

The Gospel According to Mark
A translation from the Original Greek
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Chapter 1

¹Here begins the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of you, who will prepare Your way.
³A voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight paths for him!"*

⁴John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And everyone in the Judean region and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶John wore camel hair garments with a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

⁷He was proclaiming, "There is One coming after me who is mightier than I. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the straps of His sandals. ⁸I baptized you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. ¹⁰Immediately as he was coming up from the water, Jesus saw the heavens split open and the Spirit in the form of a dove coming down to him. ¹¹A voice from heaven said, "You are My Beloved Son. In You I was well pleased."

¹²Immediately the Spirit compelled him to go into the wilderness ¹³where he was tested by Satan for forty days. He was among the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴After John was imprisoned, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming God's good news, ¹⁵"The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has drawn near," he said. "Repent and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew in the sea casting nets, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, "Come, follow after me and I will make you into fishermen of men." ¹⁸Immediately abandoning their nets, they followed Him.

¹⁹After going a little further, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in the boat preparing the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them. Leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, they went away after him.

²¹They entered the city of Capernaum, and first thing on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²The listeners were shocked at his teaching for he was teaching them as one who had authority and not as the scribes.

²³Suddenly a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit shrieked, ²⁴“What do you want with us, Jesus the Nazarene? You have come to destroy us! I know who you are - the Holy One of God!”

²⁵Jesus rebuked him, “Shut up! Come out of him!”

²⁶The unclean spirit, after throwing the man into violent spasms and screaming, came out of him. ²⁷Everyone was so astonished that they disputed among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him!” ²⁸At once the news about him spread everywhere into the whole region around Galilee.

²⁹Departing from the synagogue, they went straight to the house of Simon and Andrew, accompanied by James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and they wasted no time telling Jesus about her. ³¹Drawing near, he took her hand and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

³²That evening after sunset, people were bringing to him all those who were sick or demon possessed ³³and it seemed as though the whole city had gathered at the door. ³⁴He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, but he would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.

³⁵After rising very early in the morning while it was still night, Jesus departed and went to a secluded place and there he was praying. ³⁶Simon and the others searched for him ³⁷and when they found him, they scolded him, “Everyone is looking for you!”

³⁸Jesus replied, “We must go elsewhere to the neighboring towns so I can preach there also. This is what I came for.” ³⁹So he went throughout all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰Now a leper came to him and falling on his knees he pleaded, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus touched him with his hand, saying, “I am willing. Be clean.” ⁴²Immediately the leprosy vanished from him and he was clean. ⁴³Jesus promptly sent him away with a stern warning, ⁴⁴“Don’t tell anyone anything about this. But go, show yourself to the priest. Offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing as a testimony to them.”

⁴⁵But after leaving, he began to proclaim everything that happened and spread the news everywhere. As a result, Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed outside in desert places. But they were still coming to him from everywhere.

Chapter 2

¹Sometime later Jesus again entered Capernaum, and it was heard that he was at home.

²So many people gathered that there was no more room, not even outside the door, and he was speaking the word to them.

³A paralytic was brought to him, carried by four men, ⁴but being unable to reach Jesus because of the crowd, they dug through the roof above him, and lowered the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some of the legal experts were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does he say this? Is he blaspheming? Who can forgive sins except one - God?"

⁸Jesus instantly knew in his spirit that they were thinking like this and said to them, "Why are you questioning these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier? To say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven?' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your bed, and walk?' ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on the earth..."

Jesus said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I say to you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home."

¹² The man got up, and quickly picking up the bed, departed in the sight of everyone. All were amazed by this and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

¹³Once again Jesus went out along the seashore, and the whole crowd came to him and he was teaching them. ¹⁴As he moved along, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Levi stood up and followed him.

¹⁵Later, Jesus was having a meal in his house, and many tax collectors and so-called "sinners" were feasting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the Pharisaic teachers of the law saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "He eats with tax collectors and sinners!"

¹⁷Hearing this, Jesus said to them, "Those who are healthy don't need a doctor, rather those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

¹⁸Now the disciples of John and the pharisees practiced fasting. Some people came and said to Jesus, "Why do your disciples not fast like the disciples of John and the pharisees?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "The friends of the groom can't fast while he is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰But a time is coming when the groom is taken away from them. In that day they will fast. ²¹No one sews a patch of new unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch will pull away from the old garment making the tear worse. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise, the wine will burst the wineskins and both the wine and the wineskins are ruined. New wine is put into fresh wineskins.”

²³One Sabbath, as Jesus was passing by the grain fields, his disciples began to make their way through the fields plucking the heads of grain. ²⁴The pharisees were saying to him, “Hey, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

²⁵Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need, and he and the men with him were hungry? ²⁶How he entered the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and ate the Bread of Presence, which is unlawful to eat except for the priests, and he also gave it to those with him?”

²⁷Finally he said to them, “The Sabbath was created for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So then, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

Chapter 3

¹On another occasion Jesus entered the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was present. ²They were closely watching him to see if he would heal on the Sabbath in order to make an accusation against him.

³Jesus ordered the man with the withered hand, “Stand here in the middle.”

⁴To those watching him he asked, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil; to save a life or to kill?” But they remained silent.

⁵Looking around at them with anger, but also deeply grieved by the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out you hand.” He obeyed and his hand was restored.

⁶The pharisees left and immediately took council against him with the supporters of Herod about how they would destroy Jesus.

⁷Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a huge crowd from Galilee followed. ⁸A huge crowd also came to him from Judaea, Jerusalem, Idumaea, from beyond the Jordan, and from around Tyre and Sidon because they were hearing about all the things he was doing. So, he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that it might not mob him. ¹⁰Because he had healed so many, those who were afflicted pressed around him in order to touch him. ¹¹And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!” ¹²But he kept rebuking them so that they would not reveal his identity.

¹³Jesus went up on a mountain and called to himself those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve so that they might be with him, and that he might send them to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶So, he appointed The Twelve: Simon (whom he named Peter), ¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and his brother John (whom he named Boanerges, meaning “Sons of Thunder”), ¹⁸Andrew, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealous, ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot (who also betrayed him).

²⁰Jesus entered a house but was not even able to eat because a crowd gathered again. ²¹When his family heard about it, they went to seize him, for they were saying, “He has lost his mind.”

²²Also, the legal experts who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebub!,” and, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

²³But calling them to him, he began speaking to them in parables. “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is finished. ²⁷In fact, no one can enter the house of a strong man and plunder his stuff, unless he first binds the strong man - then

he will plunder his house. ²⁸Truly I tell you that all evil deeds and whatever blasphemous speech they might say will be forgiven the sons of men, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of a sin with eternal consequences.”

³⁰He said this because they were saying, “He has an unclear spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and brothers arrived. As they stood outside, they sent for him, calling out to him. ³²A crowd was seated around him and was saying to him, “Hey, your mother and brothers [and sisters] are outside looking for you.”

³³He responded, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴Looking around at those sitting in a circle around him, he continued, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ³⁵Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Chapter 4

¹Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a large crowd gathered to him that he stepped into a boat to sit out in the sea, while the whole crowd was on the beach by the sea. ²He was teaching them many things through parables. Some of what he taught them was this:

³“Listen! The sower went out to sow. ⁴As he was sowing, some seed fell beside the pathway, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up because the soil was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose it was scorched and withered because it did not have sufficient roots. ⁷Other seed fell into the briars which grew up and choked it, so that it bore no fruit. ⁸But other seeds fell on good soil and bore fruit as it grew up and increased, and produced a yield of thirty, sixty and one-hundred-fold.”

⁹And he kept saying, “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰When he was alone, those around him with the Twelve were asking him about the parables. ¹¹He said to them, “The secret of God’s kingdom has been given to you, but to those outside everything is in parables. ¹²So that,

*even though they see, they may not know,
and even though they hear, they may not understand,
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven.”*

¹³Jesus said to them, “If you do not understand this parable, how will you know the meaning of any parable?”

¹⁴“The sower sows the word. ¹⁵Some people respond like the seed along the pathway, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And some respond like the seed sown on rocky ground. When these hear the word, they enthusiastically accept it, ¹⁷but it does not take root in them and their experience is short lived. Then when hardship or persecution happens because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸“And others respond like the seed sown in a briar patch. These hear the word ¹⁹but the anxieties of this world, and the seduction of wealth, and cravings for other things enter the soul, choking the word so that it yields no fruit. ²⁰And others respond like the seed sown on good soil, who hear the word and welcome it and bear fruit – some thirty, some sixty and some one-hundredfold.”

²¹He also said to them,

“A lamp is not lit to be placed under a grain measure or under a dining couch, is it? Isn’t it placed on a lampstand? ²²For whatever is hidden is destined to be revealed, and whatever is made secret is certain to come to light. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

²⁴He continued,

“Pay careful attention to what you are hearing! According to the measure you use, it will be measured out to you and even more added to you. ²⁵For whoever has, will be given more. Whoever does not have, even what little he has will be taken away from him.”

²⁶He also said,

“The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed on the soil. ²⁷He sleeps and rises day after day, but how the seed sprouts and grows he does not know. ²⁸The soil bears a crop all by itself - first the stalk, then the ear, then the full kernel in the ear. ²⁹But when the crop is ripe, he immediately wields the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰“What can we compare the Kingdom of God to? How can we describe it in a parable? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, though smaller than all the seeds on earth, when it is sown on the soil ³²grows up and becomes larger than all the garden shrubs and grows branches large enough so that the birds of the sky can rest in its shade.”

³³He used many similar parables to speak the word to them, to the extent that they were able to understand. ³⁴And apart from a parable he was not speaking to them, but privately he was explaining everything to his own disciples.

³⁵That day when evening had come, Jesus said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”

³⁶Leaving the crowd, they took him with them, as he was already in their boat, though other boats were with him. ³⁷Then a fierce gale arose, and the swells were rushing into the boat, so that the boat was quickly filled. ³⁸But he was in the stern asleep on the pillow.

And they were rousing him and saying, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are perishing?”

³⁹Being awakened, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Silence! Be quiet!”

The wind ceased raging and it became completely calm. ⁴⁰Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you not yet have faith?”

⁴¹Greatly terrified, they asked each other, “Who is this man, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Chapter 5

¹They arrived at the other side of the sea, in the region of the Gerasenes. ²As Jesus left the boat, he was immediately confronted by a man from among the tombs with an unclean spirit.

³This man lived among the tombs, for no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴He had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he would shatter the chains and break the shackles in pieces. No one was strong enough to restrain him. ⁵Throughout the night and day, among the tombs and in the hills, he would scream and cut himself with stones.

⁶Seeing Jesus from afar, he ran and bowed down to him ⁷and screamed, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you by God, do not torment me!" ⁸For Jesus had said to the unclean spirit, "Come out of the man!"

⁹Then Jesus asked it, "What is your name?"

It replied, "My name is Legion, because we are many." ¹⁰And it was earnestly begging him not to send them out of the region.

¹¹On a nearby hillside, a large herd of pigs was feeding. ¹²The demons begged him, "Send us into the pigs, that we might possess them."

¹³Jesus gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd, about 2000 pigs, charged down the steep hill into the sea, where they drowned. ¹⁴Then the herdsmen fled and reported the incident in the town and countryside, and people came to see what had happened.

¹⁵Approaching Jesus, they observed the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons - seated, dressed and in his right mind - and they were frightened. ¹⁶The herdsmen who had seen what had happened to the demon possessed man described it to them in full – including what happened to the pigs. ¹⁷Then they began to plead with Jesus to leave their district.

¹⁸As Jesus stepped into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed pleaded with him that he might be with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not allow him, but said to him, "Go home to your family and tell them everything the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you." ²⁰So he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis everything Jesus had done for him and everyone was amazed.

²¹After Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was beside the sea.

²²Then one of the synagogue elders came, whose name was Jairus. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³pleading with him, "My little daughter is near death. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

²⁴So Jesus departed with him, but a large crowd was following and jostling him from all sides. ²⁵Then a woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years entered the crowd. ²⁶She had suffered greatly under the care of many doctors, spending all that she had, but was not helped but grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up from behind him and touched his garment. ²⁸For she was thinking, "If I just touch his garments I will be healed." ²⁹Immediately her flow of blood dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed from the affliction.

³⁰At the same time, Jesus perceived in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my garments?"

³¹The disciples answered him, "You can see that the crowd is jostling you and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³²But he kept looking around himself to see who had done this. ³³The woman was trembling with fear. She knew what had happened to her. So, she came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴But Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. Be restored to health from your affliction."

³⁵While he was still speaking, messengers of the synagogue elder came and reported, "Your daughter died. Why continue to bother the teacher?"

³⁶But Jesus, deliberately ignoring what they were saying, said to the synagogue elder, "Do not be afraid. Only believe."

³⁷He did not allow anyone to accompany him, except Peter, James and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the synagogue elder, Jesus saw an uproar with loud weeping and wailing. ³⁹When he entered, he said to them, "Why the uproar and weeping? The child did not die but is asleep." ⁴⁰But they ridiculed him.

After casting them all out, he took along the girl's father and mother and those with him and entered where the child was. ⁴¹Then taking the girl's hand, he said to her, "*Talitha kourai*." This means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

⁴²He had hardly finished speaking when the girl stood up and walked around. (She was twelve years old.) They were utterly astonished. ⁴³He then strongly ordered them to let no one know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Chapter 6

¹Jesus left there and came to his home town, and his disciples accompanied him. ²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard were amazed and asked, “How does he know these things? What is the source of his wisdom and the mighty works he performs? ³Isn’t this fellow the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Whose sisters live here with us?” Therefore, they took offense at him.

⁴Jesus responded to them, “Where is a prophet less esteemed than in his own country, and among his relatives, and in his own home.” ⁵So he was not able to do any miracles there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them, ⁶and he marveled because of their unbelief. So, he traveled around the villages teaching.

⁷Then he summoned the Twelve and sent them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. ⁸He instructed them to take nothing on the trip except a staff – no food, no knapsack, no money in their belt, ⁹no extra clothes – but wear sandals.

¹⁰He also told them, “When you enter a house, lodge there until you leave that town. ¹¹If a place does not receive you or listen to you, when you leave there shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹²So they went out and preached so that people might repent. ¹³They also cast out many demons and were anointing many sick people with oil and healing them.

¹⁴Now King Herod heard about Jesus, for his name had become well known.

People were saying, “John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead and this is why these miraculous things are displayed through him.” ¹⁵Others were saying, “He is Elijah.” Still others were saying, “He is a prophet like one of the prophets of old.”

¹⁶But when Herod heard, he said “John, whom I myself beheaded, has been raised.” ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent authorities to seize John and bind him in prison. He did this because of Herodias whom he married – she was the wife of his brother Philip.

¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to marry your brother’s wife.”

¹⁹So Herodias held a grudge against John and was determined to kill him, but was not able ²⁰because Herod respected John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and protected him. When he heard him speak, he was greatly perplexed, but liked to listen to him.

²¹Then an opportunity arose when Herod held a feast on his birthday for his nobles, military commanders, and the chief men of Galilee. ²²For the daughter of Herodias herself entered and danced, pleasing Herod and those at the feast. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.” ²³He promised her, “Whatever you ask me I will give you – up to half of my kingdom.”

²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

She answered, "The head of John the Baptizer."

²⁵At once she returned to the king with the request, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer right now on a platter."

²⁶The king was overcome with sorrow, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷So immediately dispatching an executioner, the king commanded him to bring John's head. He departed and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, who gave it to her mother.

²⁹Now when John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his corpse and placed it in a grave.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught.

³¹Then he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest awhile."

So many people were coming and going that they were not even able to find the time to eat. ³²So they went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves. ³³But the people saw them leaving and many recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

³⁴As Jesus left the boat, he saw a huge crowd and had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

³⁵It had now become late in the day, so his disciples came to him and said, "This place is desolate, and it is late in the day. ³⁶Send the people away so that they can buy themselves something to eat in the nearby fields and villages."

³⁷But Jesus answered them, "You feed them."

They replied, "Even with 200 denarii we would not be able to go and buy enough bread to feed them."

³⁸He asked them, "How much bread do you have? Go. See."

When they knew, they reported, "Five loaves of bread and two fish."

³⁹Then he instructed the disciples to seat everyone in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in rows by hundreds and fifties.

⁴¹Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave it to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish for everyone. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied.

⁴³Afterward the disciples gathered twelve baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish.
⁴⁴The number of those that ate was 5000 men.

⁴⁵Jesus immediately compelled his disciples to depart in the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶After leaving the disciples, he went up into a mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When evening had come, the boat was in the middle of the sea and Jesus was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples struggling to row because the wind was against them. So, toward morning (sometime between 3:00 and 6:00 A.M.) he came to them walking on the sea. He was about to pass them by, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that he was a ghost and screamed, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified.

But he immediately spoke to them and said, "Have courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."

⁵¹Then Jesus got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

⁵³After they had crossed over, they came to the shore at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and were carrying the sick on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he entered villages, towns, or rural areas, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces and begging him to let them touch even the hem of his garment. As many as touched it were healed.

Chapter 7

¹Now the pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem came together to Jesus.
²And they saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean hands, that is, they did not practice ritually washing.

³For the pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands with a fist, because they adhere to the tradition of the elders. ⁴And when they come from the market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves. There are also many other traditions they received that they cling to – such as purifying cups and pots and copper vessels.

⁵So, the pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why don’t your disciples follow the tradition of the elders? They eat bread with unclean hands!”

⁶But he said to them, “Isaiah correctly prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote:

*These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are so very far away from me.
⁷They worship me in vain,
teaching the commandments of men as if they are doctrines.”*

⁸“While abandoning God’s commandment, you hold fast to man’s traditions.”

⁹He was also saying to them, “It is almost admirable the way you continue to reject the commandment of God, so that you can establish your own tradition. ¹⁰For Moses said:

*Honor your father and your mother,
and
The one who slanders his father or mother must surely die.”*

¹¹“But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever I have that might be used to help you is Korban”’ (that is, devoted to God), ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother. ¹³Thus you set aside the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many other things like this.”

¹⁴Jesus again summoned the crowd and said to them, “Everyone listen to me and understand. ¹⁵Nothing that enters a person from outside can defile him. But the things that come out of the person are what make him unclean.”

¹⁷When Jesus went into a house away from the crowd, his disciples questioned him about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, “Do you also not understand? Don’t you know that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile the person, ¹⁹because it does not enter his heart but goes into the stomach, and then goes out into the toilet?” (By this Jesus pronounced all foods clean.)

²⁰He continued, “Rather, what comes out of a person makes him unclean. ²¹For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, all kinds of sexual immorality, stealing, murder, ²²adultery, greedy acts, and wicked actions; as well as deceit, unbridled lust,

envy, blasphemy, arrogance and foolishness. ²³All these evil things come out from within and defile a person.”

²⁴From there Jesus set out to the region of Tyre. He entered a house hoping it would not be known, but he was unable to escape notice. ²⁵But almost immediately a woman heard about him, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit. She came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Greek of Syrophoenician nationality, and she was begging him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

²⁷He said to her, “You must first allow the children to be satisfied. For it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

²⁸She replied, “Yes, lord. But even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

²⁹Jesus said to her, “Because of this answer, go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.”

³⁰And after she went away to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then he left the districts of Tyre and passed through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the districts of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a deaf man who also had a severe speech impediment, and they begged Jesus to lay his hand on him.

³³Jesus took him aside privately away from the crowd, put his fingers in the man’s ears, and spitting, touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴Looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to the man, “*Ephphatha*,” which means, “Be opened.” ³⁵Immediately his ears were opened, the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking clearly.

³⁶Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone, but the more he ordered them, the more they proclaimed it. ³⁷For they were completely amazed, saying, “He has done all things well, even making the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Chapter 8

¹In those days there was another large crowd with nothing to eat. Summoning the disciples, Jesus said to them, ²“I have compassion for the crowd because they have remained with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them away hungry to their homes they will faint on the way. Some of them have come from far away.”

⁴His disciples answered him, “Where can anyone find enough bread to feed these people here in this desolate place?”

⁵Then he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

“Seven” they replied.

⁶Jesus commanded the crowd to sit on the ground. He took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute, and they gave the bread to the crowd.

⁷They also had a few small fish. After blessing them, Jesus instructed that they be distributed as well. ⁸Then the people ate and were satisfied, and they filled seven baskets with the broken pieces that were left over. ⁹There were about four thousand men.

Then Jesus sent them away ¹⁰and immediately entered the boat with his disciples and went to the area of Dalmanutha.

¹¹Now the pharisees came and started disputing with him, demanding that he produce a heavenly sign, in order to test him. ¹²He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? I tell you, beyond any doubt, that no sign will be given to this generation.”

¹³Then he left them, got into the boat again, and crossed to the other side.

¹⁴But, the disciples had forgotten to take bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵Jesus admonished them, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the pharisees and of the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶So a dispute began among them because they had no bread.

¹⁷Knowing this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you disputing about not having bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Have your hearts become hardened? ¹⁸Do your eyes not see? Do your ears not hear? Don’t you remember ¹⁹when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand? How many full baskets of broken pieces did you gather?”

They said, “Twelve.”

²⁰“What about the seven loaves for the four thousand? How many full baskets of broken pieces did you gather?”

“Seven,” they said.

²¹Then he said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

²²They came to Bethsaida where some people brought a blind man to him. They begged Jesus to touch him. ²³Taking the blind man’s hand, Jesus led him outside the village. After spitting into his eyes and laying his hands on him, Jesus asked him, “Do you see anything?”

²⁴As he regained his sight he was saying, “I see people, but they look like walking trees.”

²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on the man’s eyes again. He opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶Then Jesus sent him to his home, saying, “Do not go into the village.”

²⁷Jesus and his disciples traveled to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus was questioning his disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸They answered him, “John the Baptizer; others say Elijah; but others say one of the prophets.”

²⁹Jesus questioned them further, “Who do *you* say I am?”

Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰Then he strictly warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes. He must be killed and rise again after three days.”

³²Now Jesus spoke openly about this. So, Peter took him aside and was rebuking him.

³³But when Jesus turned and saw his disciples, he rebuked Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! Your mind is not focused on the godly things but on human things.”

³⁴Then Jesus summoned the crowd and his disciples and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and the Good News will save it. ³⁶For what profit is there for a person to gain the whole world but suffer the loss of his soul? ³⁷What can a person give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Chapter 9

¹Jesus said to them, “With absolute certainty I tell you this: There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the Kingdom of God has come in power.”

²Six days later Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up into a high mountain where they were alone. In their presence his appearance was transformed. ³His robes turned glittering white - whiter than any launderer in the world could ever make them. ⁴Then Elijah appeared to them, with Moses, and they were speaking with Jesus.

⁵Peter responded by saying to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us pitch three tents – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶(For he did not know what to say for they were terrified.)

⁷Then a cloud formed and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my beloved son. Listen to him.” ⁸Suddenly as they looked around, they no longer saw anyone - just Jesus alone with them.

⁹Then as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to describe to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man is risen from the dead. ¹⁰So, they kept the matter to themselves but debated what he meant by “rising from the dead.”

¹¹And so they were questioning him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”

¹²He replied, “Indeed, Elijah does come first and restores all things. But why is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as it is written about him.”

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵The whole crowd was amazed as soon as they saw him, and they ran to greet him.

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

¹⁷But a man from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you who is possessed by a spirit that makes him unable to speak. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him it throws him into convulsions. He foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and is paralyzed. I told your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not.”

¹⁹Jesus responded to them, saying, “Oh unbelieving generation! How long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

²⁰So, they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, he immediately threw the boy into convulsions. Falling on the ground, he was rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus questioned his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

He replied, "Since childhood. ²²Many times the spirit has thrown him into fire and into water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, help us - have compassion on us!"

²³But Jesus said to him, "If I can?! All things are possible when one believes."

²⁴Immediately the child's father screamed, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

²⁵When Jesus saw that the crowd was continuing to grow, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶The spirit departed with screaming and violent spasms. Because the child appeared to be dead, many were saying, "He's dead!"

²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and awakened him, and he stood up.

²⁸After Jesus had entered a house, his disciples were questioning him privately, "Why were we not able to cast out the spirit?"

²⁹He responded, "Nothing can remove this kind of spirit except prayer."

³⁰They departed from there and were passing through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know it ³¹for he was teaching his disciples. He was telling them, "The Son of Man is handed over into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after being killed he will rise up." ³²However, they did not understand what he said, and they were hesitant to question him about it.

³³Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house, he questioned them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵After taking a seat he summoned the twelve and said to them, "Anyone who desires to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

³⁶Then he stood a child in the middle of them, embraced him, and said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives a child like this in my name receives me, and whoever receives me does not receive me, but the one who sent me."

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to stop him because he was not following us."

³⁹Jesus replied, "Do not hinder him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will then speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly never lose his reward."

⁴²"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin is better off if a

heavy millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea.”

⁴³“If your hand entices you to sin, cut it off. You are better off entering eternal life crippled than departing into Hell with two hands – into the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot entices you to sin, cut it off. You are better off entering eternal life lame than to be cast into Hell with two feet. ⁴⁷And if your eye entices you to sin, throw it away. You are better off entering the Kingdom of God with one eye than to be cast into Hell with two eyes, ⁴⁸where their maggots never die and the fire never goes out.”

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will you season it again? Have a salt-like quality in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

Chapter 10

¹From there Jesus set out and came into the regions of Judea and those beyond the Jordan. Crowds again gathered to him, and he was teaching them as usual. ²Then pharisees approached and were questioning him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce a woman?” They did this to test him.

³But he answered them, “What did Moses command you to do?”

⁴They answered, “Moses allowed a written certificate for divorce.”

⁵But Jesus answered them, “It was because of your hard hearts that he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of Creation God made them male and female. ⁷For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother ⁸and the two will become one flesh. So, they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹Therefore, let no one divide what God has united.”

¹⁰When they were again in a home, the disciples questioned him about this. ¹¹He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against his ex-wife. ¹²And if a wife divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³Parents were bringing children to Jesus so that he might touch them, but the disciples scolded them. ¹⁴Jesus was indignant when he saw this happening and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Do not hinder them. For the Kingdom of God is made up of people like these children. ¹⁵I tell you beyond a doubt that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a child receives it, will never enter it.” ¹⁶Then he took them into his arms and was blessing them as he laid his hands on them.

¹⁷As he was setting out on the journey, a man ran up to him, knelt down, and questioned him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸But Jesus replied, “Why do you say I am good? No one is good except one - God. ¹⁹You know the commandments: Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give a false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.”

²⁰But the man replied, “Teacher, I have been careful to obey all these commandments from my youth.”

²¹After considering what he said, Jesus felt a love for him and said, “You lack one thing. Go. Sell whatever you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

²²But the man was shocked by this statement and went away sorrowful, for he owned much property.

²³Jesus looked around and then spoke to his disciples, “It is very difficult for those with

wealth to enter the Kingdom of God.”

²⁴The disciples were amazed by what he said, but Jesus again responded, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of God. ²⁵It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”

²⁶But they were even more shocked and said to themselves, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷Looking at them, Jesus said, “With men – impossible! But not with God. All things are possible with God.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we left everything to follow you.”

²⁹Jesus said, “Know this with certainty, no one who has left behind a house, or brothers, or sisters, or a mother, or a father, or children, or fields because of me and the Good News ³⁰will fail to receive in this present time a hundred times as many houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions. And in the coming age, eternal life. ³¹But, many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”

³²Now they were on the way up to Jerusalem. Jesus was leading the way, and they were amazed, but others who followed were afraid. He again took the Twelve aside and was telling them about the things that were about to happen to him. ³³“Pay attention! We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock him, and spit on him, and scourge him and kill him. Yet after three days he will rise up.”

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

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

³⁷They replied, “Allow one of us to sit on your right side and one of us to sit on your left side in your glory.”

³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

³⁹They replied, “We are able.”

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with. ⁴⁰But, to sit on my right or on my left is not mine to grant. They are for those for whom they have been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten other disciples heard this, they were resentful of James and John. ⁴²So, Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions wield power over them. ⁴³But

it is not like this among you. Rather, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. ⁴⁴And whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”

⁴⁶Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth he began to cry out, “Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many were rebuking him to be quiet. But he kept crying out even more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So, they called the blind man, saying, “Take heart. Get up. He is calling you.” ⁵⁰So, he threw off his coat, spang up, and came to Jesus.

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

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

⁵²Jesus replied, “Depart. Your faith has healed you.”

Instantly he could see, and he followed Jesus on the way.”

Chapter 11

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and instructed them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it you will find a colt tied up, which no person has ever sat on. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell them, ‘The master needs it and will send it back again soon.’”

⁴So they departed and found a colt tied up at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵But some of the people standing there were asking them, “What are you doing untying the colt?” ⁶So, the disciples told them what Jesus had said and they allowed them to take it.

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and Jesus sat on it. ⁸Also, many people spread their garments on the road, while others spread leafy branches they had cut from the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed behind were crying out:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.

Hosanna in the highest.”

¹¹Then Jesus entered the Temple in Jerusalem and looked around at everything. But since it was already late, he departed to Bethany with The Twelve.

¹²The next day as they departed Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to it to find if it had any fruit on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” Now the disciples heard him.

¹⁵Then they came into Jerusalem. After entering the Temple courts, he began driving out the sellers and buyers who were in the Temple. He also overturned the tables of the money changes and the chairs of those selling doves. ¹⁶And he did not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the Temple courts.

¹⁷As he taught, he was saying to them, “Isn’t it written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?’ But you have made it a den of robbers.”

¹⁸The chief priests and scribes heard this and began looking for a way to destroy him. They feared him because the whole crowd was amazed by his teaching.

¹⁹When evening came, they left the city.

²⁰Early in the morning as they passed by the fig tree, they saw that it was withered to its roots. ²¹Being reminded, Peter said to him, “Master, look! The fig tree that you cursed has

withered away.”

²²Jesus replied, “Have faith in God. ²³I assure you that whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed from this place and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he speaks will happen, it will happen for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be so for you. ²⁵And whenever you stand praying, if you are holding anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your heavenly Father may also forgive you of your sins.”

[A number of significant manuscripts of various textual families do not include verse 11:26.]

²⁷They came into Jerusalem again. While Jesus was walking in the Temple courts, the chief priests, scribes and elders came to him ²⁸and asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?”

²⁹But Jesus replied to them, “I will ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰John’s baptism – was it from heaven or from men? Answer me.”

³¹They reasoned among themselves saying, “If we say, ‘from heaven,’ he will say, ‘then why did you not believe him?’ ³²But if we say, ‘from men...’” (They feared the crowd. Everyone thought that John was truly a prophet.) ³³So, they replied to Jesus, “We do not know.”

Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Chapter 12

¹Jesus began to speak to them in parables.

“A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it. He dug a pit for a wine press and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and moved to a distant country.”

²“In time he sent a slave to the tenant farmers to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³But they seized him, beat him, and sent him back with nothing. ⁴Again, he sent another slave to them. This one they beat on the head and treated shamefully” ⁵And he sent another. That one they killed. Many others were sent - they beat some and killed others. ⁶He had one more he could send – his beloved son. Lastly, he sent him to them, thinking, ‘They will respect him.’”

⁷“But those tenant farmers said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him. Then the inheritance will be ours!’ ⁸So they seized him, killed him, and threw his body outside the vineyard.”

⁹“What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Haven’t you read this scripture?

*A stone that the builders rejected,
This became the capstone;*

*¹¹The Lord did this,
And it is marvelous in our eyes.”*

¹²So, they wanted to seize him but were afraid of the crowd, for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them. Instead, they left him and went away.

¹³Then they sent some pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to trap him with his own words.

¹⁴Coming to him they said, “Teacher, we know that you are honest and are not swayed by the opinions of others. For you are impartial and teach the way of God in keeping with the truth. Is it lawful to pay the tribute tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay it or not?”

¹⁵However, because he knew their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius so that I can see it.”

¹⁶So, they brought one and he asked them, “Whose image and inscription are these?”

They answered him, “Caesar’s.”

¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” And they were amazed at him.

¹⁸Then Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus to question him. They said, ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if someone’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no child, his brother should take the wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰Now there were seven brothers. The first one got married but died leaving no offspring. ²¹Then the second one married her but died without leaving offspring. The same thing happened with the third brother. ²²None of the seven left offspring. Last of all the woman also died. ²³In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as a wife.”

²⁴Jesus answered them, “Aren’t you mistaken because you don’t know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead they will not marry or be given in marriage but will be like the angels in heaven. ²⁶Concerning the fact that the dead are raised, you have certainly read in the scroll of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are certainly wrong.”

²⁸One of the scribes approached and heard them disputing. When he saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which is the most important commandment?”

²⁹Jesus replied, “This is the most important - Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰And love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your entire mind, and with all your strength. ³¹This is the second - Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

³²The scribe replied to him, “Well said, teacher. You are correct in saying that God is one and there is no other except Him. ³³To love Him with all your heart, and with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw that the man answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”

No one dared to question Jesus further.

³⁵As Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “What do the scribes mean when they say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶David himself said by the Holy Spirit,

*‘The LORD said to my Lord,
Sit by My right hand,
Until I put your enemies under your feet.’*

³⁷Since David himself calls him ‘lord’, how can he be his son?”

The great crowd enjoyed listening to him.

³⁸He also said this as he taught, “Take note of the scribes who walk around in long robes,

desire to be greeted in the market, ³⁹and desire the front seats in the synagogues and places of honor at feasts. ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and pray long prayers for show. These will receive a more severe judgment."

⁴¹Then he sat opposite the treasury and watched how the crowd put coins into the offering box. Many wealthy people put in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³Calling his disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴For they all gave a part of their abundance, but this woman gave all she had from her poverty, everything she had to live on."

Chapter 13

¹As He was leaving the Temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look at these amazing stones and amazing buildings!”

²Jesus said to him, “Do you see these huge buildings? Not one stone of them will be left upon another. All will be torn down.”

³As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across from the Temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew were questioning him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign when all these things are about to be fulfilled?”

⁵Then Jesus began his reply, “Watch out that someone does not deceive you! ⁶Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He.’ And they will deceive many people.”

⁷“When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. These things must happen, but they do not mean the end is here yet. ⁸For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.”

⁹“But you must watch out for yourselves. They will hand you over to councils and you will be beaten in synagogues. Because of me you will be brought before rulers and kings as a witness to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹Now when you are arrested and handed over, do not worry beforehand about what you will say, but say whatever is given to you in that hour. For it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Brother will betray brother to death, and the father will betray his child. Children will rise up against parents and hand them over to death. ¹³And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

¹⁴“But when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing where it does not belong (let the reader understand), then let those in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵The one on the roof must not go down and enter the house to take anything from his house. ¹⁶And the one in the field must not turn back to what was left behind to get his coat. ¹⁷Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days. ¹⁸And pray that it does not happen in winter. ¹⁹For those will be days of tribulation unlike any that happened from the beginning of creation, which God created, until now, and never will happen again. ²⁰And if the Lord had not shortened those days, no one would have been saved. But he shortened those days for the sake of the elect whom he elected.”

²¹“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²²For false Christs and false prophets will arise and do signs and wonders to lead astray even the elect, if possible. ²³But you must watch out! I have told you everything beforehand.”

²⁴“But in those days after that tribulation, the sun will be covered in darkness and the moon will fail to give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then He will send the angels and they will gather together His chosen ones from the four winds – from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part

of heaven.”

²⁸“So, learn this parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near – right at the door. ³⁰Truly I say to you that this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

³²“But concerning that day or hour, no one knows - neither the angels in heaven nor the Son – no one except the Father. ³³Watch out! Stay awake! For you do not know when it is time.”

³⁴“It is like a man taking a journey. When he leaves his house he gives authority to his slaves, assigning to each his work, and he commands the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep watch! Because you do not know when the master of the house is coming – in the evening, or at midnight, or in the middle of the night, or early morning. ³⁶Otherwise, if he comes suddenly he might find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say to you, I say to all. Watch!”

Chapter 14

¹Now the Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread were two days away. The chief priests and scribes were looking for a way to seize Jesus by devious means so that they could kill him. ²For they were saying, "Not during the feast, otherwise the people might riot."

³While he was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, a woman came who had an alabaster vial of very expensive pure nard perfume. She broke the alabaster vial and poured it down over his head. ⁴But some were expressing their displeasure to one another. "Why was this perfume wasted? ⁵For this perfume could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her.

⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you and you can do good for them whenever you want to. But you do not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She acted in advance to anoint my body for burial. ⁹Truly I say to you that wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken in memory of her."

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹Now when they heard this they were glad and promised to give him silver. So, Judas sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread when the Passover lamb was slaughtered, Jesus' disciple said to him, "Where do you want us to go to make preparations for you to eat the Passover? ¹³So, he sent two of his disciples.

He said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the master of the house that the teacher says, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs that is furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ So, the disciples went out and entered the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, Jesus came with the Twelve. ¹⁸While they reclined and ate, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you that one of you will betray me - one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They became sorrowful, and one by one they said to him, "Surely it's not me?"

²⁰But he said to them, "One of the Twelve. One who is dipping with me in the dish. ²¹For the Son of Man departs just as it is written about him. But woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been good for that man to have never been born."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to them. He said to them, "Take it. This is my body."

²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant that is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you that I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."

²⁶After singing a psalm, they departed to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

²⁹But Peter said to him, "Even if all others fall away, I will not."

³⁰Jesus replied to him, "Truly I tell you that today – this very night – before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

³¹But Peter was declaring emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will never deny you." All the others were saying the same thing.

³²Then they came to a parcel of land called Gethsemane. [Gethsemane is Aramaic for "oil press".]

Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." ³³And he took Peter, James and John along with him and he became greatly alarmed and distressed. ³⁴He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Remain here and stay alert."

³⁵Then going on a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He was saying, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet, not what I want, but what you want."

³⁷Then he came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay alert for one hour? ³⁸Stay alert and pray, so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹Jesus went away again and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back again he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know how to answer him.

⁴¹Then he came a third time and asked them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is settled. The hour has come. See, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴²Get up. Let's go. Look, my betrayer is here."

⁴³While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. He was accompanied by a crowd armed with swords and clubs, who were sent from the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴(Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one whom I kiss

is the one. Seize him and lead him away under guard.”)

⁴⁵When Judas arrived, he went directly to Jesus and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷But one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸Jesus asked them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me as you would a robber? ⁴⁹Every day I was in the Temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

⁵⁰Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. ⁵¹A certain young man was following Jesus. He wore only a linen garment over his naked body. They seized him, ⁵²but he fled naked, leaving the linen garment behind.

⁵³Then they led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and elders and scribes assembled. ⁵⁴Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting with the attendants and warming himself by the fire.

⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. ⁵⁶For many were falsely testifying against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Some who appeared were falsely testifying saying, ⁵⁸“We heard him saying, ‘I will destroy this temple made by human hands and in three days I will build another not made by human hands.’” ⁵⁹But their testimony about this was inconsistent.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the council and demanded of Jesus, “Are you not going to answer the testimony of these men against you?” ⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again, the high priest demanded and asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²Jesus replied, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³Then the high priest tore his garments apart and said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴You heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

And all condemned him worthy of death.

⁶⁵Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face and beat him while saying, “Prophecy!” and the attendants took him and slapped him.

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the female servants of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷Taking notice of Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said, “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.”

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.” Then he went out into the entryway and a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹When the female servant saw him she said again to those standing around, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰But again he denied it.

A short time later those standing around were again saying to Peter, “You certainly are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse and swore to them, “I do not know this man you are talking about.

⁷²Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” Peter broke down and wept.

Chapter 15

¹It was now very early in the morning. Immediately the chief priests, along with the elders, scribes and the whole Sanhedrin formed a plan. After binding Jesus, they led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.

²Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "It is as you say."

³The chief priests were making many accusations against him. ⁴So, Pilate continued to question him, "Aren't you going to answer? You hear how many things they accuse you of."

⁵But Jesus gave no further answers, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶During the feast, Pilate would release for the people one prisoner whom they asked for. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the uprising. ⁸As the crowd arrived they started asking Pilate to do what was customary.

⁹Pilate responded by asking, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

¹⁰For he knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over out of envy. ¹¹But the chief priests incited the crowd so that Pilate would release Barabbas to them instead.

¹²Pilate again responded by asking them, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³The crowd screamed, "Crucify him!"

¹⁴But Pilate kept asking them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

But they screamed louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵Because Pilate wanted to appease the crowd, he released for them Barabbas, and handed over Jesus to be crucified, after scourging him.

¹⁶The soldiers led him away into the courtyard of the governor's residence and assembled the whole detachment of soldiers. ¹⁷They dressed him in a purple garment and placed on him a crown of thorns which they had twisted together. ¹⁸They saluted him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹Again and again, they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling to their knees, they mockingly worshipped him. ²⁰When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple garment and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man was passing by on his way from the countryside, Simon who was from

Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which is translated as the place of the Skull. ²³They offered him myrrh infused wine, but he did not take it. ²⁴Then they crucified him and divided his garments among themselves by casting lots for them to determine what each would get.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The notice of the charge against him was: The King of the Jews. ²⁷They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹Those passing by were ridiculing him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. ³⁰Save yourself by coming down from the cross."

³¹In the same way, even the chief priests and scribes mockingly said to one another, "He saved others. He's not able to save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we might see and believe." Those crucified with him were also savaging him.

³³At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until mid-afternoon. ³⁴Around three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "*Eloĩ, eloĩ, lemá, savachtháni?*" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

³⁶But someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, attached it to a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down."

³⁷Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last breath, ³⁸and the curtain of the Temple was split in two from top to bottom.

³⁹When the centurion who was standing in front of him saw how he died, he said, "Truly, this was the son of God."

⁴⁰Now there were also women watching from a distance, among whom were Mary from the village of Magdala, Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome.

⁴¹When Jesus was in Galilee these women followed him and ministered to him. Many other women were also there who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²Since it was Friday, a day of preparation for the Sabbath, as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph from the town of Arimathea (a respected leader of the Sanhedrin who also himself was looking for the Kingdom of God) boldly went in to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

⁴⁴Pilate was surprised, "Has he already died?" He summoned the centurion and questioned him if Jesus was already dead. ⁴⁵When Pilate got confirmation from the

centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

⁴⁶After buying linen cloth and taking Jesus down from the cross, Joseph wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone over the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Now Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of Jesus were watching to see where he was laid.

Chapter 16

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint Jesus. ²Then very early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at sunrise. ³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴But when they looked up they saw that the stone, which was huge, had already been rolled back. ⁵Upon entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right wearing a white robe. They were terrified.

⁶But he said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Look, here is the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell the disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.'"

⁸They went out and fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered. They said nothing to anyone. They were afraid.

[The most reliable early manuscripts omit Mark 16:9-20. They are not included in this translation.]