for God.” 28 Then Peter said,
“What about us? We have left everything we had in order to
become your disciples.” 29 Jesus said to them, “I can assure

[a] Some ancient manuscripts include verse 36.

you that those who have left their homes, their wives, their brothers, their parents, or their children in order to let God rule over them 30 will receive in this life many times as much as they left behind and, in the coming age, they will receive everlasting life."

31 Jesus took his 12 representatives to a place by themselves. He said to them, "Listen carefully! We are on our way to Jerusalem. While we are there, everything that the prophets wrote long ago about me, the Son of Man, will happen. 32 This will happen when my enemies turn me over to the authorities who are not Jews. They will mock me, treat me with disdain, and spit on me. 33 They will whip me and then they will kill me. But two days later I will become alive again." 34 But the disciples did not understand any of those things that he said. God prevented them from recognizing their significance, so they did not know what Jesus meant by what he was telling them.

35 As Jesus and his disciples came near to the city of Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road. He was begging for money. 36 When he heard a crowd of people passing by, he kept asking *those around him*, "What is happening?" 37 They told him, "*There is a crowd because* Jesus, the man from the town of Nazareth, is coming down the street." 38 He shouted, "Jesus, you who are descended from King David, have pity on me!" 39 Those who were walking at the front of the crowd scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "You who are descended from King David, have pity on me!" 40 Jesus stopped walking and commanded the people to bring the man to him. When the blind man came near, Jesus asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, I want you to enable me to see!" 42 Jesus said to him, "Then I now restore your sight! Because you have trusted in me, I have healed you!" 43 Immediately he was able to see. And he went with Jesus, praising God. And when all the people there saw this, they also praised God.

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was in charge of collecting taxes, and he was very rich. 3 He wanted to see Jesus, but he could not see him over the crowd. He was a very short man *and there were many people around Jesus*. 4 So he ran farther down the road. He climbed a sycamore fig tree so he could see Jesus when he came by. 5 When Jesus got there, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, I have to stay at your house tonight!" 6 So he came down quickly. He was glad to welcome Jesus into his home. 7 But the people who saw Jesus go there grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a real sinner!" 8 Then Zacchaeus stood up while they were eating and said to Jesus, "Lord, I want you to know that I am going to give half of what I own to poor people. And as for the people whom I have cheated, I will pay them back four times the amount I took from them." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today God has saved this household, because this man has shown that he is a true descendant of Abraham. 10 Remember this: I, the Son of Man, came to find and save people *like you* who have been disobeying God."

11 The people were listening to everything Jesus said. He was getting close to Jerusalem*, and he knew that the people had a wrong idea*. They thought he would begin to rule as king over God's people as soon as he got to Jerusalem. So Jesus decided to tell them another story *to correct that idea*. 12 He said, "A prince was preparing to go to a distant country so that a higher king could give him the right to rule over the country where he lived. After he received it, he would come back to rule his people. 13 *Before he left,* he summoned ten of his servants. He gave each of them an equal amount of money. He said to them, 'Do business with this money until I return!' *Then he left.* 14 But many people of his country hated him. So they sent some messengers to follow him and say *to the higher king*, 'We do not want this man to be our king!' 15 *But he was made king anyway. Later* he returned as the new king. Then he called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to know how much they had gained by doing business with the money he had given them. 16 The first servant came to him and said, 'Sir, with your money I have earned ten times as much!' 17 He said to this man, 'You are a good servant! You have done very well! Because you have faithfully taken care of a small amount of money, I will give you ten cities to rule over.' 18 Then the second servant came and said, 'Sir, the money you gave me is now worth five times as much!' 19 He also said to that servant, '*Well done!* I will put you over five cities.' 20 Then another servant came. He said, 'Sir, here is your money. I wrapped it up in a cloth and hid it to keep it safe. 21 I was afraid that you would take everything I earned. I know you are a hard man who takes things from others that do not really belong to you. You are like a farmer who harvests grain that another farmer has planted.' 22 He said to that servant, 'You wicked servant! I will condemn you by the words you just said. You said I am a hard man. You said I take what does not belong to me. You said I am like a farmer who harvests what another farmer has planted. 23 So you should at least have given my money to money lenders! Then when I returned I could have collected that amount plus the interest it would have earned!' 24 Then the king said to those who were standing near, 'Take the money from him and give it to the servant who made ten times as much!' 25 They protested, 'But sir, he already has a lot of money!' 26 But the king said, 'I tell you this: To the people who use well what they have received, I will give even more. But from the people who do not use well what they have received, I will take away even what they already have. 27 Now, as for those enemies of mine who did not want me to rule over them, bring them here and execute them while I am watching!'"

28 After Jesus said those things, he traveled farther along on the road up to Jerusalem. 29 When they got close to the villages of Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples on ahead. 30 He told them, "Go to the village just ahead of you. As you enter it, there you will see a young donkey tied up that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying the donkey?' say to him, 'Jesus needs it.'" 32 So the two disciples went to the village and found the donkey, just as Jesus had told them. 33 As they were untying it, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying our donkey?" 34 They replied, "Jesus needs it." And the owners gave them permission to use it. 35 Then the disciples brought the donkey to Jesus. They threw their robes on the donkey's back and helped Jesus get on it. 36 Then, as he rode along, others spread their robes on the road in front of him to honor him. 37 As Jesus approached the road that goes down from the Mount of Olives, the whole

crowd of his disciples began to praise God with loud, joyful
shouts for all the great miracles that they had seen him do.
38 They were saying things like, "May God bless our king who
comes with God's authority! May there be peace between God
in heaven and us his people, and may everyone praise God!"
39 Some of the Pharisees who were in the crowd said to him,
"Teacher, tell your disciples to stop saying those things!" 40 He
replied, "I tell you this: If these people were silent, the stones
themselves would shout to praise me!"
41 When Jesus came near to Jerusalem and saw the city,
he cried about its people. 42 He said, "I wish that today you
people knew how to have God's peace. But now you are unable
to know this. 43 I want you to know this: You are going to
experience difficult times. Your enemies will come and set up
a barricade around your city. They will surround the city and
attack it on all sides. 44 They will *break through the walls and*
destroy them and the rest of the city. They will kill all of you.
They will completely demolish everything. All this will happen
because you did not recognize the time when God came to
save you!"
45 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple
courtyard. He began to force the people who were selling
things there to leave. 46 He told them, "The Scriptures say,
'God's temple should be a place where people pray.' But you
have made it 'a hideout for thieves'!"
47 Each day during that week, Jesus was teaching people
at the temple. The chief priests, the teachers of religious laws,
and other Jewish leaders were trying to find a way to kill him.
48 But they did not find any way to do it, because very many
people were eager to hear him.

20 One day during that week, Jesus was teaching the
people at the temple and telling them God's good
message. As he was doing that, the chief priests, the teachers
of the Jewish laws, and some other elders came to him. 2 They
said to him, "Tell us, what right do you have to do these
things? And who gave you this right?" 3 He replied, "I will also
ask you a question. Tell me 4 about John baptizing people:
Did God command him to baptize or did humans command
him?" 5 They discussed this among themselves. They said, "If
we answer, 'God commanded him,' then he will say, 'So why
did you not believe him?' 6 But if we say, 'It was only humans
who told him to baptize,' the people will stone us to death,
because most of them believe that John was a prophet *whom*
God sent." 7 So they replied that they did not know who told
John to baptize. 8 Then Jesus said to them, "Just as you will
not tell me, I will not tell you who sent me to do those things."
9 Then Jesus told the people this parable: "A man planted a
vineyard. He rented the vineyard to some people who would
take care of it. Then he went to another country and stayed
there for a long time. 10 When it was time to harvest the grapes,
this owner sent a servant 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. But *after the servant*
arrived, they beat that servant and sent him away without giving
him any grapes. 11 Later, the owner sent another servant, but
they also beat and shamed that servant. They sent him away
without any grapes. 12 Still later, the owner sent yet another
servant. The farmers wounded this servant too and forced him
to leave the vineyard. 13 So the owner of the vineyard said to
himself, 'What should I do now? I will send my son, whom I
love very much. They will probably respect him.' 14 *So he sent*
his son, but when the people who were caring for the vineyard
saw him coming, they said to each other, 'Here comes the man
who will some day inherit this vineyard! Let us kill him! Then
the vineyard will be ours!' 15 So they dragged him outside the
vineyard, and they killed him. I will tell you what the owner
of the vineyard will do to them! 16 He will come and kill those
people who were taking care of the vineyard. Then he will
arrange for other people to take care of it." When the people
listening to Jesus heard this, they said, "May a situation like
this never happen!" 17 But Jesus looked directly at them and
said, "You can say that, but think about the meaning of these
words that are written in the Scriptures.

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

18 This stone will break to pieces everyone who falls on it,
and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'"
19 The chief priests and the teachers of the Jewish laws
realized that he was accusing them when he told the story
about those wicked people. So they immediately tried to find
a way to arrest him. *But they did not arrest him,* because they
were afraid of what the people would do if they did so. 20 So
they watched him carefully. They also sent spies *to talk to*
Jesus who pretended to be sincere, but who really wanted to
get Jesus to say something wrong. They wanted to *be able to*
accuse him of encouraging resistance to the Roman government so
that they could turn him over to the governor *of the province*.
21 One of them said to him, "Teacher, we know that you speak
and teach what is right. You do that even if important people
do not like it. You teach truthfully what God wants us to do.
22 *So tell us what you think about this matter.* Is it right for us to
pay taxes to the Roman government, or not?" 23 But he knew
that they were trying to trick him to get him into trouble
either with the Jews, who hated to pay those taxes, or with
the Roman government. So he said to them, 24 "Show me a
Roman coin. Then tell me whose picture and name are on it."
So they *showed him a coin and* said, "It has the picture and
name of Caesar." 25 He said to them, "In that case, give to the
government what belongs to it, and give to God what belongs
to him." 26 The spies could find nothing wrong with anything
that Jesus said while the people were standing around him.
The spies were so amazed at his answer that they did not say
anything more.
27 After that, some Sadducees came to Jesus. Their group of
Jews taught that no one would rise from the dead. They also
intended to ask Jesus a challenging question. 28 One of them
said to him, "Teacher, Moses taught us Jews what to do if a
man dies who has a wife but no children. His brother should
marry the widow so that she can have a child by him. People
will then consider that child a descendant of the man who died.
29 Well, there were seven brothers in one family. The oldest
one married a woman, but before she had any children, he
died, leaving her as a widow. 30 The second brother followed
this law and married the widow, but the same thing happened
to him. 31 Then the third brother married her, but the same
thing happened again. In the end, all seven brothers, one
by one, married that woman but died without having any

children. 32 Afterwards, the woman died, too. 33 Therefore, if
it is true that there will be a time when people who have
died will become alive again, whose wife do you think that
woman will be then? Keep in mind that she was married to all
seven brothers!" 34 Jesus replied to them, "In this world, men
marry women, and parents give daughters in marriage to men.
35 But the people whom God will consider worthy of being
in heaven when he brings them back to life after they have
died will not marry. 36 *They do not marry* because they cannot
die anymore. Rather, they are like the angels *who live forever*.
They are God's children, since God has made them alive again
after they have died. 37 *Now that I have answered your question
about marriage, I will show from Scripture* that God does make
people alive again after they have died. Even Moses wrote
about this. In the place where he describes meeting God at
the burning bush, he records how the Lord called himself 'the
God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'
*God would not have said that if he had not made those men alive
again and he were not still their God.* 38 After all, he is not the
God of people who are dead. He is the God of people who are
alive, because to God, everyone remains alive *even after they
die*."

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

41 So in return, *Jesus asked them a difficult question of his
own.* He said, "Why do people say that the Messiah is *only*
a descendant of King David? 42 Consider that David himself
wrote in the Book of Psalms *about the Messiah*,

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

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

45 Then, while all the other people were listening, Jesus
said to his disciples, 46 "Make sure that you do not act like
the men who teach our Jewish laws. They like to put on long
robes and walk around to make people think that they are very
important. They also like people to greet them respectfully
in the marketplaces. They like to sit in the most important
seats in the synagogues. At dinner parties they like to sit in
the places for the most honored people. 47 They *also* steal all
the property of widows. But to make other people think that
they are righteous, they pray for a long time *in public*. God
will condemn them strictly for what they have done."

21 Then Jesus looked up *from where he was sitting* and
saw rich people putting their gifts *of money* into the
offering boxes *in the temple courtyard*. 2 He also saw a poor
widow put two small copper coins into one of the boxes. 3 And
he said *to his disciples*, "The truth is that this poor widow has
put more *into the offering box* than all *of these rich people*. 4 Let
me tell you why that is true. All those *rich people* gave a lot of
money, but it was extra money that they did not really need.
But this widow, who is very poor, gave all the money that she
had, even though she really did need it to live on."

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

7 Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things
happen? And what will show that these things are about to
take place?" 8 Jesus replied, "Do not let anyone mislead you.
For many people will come and each will claim to be me. Each
will say about himself, 'I am the Messiah!' They will also say,
'The time is almost here when God will rule as king!' Do not
believe what they are saying! 9 Also, you will hear about wars
and people fighting each other. Things like that must happen
before the end *of the world* comes. So *when you hear about those
things,* do not be afraid.

10 Various people groups will attack each other, and the
people of different kingdoms will fight each other. 11 And in
various places there will be great earthquakes. There will also
be famines and terrible diseases. Many things will happen that
will cause people to be very afraid. People will see strange
things in the sky *that will show that something very important
is going to happen*. 12 But before all these things *happen*, your
enemies will seize you and treat you badly. They will bring
you to the synagogues*, whose judges will put you on trial* and *put
you in the* prisons. Your enemies will also have kings and high
government authorities put you on trial because you believe in
me. 13 That will be a time for you to tell them the truth about
me. 14 So resolve firmly not to worry ahead of time about what
you will say to defend yourselves, 15 because I will give you
the right words so that you will know what to say. As a result,
none of the people accusing you will be able to say that you
are wrong. 16 And even your parents and brothers and sisters
and *other* relatives and friends will betray you, and they will
kill some of you. 17 Most people will hate you because you
believe in me. 18 But your entire being will be safe *spiritually*.
19 If you go through difficult times and prove that you trust
God, after you die your souls will live on in God's presence.

20 When you see armies surround *the city of* Jerusalem, then
you will know that they will soon destroy that city. 21 At that
time those of you who are in *other places in the province of*
Judea must escape to the mountains. And those of you who
are in this city must leave. Those of you who are in the nearby
countryside must not come into the city. 22 *You should run away*
because God will punish *the city of Jerusalem* at this time. *When
he does that,* what God has said in the Scriptures about this will
come true. 23 When this happens, how terrible it will be for
pregnant women and for those who are nursing their babies.
There will be great suffering in the land. God will be angry
with these people and punish them severely. 24 Many of them
will die because soldiers will kill them with their weapons.
Their enemies will take others as prisoners and send them to
many places around the world. The Gentiles will control *the
city of* Jerusalem for as long as God allows."

25 "At this time, strange things will happen to the sun, the
moon, and the stars. And on earth, people groups will become
very frightened. They will be as afraid as they would be in a
roaring ocean with huge waves. 26 People will be so afraid that

they will faint because they are waiting for what will happen next in the world. The stars in the sky will move out of their usual places. 27 Then all people will see me, the Son of Man, coming in the clouds powerfully and with brilliant light. 28 So when those terrible things begin to happen, assume a posture of confidence, because God will soon rescue you."

29 Then Jesus gave them an example. He said, "Think about the fig trees, and even all the trees. 30 When you see that their leaves are sprouting, you know that it is the beginning of summer. 31 In the same way, when you see these things that I have just described happening, you will know then that God will soon show himself as king. 32 I am telling you the truth. The people who see the first of the signs I have described will definitely live to see all these things happen. 33 You may think of the sky and the land as permanent. They are not, but my words are permanent.

34 Be very careful to control yourselves. If you get drunk, your minds will not be alert afterwards. And if you worry about day-to-day matters, you will become distracted. *Then you will not be paying attention to the signs I have told you about, and* I will surprise you when I return. 35 *I will come so suddenly that* it will be like when a trap springs closed on an animal. *So you need to be watching for my return,* because it will affect every person in the world. 36 So you must be always ready for my coming. Pray that you will be able to stay faithful to me as you experience these difficult things that I have been talking about. That way I, the Messiah, will declare you innocent *when I come to judge the world*."

37 Each day Jesus was teaching people at the temple. But every evening he went *out of the city* and stayed all night on the Mount of Olives. 38 And early every morning, great crowds of people came to the temple to listen to him *as he taught*.

22 It was now almost time for the Celebration of Unleavened Bread, which people also called the Passover. 2 The chief priests and the teachers of the Jewish laws were looking for a way to have Jesus killed without starting a riot among the *many* people *who thought he was a great man*.

3 Then Satan entered into Judas, whose other name was Iscariot. He was one of 12 men whom Jesus had chosen to represent him. 4 He went and talked with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard about how he might help them capture Jesus. 5 They were very pleased *when he offered to do that*. They said they would pay him money *if he did it*. 6 So Judas agreed, and then he started looking for a way to help them capture Jesus where the crowd would not see it.

7 Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came. This was the day when Jewish people had to kill the lambs that they would eat for the Passover celebration. 8 So Jesus sent Peter and John out with these instructions: "Go and prepare the meal for the Passover celebration so that we can all eat it together." 9 They replied to him, "Where do you want us to prepare the meal?" 10 He answered, "Listen carefully. When you go into the city, a man carrying a large jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. 11 Say to the owner of the house, 'Our teacher says to show us the room where he can eat the Passover meal together with us, his disciples.' 12 He will show you a large room that is on the upper floor of the house. It will be all ready for entertaining guests. Prepare the meal for us there." 13 So the two disciples went *into the city*. They found everything to be just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared *the meal for* the Passover celebration there.

14 When it was time to eat the meal, Jesus came and sat down with his representatives. 15 He said to them, "I have wanted very much to eat this special Passover supper with you before I die. 16 I tell you, the next time I eat it will be when God gives it its deepest meaning when he rules everywhere as king." 17 Then he took a cup of wine and thanked God for it. He told them, "Take this wine and share it among yourselves. 18 *I want you to do this* because, I tell you, I will not drink wine again until God rules everywhere as king." 19 Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke it into pieces and gave it to them to eat. As he did so, he said, "This bread is my body, which I am about to sacrifice for you. Do this again later to honor me." 20 In the same way, after they had eaten the meal, he took the cup of wine and said, "This is the new covenant that I will make using my own blood, which will flow out of my wounds for you when I die. 21 But I want you all to know that the person who will hand me over to my enemies is here eating with me. 22 *I say this* because I, the Son of Man, will indeed die in the way that God has planned. But how terrible it will be for the man who hands me over *to my enemies*!" 23 Then they all began to ask each other which of them would actually be prepared to betray Jesus.

24 After that, they began to argue among themselves about which one of them they should think was the most important person. 25 Jesus responded to them, "The kings of the Gentile nations like to show people that they are powerful. Yet they give themselves the name 'Ones Who Help the People.' 26 But you should not be like those rulers! Instead, the most honored people among you should act as if they were the least honored ones. Anyone who leads must act like a servant. 27 For you know that the important person is the one who eats at the table, not the servant who brings the food. But I, your leader, have been setting an example for you by serving you while I have been among you

28 You are the people who have stayed with me during all the hard things I have suffered. 29 So now I am appointing you to important positions in which you will rule, just as my Father has appointed me to rule as a king. 30 You will sit and eat and drink with me when I become king. In fact, you will sit on thrones and judge the people of the 12 tribes of Israel."

31 "Simon, Simon, pay attention! Satan has asked *God* to *let him* test all of you, the way someone shakes grain in a sieve*, and God has permitted him to do that*. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon. *I have asked God* that you will not completely stop believing in me. So when you decide that you truly do believe in me, encourage the others *to believe in me as well*." 33 Peter replied to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison. I am even willing to die with you!" 34 Jesus replied, "Peter, I want you to know that this night, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me!"

35 Then Jesus asked the disciples, "When I sent you out *to the villages, and you went* without any money, food, or sandals, was there anything you needed but could not get?" They replied, "No, there was nothing!" 36 Then Jesus said, "But, now, if anyone *among you* has some money, he should take it with him. Also, whoever has food should take it with him. And whoever does not have a sword should sell his coat and buy one! 37 I tell you this because what a prophet wrote about

me in the Scriptures must take place: 'People treated him like a criminal.' Everything the Scriptures say about me is going to happen." 38 The disciples replied, "Lord, look! We have two swords!" He answered, "We will not need more than two."

39 Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives, as he usually did. His disciples went with him. 40 When Jesus came *with his disciples* to the place where he often spent the night, he said to them, "Pray that God will help you not to sin when you are tempted." 41 Then he went about 30 meters from them, knelt down, and prayed. 42 He said, "Father, if you are willing, please allow me not to experience the terrible things that are about to happen. But do not do what I want. Do what you want." 43 [a] [Then an angel from heaven came to him and gave him courage. 44 [b] He was suffering greatly. So he prayed very intensely. His sweat was falling to the ground like large drops of blood.] 45 When Jesus got up from praying, he returned to his disciples. He discovered that they were sleeping. They were very sad and this had made them tired. 46 He *woke them up and* said to them, "This is no time for you to be sleeping! Get up! Pray that *God will help you so that* nothing tempts you to sin."

47 While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd of people came to him. Judas, one of Jesus' 12 representatives, was guiding them. He came up to Jesus to greet him with a kiss on the cheek. 48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, how dare you use a kiss to hand me, the Son of Man, over to my enemies!" 49 When the disciples realized what was happening, they said, "Lord, should we use our weapons *to keep them from arresting you*?" 50 One of them *drew his sword and* struck the servant of the high priest, but *only* cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, "Do not do any more of that!" Then he touched the servant where he had been wounded and healed him. 52–53 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guards, and the Jewish elders who had come to arrest him, "It is surprising that you have come here with swords and clubs to arrest me, as if I were a robber. For many days I was with you in the temple, but you did not try to arrest me at all! But this is the time you are doing what you want. It is also the time when Satan is doing the evil things as he wants to do."

54 The Jewish leaders and soldiers seized Jesus and led him away. They brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed them *from a safe distance* far behind. 55 Some people lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together. Peter came and sat among them. 56 A female servant saw Peter sitting there as the fire shone upon him. She looked at him carefully and said, "This man was also with the one they have arrested!" 57 But he denied it, saying, "Young lady, I do not know him!" 58 A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You also are one of those who were with the man they arrested!" But Peter said, "No, mister, I am not one of them!" 59 About an hour later someone else said loudly, "*The way that* this man *speaks shows that he* is from *the region of* Galilee. So he must certainly have come here with the man they arrested!" 60 But Peter said, "Mister, that is not true!" Immediately a rooster crowed, while Peter was still speaking. 61 Jesus turned around and looked right at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "This night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you know me." 62 And he went out of the courtyard and cried with great sorrow.

63 The men who were guarding Jesus made fun of him and beat him. 64 They put a blindfold on him *so he could not see and then took turns hitting him*. They said to him, "Show us that you are a prophet! Tell us who just hit you!" 65 They said many other *cruel* things about him, mocking him.

66 At dawn the next morning, many of the Jewish leaders gathered together. In this group were the chief priests and the men who taught the Jewish laws. They had the soldiers bring Jesus into the Jewish council chamber. 67 There they said to him, "If you are the Messiah, tell us!" But he replied, "If I say that I am the Messiah, you will not believe me. 68 But if I ask you whether you think I am the Messiah, you will not answer me. 69 But from now on, I, the Messiah, will be sitting next to almighty God *and ruling*!" 70 Then they all asked, "If that is so, are you *saying that you are* the Son of God?" He answered, "Yes, what you are saying is true." 71 Then they said to each other, "We ourselves have heard him say *that he is equal to God*! And so we certainly do not need any more people to testify against him *on a charge of blasphemy*!"

23 Then the whole group got up and took Jesus to Pilate*, the Roman governor*. 2 They accused him *in front of Pilate*. They said, "We have seen this man *causing trouble by* misleading our people. He has been telling them to not pay the taxes that Caesar, the Roman emperor, has imposed. Also, he has been saying that he is the Messiah, a king!" 3 Pilate then asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, it is just as you have asked me." 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and to the crowd, "This man is not guilty of any crime." 5 But the group from the Jewish ruling council kept accusing Jesus. They said, "He is trying to get the people to riot! He has been teaching his ideas throughout all of *the region of* Judea. He started doing that in *the region of* Galilee, and now he is doing it here as well!"

6 When Pilate heard what they said, he asked, "Does this man come from *the region of* Galilee?" 7 When Pilate found out that Jesus was from Galilee, where Herod Antipas ruled, he sent Jesus to him. Herod was also in Jerusalem at that time. 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, because he had wanted to see Jesus for a long time. This was because Herod had heard many things about Jesus, and he wanted to see him perform a miracle. 9 So he asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus did not reply to any of them. 10 And the chief priests and some experts in the Jewish laws stood near Jesus, accusing him very strongly *of committing many crimes*. 11 Then Herod and his soldiers insulted Jesus and made fun of him. They put expensive clothes on him *to pretend that he was a king*. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate. 12 Until that time the two men had been very hostile to each other, but on that day Herod and Pilate became friends.

13 Pilate then gathered together the chief priests and other Jewish leaders and the crowd that was still there. 14 He said to them, "You brought this man to me, saying that he has been leading the people to revolt. But I want you to know that after examining him while you were listening, I conclude that he is not guilty of doing any of the things you said he

[a] Some ancient manuscripts include verses 43 and 44. [b] See the note on the previous verse.

did. 15 Also, Herod sent him back to us *without punishing him*.
That means that he too *concluded that he was not guilty*. So
it is clear that this man has not done anything for which he
deserves to die. 16 So I will *tell my soldiers to* whip him and
then set him free." 17 [a] [*Pilate said this because* he had to set one
prisoner free at every Passover celebration.] 18 But the whole
crowd shouted together, "Put this man to death! Set Barabbas
free for us instead!" 19 Now Barabbas was a man who had
led some people in the city *of Jerusalem* to rebel against the
Roman government. He was also a murderer. He was in prison
because of these crimes. 20 But Pilate wanted very much to set
Jesus free, so he tried to speak to the crowd again. 21 But they
kept on shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" 22 Pilate then
spoke to the crowd a third time. "No! He has not committed
any crime! He has not done anything for which he deserves
to die. So I will have my soldiers whip him, and then I will
set him free." 23 But the people in the crowd kept shouting
to insist that Pilate execute Jesus on a cross. Finally, because
they continued to shout so loudly, they persuaded Pilate. 24 So
Pilate declared that he would do what they wanted. 25 Then
Pilate set free the man whom the crowd was asking him to
release. That man was in prison because he had fought against
the government and murdered people! Pilate then commanded
the soldiers to take Jesus and do what the crowd wanted.

26 Now there was a man named Simon, who was from the
city of Cyrene *in Africa*. He was coming into Jerusalem from
the countryside. As the soldiers were leading Jesus away, they
grabbed hold of Simon. They *took from Jesus the cross that they
had made him carry, and they* put it on Simon's shoulders. They
told him to carry it and follow behind Jesus. 27 Now a large
crowd was walking behind Jesus. In the crowd were many
women who were beating on their chests *to show their grief*
and wailing *sorrowfully* for him. 28 But *instead of accepting their
sympathy,* Jesus turned to these women and said, "You women
of Jerusalem, do not weep for me! Instead, weep over *the
terrible things that are going to happen to* you and your children!
29 For I want you to know that there will *soon* be a time when
people will say, 'How fortunate are the women who have never
given birth to children or nursed babies!' 30 Then the people
in this city will say, 'We wish that the mountains would fall
on top of us and that the hills would cover us up!' 31 Right
now it is difficult for people to do bad things to others, just
as it is difficult to set fire to fresh wood. But later, people will
easily be able to do terrible things to others, just as it is easy
to set fire to dry wood."

32 Two other men, who were criminals, were also walking
with Jesus to the place where the Romans would execute them.
33 When they got to the place whose name was The Skull, there
the soldiers crucified Jesus, nailing him to a cross. They did
the same thing to the two criminals. They put one of them at
the right side of Jesus and the other at his left side. 34 [b] [But
Jesus said, "Father, please forgive these people. They do not
realize what they are doing."] Then the soldiers divided his
clothes and gambled with something like dice to determine
which piece of clothing each one would get. 35 Many people
stood nearby, watching. They were making fun of Jesus. The
Jewish leaders did the same thing. They said, "He saved other
people! If God has really chosen him to be the Messiah, he
should save himself!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him. They
came up to him and offered him some sour wine. 37 They said
to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 On
the cross above his head, the soldiers also fastened a sign that
stated, "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who was hanging *on a cross next
to Jesus also* insulted him. He said, "If you really were the
Messiah, you would save yourself, and you would save us
too!" 40 But the other criminal scolded him *for saying that*. He
told him, "You should be afraid of God *punishing you*! You are
also dying on a cross*, and soon God will judge you*. 41 The two
of us deserve *to die*. They are punishing us as we deserve for
the evil things that we did. But the man you are insulting did
nothing wrong!" 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Jesus, please think
about me and treat me well when you begin to rule as king!"
43 Jesus replied, "I want you to know that today you will be
with me in paradise!"

44 By then it was about noontime. But it became dark
throughout that whole area until three o'clock in the afternoon.
45 There was no light from the sun. And the *thick* curtain *that
closed off the Most Holy Place* in the temple split into two
pieces. 46 When that happened, Jesus shouted loudly, "Father,
I put my spirit into your care!" After he said that, he stopped
breathing and died.

47 When the centurion *who was commanding the soldiers*
saw what happened, he said, "Indeed, this man did nothing
wrong!" What he said honored God. 48 When the crowd of
people who had gathered to see these men die saw what had
actually happened, they went back to their homes, hitting
their chests to show that they were sorrowful. 49 *But when the
rest of the crowd left,* all of Jesus' acquaintances, including the
women who had come with him from *the region of* Galilee,
kept watching what happened from where they were standing,
some distance away.

50 There was a man named Joseph *who lived in Jerusalem*.
He was a good and righteous man who was a member of
the Jewish Council. 51 But he had not agreed with the other
Council members when they decided to kill Jesus and when
they planned how to do it. He was from the town of Arimathea
in Judea. He was waiting expectantly for the time when God
would send his king to begin to rule. 52 Joseph went to Pilate
and asked Pilate to permit him to take Jesus' body and bury it.
Pilate gave him permission, 53 So Joseph took Jesus' body down
from the cross. He wrapped it in a linen cloth. Then he put
Jesus' body in a burial chamber that someone had cut into a
rock cliff. No one had ever put a body in that chamber before.
54 This happened on the day when the Jewish people got ready
for their day of rest. It was soon going to be sunset, the start
of the Sabbath. 55 The women who had come with Jesus from
the district of Galilee followed *Joseph and the men who were
with him*. They saw the burial chamber, and they saw how the
men laid Jesus' body inside it. 56 Then the women went back
to where they were staying in order to prepare spices and
ointments *to put on Jesus' body*. However, they stopped working
when the Sabbath began, just as the Jewish law required.

24 Very early in the morning on Sunday, those women
went to the burial chamber. They brought with them

[a] Some ancient manuscripts include verse 17.

[b] Some ancient manuscripts include the first part of verse 34.

the spices that they had prepared *to put on the body of Jesus*.
2 *When they arrived,* they discovered that somebody had rolled
away the stone *that had been closing off the entrance* to the burial
chamber. 3 They went into *the burial chamber*, but the body of
Jesus was not there! 4 They did not know what to think about
that. Then suddenly two men stood by them wearing bright,
shining clothes! 5 This made the women very frightened. They
bowed down low to the ground. The two men said to them,
"You should not be looking for someone who is alive in a
place where they bury the bodies of dead people! 6 He is not
here. No, he has come back to life! Recall that while he was
still with you in Galilee, he said to you, 7 'They will have to
hand me, the Son of Man, over to sinful men. Those men will
kill me by nailing me to a cross. But two days later, I will
become alive again.'" 8 The women recalled what Jesus had
told them. 9 So they left the burial chamber and went to Jesus'
11 representatives and the other disciples of Jesus and told
them what happened. 10 The women who told these things
to them were Mary from Magdala village, Joanna, Mary the
mother of James, and the other women who were with them.
11 But they thought this report was foolishness, so they did not
believe the women. 12 However, Peter decided *to see whether
the story was true*. He ran to the burial chamber. He stooped
down *and looked inside*. He saw the linen cloths *in which Jesus'
body had been wrapped, but Jesus was not there*. So he left the
tomb, puzzling over what had happened.

13 That same day two of Jesus' disciples were walking to an
outlying village named Emmaus. It was about ten kilometers
from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about
all the things that had happened *to Jesus*. 15 While they were
talking and discussing *those things*, Jesus himself approached
them and started walking with them. 16 But God prevented them
from realizing that it was Jesus. 17 Jesus said to them, "What
have you two been talking about while you were walking?"
They stopped, and they had very sad expressions on their faces.
18 But then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, replied,
"You must be the only person who is visiting Jerusalem who
does not know about the events that have happened there in
recent days!" 19 He said to them, "What events?" They replied,
"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,
who was a prophet. God enabled him to perform great miracles
and to teach wonderful messages. Most people thought he was
wonderful. 20 But our chief priests and leaders handed him
over *to the Roman authorities*. They sentenced him to die, and
they killed him by nailing him to a cross. 21 We were hoping
that he was the one who would free us Israelites from our
enemies! But this does not seem possible now, since three days
have passed since the Romans executed him. 22 In spite of this,
some women from our group amazed us. Early this morning
they went to the chamber *where Jesus was buried*, 23 but the
body of Jesus was not there! They came back and told us they
had seen some angels in a vision. The angels said that Jesus
was alive! 24 Then some of those who were with us *when the
women came and said this* went to the burial chamber. They
saw that things were exactly as the women had reported. But
they did not see Jesus." 25 Then Jesus said to them, "You two
foolish men! You are so slow to believe all that the prophets
have written about the Messiah! 26 You should certainly have
known that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer all those
things *and die*, and then receive great honor from God!" 27 Then
Jesus explained to them all the things that the Scriptures said
about himself. He started with what Moses wrote, and then
he explained what all the prophets had written.

28 When they had nearly reached the village where the two
men were going, it appeared that Jesus was going to keep
walking down the road. 29 But they pleaded with him *not to
do that*. They said, "Stay with us tonight, because it is late
in the afternoon and it will soon be dark." So he went in *to
the house* to stay with them. 30 When they all sat down to eat,
Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. Then he broke
it in pieces and began to give some to the two men. 31 And
then God enabled them to recognize him. But immediately
he disappeared! 32 They said to each other, "While we were
walking along the road and he was talking with us and enabling
us to understand the Scriptures, we got so excited inside! *It
all made sense that the Messiah would have to suffer but then
receive great honor.*" 33 So they left immediately and returned
to Jerusalem. There they found Jesus' 11 representatives and
some others who had gathered together with them. 34 They
told those two men, "It is true that Jesus has become alive
again. He has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then those two men told
the others what had happened as they were walking along the
road. They also told them how they both recognized Jesus as
he broke some bread for them.

36 As they were saying that, Jesus himself suddenly appeared
among them. He said to them, "May God give you peace!"
37 But *they were not peaceful.* They were startled and afraid
because they thought that they were seeing a ghost! 38 He said
to them, "You should not be alarmed! And you should not
doubt *that I am alive*. 39 Look at *the wounds in my hands* and
my feet! That way you can be sure that it is really I myself.
Ghosts do not have bodies, as you see that I have, and you can
touch me to prove that my body is real." 40 After he said that,
he showed them *the wounds in* his hands and his feet. 41 They
were so glad that they could still hardly believe *that he was
really alive*. So he said to them, "Do you have something here
that I could eat?" 42 So they gave him a piece of roasted fish.
43 While they were watching, he took it and ate it.

44 Then he said to them, "I will repeat what I told you
while I was with you before. God was going to make happen
everything that he said about me*, the Messiah,* throughout
all of the Scriptures." 45 Then he enabled them to understand
the *things that* the Scriptures *said about him*. He said to them,
46 "This is what you can read in the Scriptures: that the Messiah
would suffer *and die*, but on the third day after that, he would
become alive again. 47 *The Scriptures also say that* those who
believe in the Messiah would go and announce on his behalf
that God will forgive people who stop sinning. I want you to do
this, starting here in Jerusalem and going to every people group
in the world. 48 You *must tell people that you* saw everything
happen to me that the Scriptures said would happen to the
Messiah. 49 And I am going to send the Holy Spirit to you, as
my Father promised. But you must stay in this city until God
gives you the power *of the Holy Spirit*."

50 Then Jesus led them outside *the city* until they came
near *the village of* Bethany. There he lifted up his hands and
blessed them. 51 As he was doing that, he left them and went
up to heaven. 52 After they worshiped him, they returned to
Jerusalem very joyfully. 53 Each day they went to the temple
and spent time worshiping God there.