

THE LAST DAYS BIBLE
A TRANSLATION THAT SPEAKS

THE GREAT NEWS

as reported by

MARK

Mark 1

John's Message of Repentance (Mt. 3:1-2; Lk. 3:3)

1 This is the beginning of the amazing story of the Great News about Jesus the Christ,* the Son of God. 1 Jn. 4:15

Mk. 1:1 – “Jesus the Christ,” or “Jesus the Messiah.”

2Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth in human form, God had foretold through His prophets that someone would come on the scene to announce the coming of His Son and prepare the people of Israel to receive Him. God spoke through His prophets *Malachi and Isaiah*, saying to His Son:

“Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You. He will prepare the way for You.”
(*Malachi 3:1*)

3“He will cry out in the wilderness,
‘PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD! STRAIGHTEN OUT YOUR WAYS FOR HIM!’*” (*Isaiah 40:3*)

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Mk. 1:3 – “Straighten out your ways for Him!” literally, “Make His paths straight” or “Make a straight path for Him.” In Greek this word is not only used of straight and level roads but also of a right way of life. The hearts of the people need to prepare for His entrance.

⁴This was fulfilled when John the Baptizer appeared on the scene, baptizing people in a wilderness area. He told the people, “God will forgive your sins if you will turn from your sins and openly declare that you have done so by being baptized!” Matt. 3:1-2; Lk. 3:3

⁵Immense crowds of people from Jerusalem and from all over Judea went out to him. And he baptized in the Jordan River all who declared openly that they were giving up their sins.* Mt. 3:6

Mk. 1:5 – “All who declare openly that they were giving up their sins,” literally “confessing their sins.” John baptized only those who confessed and repented of (turned from) their sins.

⁶John was dressed in rough clothes made from camels’ hair, and he wore a wide leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. Lev. 11:21-22

⁷The message he continued to preach was, “Very soon now, Someone will come who is far greater than I am. I’m not worthy even to kneel down and untie the straps of His sandals. Mt. 3:11; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:15

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8“Although I baptized you in water, He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” Mt. 3:11; Lk. 3:16; Acts 11:15-16

The Baptism of Jesus (Mt.3:13; Lk. 3:21)

9After John had been preaching for some time, Jesus came down from the town of Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Mt. 3:13

10Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, John saw the heavens torn open and the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove and coming to rest upon Jesus! Mt. 3:16; Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 1:32-34

11Then a voice came out of the heavens, saying, “You are My Son whom I love so dearly, with you I am well pleased.” Mt. 3:17; Lk. 3:22

12Immediately after that, the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness. Mt. 4:1; Lk. 4:1-2

13And He was out in the wilderness with the wild animals for 40 days, being constantly tempted by Satan to sin. Afterward the angels came and attended to Him. Mt. 4:2

Jesus Calls Four Fishermen (Mt. 4:18-22; Lk. 5:1-11)

14After John was put in jail, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Great News about the Kingdom of God. Mt. 4:17

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15“**The time is fulfilled!**” He told the people. **“The Kingdom of God* has now come very close to you!*** Turn from your sins and believe the **Great News!**” Mt. 3:2

Mk. 1:15** – “**The Kingdom of God**”* can be defined as God’s rule over all individuals who willing submit to His will. **“Has now come very close to you!,” literally “has approached us.”

16One day, as He was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were *commercial* fishermen and were throwing a *large* net out into the lake. Mt. 4:18

17“**Come along with Me,**” Jesus invited them, **“and I’ll teach you how to harvest people instead of fish.”** Mt. 4:19; Lk. 5:10

18They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Lk. 14:27, 33

19When Jesus had walked a little farther up the beach, He saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat, mending their nets. Mt. 4:21; Lk. 5:10

20When He invited them to come with Him too, they immediately left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men and went with Him. Mt. 4:22; Lk. 5:11

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An Evil Spirit Driven Out (Luke 4:31-37)

²¹Then they all went into Capernaum, and the next Sabbath,* Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. Lk. 4:31

***Mk. 1:21** – “Sabbath.”* Saturday, the Jewish day of rest.

²²The people were utterly shocked and amazed at the way He taught. He didn’t teach at all like the teachers of the Law,* but as One who had great authority. Mt. 7:29; Lk. 4:32

***Mk. 1:22** – “The teachers of the Law,”* literally “the scribes.”

²³Suddenly a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit began screaming, Lk. 4:33

²⁴“Leave us alone! What business do You have being here with us, You Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are! You’re the Holy One* from God!” Lk. 4:34

***Mk. 1:24** – “The Holy One,”* that is, *the Messiah, the Christ*.

²⁵Immediately Jesus rebuked the spirit, commanding him, “**Keep quiet, and come out of the man!**”

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²⁶The evil spirit let out a piercing scream and threw the man into violent convulsions, and then came out of him. Lk. 4:35

²⁷All the people were so amazed that they kept talking about it among themselves, asking, “What is this? Some new kind of powerful teaching? Why, He speaks with such authority that even the evil spirits obey Him.” Lk. 4:36

²⁸News about Him spread quickly throughout the whole region of Galilee. Lk. 4:37

Jesus Heals Many People (Mt.8:14-17; Lk. 4:38-41)

²⁹When they left the synagogue, Jesus, along with James and John, went with Simon and Andrew straight to their home. Mt. 8:14

³⁰When they arrived, they found that Simon’s mother-in-law had a fever and was lying down, so they told Jesus about her. Mt. 8:14; Lk. 4:38

³¹He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up, and immediately the fever left her! She then began to prepare a meal for them. Mt. 8:15; Lk. 4:39

³²That evening after sunset,* the people began bringing Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. Mt. 8:16-17; Lk. 4:40

***Mk. 1:32** – “That evening after sunset.”* They came after their Sabbath had ended. The Jewish Sabbath is from sunset Friday evening to sunset Saturday evening.

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33 Finally the whole town was gathered at the door!

34 He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and drove out many demons. But He wouldn't let the demons say anything because they knew who He was. Mk. 3:11

Preaching in Galilee (Luke 4:42-44)

35 Very early the next morning while it was still dark, Jesus got up and left the house and went to a deserted area to pray. Lk. 4:42

36 When Simon and the others got up, they went out to look for Him.

37 When they finally found Him, they said, "Everyone is looking for You!"

38 "Let's go into the nearby towns, so I can preach there too," He replied. "That's the reason I've come." Lk. 4:43

39 So He traveled all over Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving demons out of people. Mt. 4:23; Lk. 4:44

Jesus Heals a Leper (Mt. 8:2-4; Lk. 5:12-15)

40 One day a man with leprosy came to Him, and kneeling down in front of Him he pleaded with Him for help. "If You want to," he said, "You are able to heal me." Mt. 8:2; Lk. 5:12

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41 Jesus was deeply stirred with pity for the man, and, reaching out His hand and touching him, He said, “**I do want to. Be healed!**” Mt. 8:3; Lk. 5:13

42 Immediately, as soon as He said that, the leprosy left the man, and he was healed! Mt. 8:3; Lk. 5:13

43 Jesus then promptly sent him away, after sternly telling him:

44 “**Listen, make sure you don’t say anything to anyone about this. But go straight to the priest and show him that you are now healed, and present the offering for your healing that Moses commanded,* as a testimony to everyone that you have indeed been healed.**” Mt. 8:4; Lk. 5:14

Mk. 1:44 – “Present the offering for your healing that Moses commanded.” See Leviticus 14:1-32.

45 But when the man left, he told everyone what had happened, and he continued to spread the news, until Jesus could no longer enter the city openly. He had to stay in unpopulated areas. Still the people kept coming to Him from everywhere.

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Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mt. 9:1-8; Lk. 5:18-26)

2 Several days later, Jesus went back to Capernaum. And the news soon got around that He was back home.

2 So many people gathered that there wasn't room for any more. Many of those still outside couldn't even get near the door. As He was preaching God's message to them,

3 four men came to Him carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. Mt. 9:2; Lk. 5:20

4 When they couldn't even get near Him because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof right over His head. And when they had broken through, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralyzed man was lying.* Lk. 5:19

***Mk. 2:4** – Oriental houses were constructed with flat roofs accessible by outside stairs. So access through the roof was possible as described here. Roofs were places of relaxation and social exchange.

5 When Jesus saw how strong and determined their faith was, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, your sins are forgiven.**” Mt. 9:2; Lk. 5:20

6 But some of the teachers of the Law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, Mt. 9:3; Lk. 5:21

7 “How can this man dare to blaspheme like that! Only God can forgive sins—no one else!”

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8 Jesus immediately perceived in his spirit what they were thinking, so He said to them, “**Why are you coming to such conclusions in your hearts?**”*

Mt. 9:4; Lk. 5:22

***Mk. 2:8 – Their hearts** (the emotional centers of their beings) were the cause of their conclusions, not merely their minds. They were jealous, and were looking for ways to discredit Him. See Matthew 27:18.

9 “**Which is easier to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Get up, and fold up your stretcher and walk,’?**” Mt. 9:5

10 “**But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ...**” He then said to the paralytic,

11 “**I say to you, ‘Get up, then pick up your stretcher, and be on your way home!’**” Mt. 9:6; Lk. 5:24

12 And he got right up, picked up his stretcher, and walked out of there in full view of everyone! Utterly astounded, the people praised God and said, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!” Mt. 9:8; Lk. 5:26

The Calling of Levi (Matthew) (Mt. 9:9; Lk. 5:27-28)

13 Then Jesus again went out by the lake, and there He preached to the crowds that continued to gather around Him.

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¹⁴Later, as He was walking along, He saw Levi*, the son of Alphaeus, sitting in the tax collector's booth. “**Come along with Me,**” Jesus invited him. And without hesitation, he got right up and went with Him. Mt. 9:9; Lk. 5:27-28

***Mk. 2:14** – “**Levi.**”* Also called Matthew. See Matthew 9:9.

¹⁵Still later, Jesus and His followers were having dinner at Levi's house. A large number of tax collectors and other sinners were also there, because many of them had been following Jesus, and they had also been invited to the dinner. Mt. 9:10; Lk. 5:29; Lk. 15:1

¹⁶But when the Pharisees and teachers of the Law saw Him eating with these *outcast* tax collectors* and other sinners, they asked His followers, “Why does he eat and drink with these *crooked* tax collectors and all these other *notorious* sinners?” Mt. 9:11; Lk. 5:30; Lk. 15:2

***Mk. 2:16** – “**Tax collectors.**”* Israel was a captive nation at this time, paying taxes to Rome. And Jews who were willing to collect these taxes and get their cut were thoroughly despised by other Jews.

¹⁷Jesus heard them, and He responded, “**Those who are well don't need a doctor, but the sick do. I haven't come to call those who consider themselves so godly that they have no need of**

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further help. I'm here to call sinners to turn from their sinning to living lives of obedience to God.”* Mt. 9:13; Lk. 5:31-32

Mk. 2:17 – “I’m here to call sinners to turn from their sinning to living lives of obedience to God.” Most English translations use the word “repentance.” In the New Testament, “repentance” involves a change for the better, a change of mind and purpose that involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God. The fruit or proof of “repentance” is good works (See Acts 26:20).

A Question About Fasting (Mt. 9:14; Lk. 5:33)

18 On one occasion, the followers of John the Baptizer and the followers of the Pharisees had given up eating for a time.* And they went to Jesus and said, “How is it that John’s followers and the followers of the Pharisees fast, but Your followers never do?”

Mk. 2:18 – “The Pharisees had given up eating for a time.” The word is “fast” and the Hebrew word means “to abstain from food.” “Fasting” was a means of humbling and seeking the guidance and help of God (Ezra 8:21; 2Chron. 20:3). The longest “fasting” recorded in Scripture was Moses, Elijah and Jesus (Ex. 34:28; 1Kings 19:18; Matt. 4:2). These “fast” lasted for 40 days and nights.

19 “Would you expect the guests of the bridegroom at a wedding party to refuse to eat while the bridegroom is with them?” Jesus replied. “They won’t fast as long as they have the Bridegroom with them. Mt. 9:15; Lk. 5:34

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20“**But the time will come when the Bridegroom will be taken from them. They will indeed fast after that happens.** Mt. 9:15; Lk. 5:35

21“**No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, because later the new patch will shrink and pull away from the old cloth and make a bigger hole.** Mt. 9:16; Lk. 5:36

22“**Neither does anyone pour new wine into used wineskins. Because the new wine would burst those wineskins, the wine would be lost, and the skins ruined. New wine must be put into new wineskins.**” Mt. 9:17

A Question About the Sabbath (Mt. 12:1; Lk. 6:1)

23One Sabbath, as Jesus and His followers were walking by some grain fields, His followers began breaking off some heads of wheat and eating the grain. Mt. 12:1; Lk. 6:1

24“**Look!**” the Pharisees challenged Jesus. “**Why are your followers harvesting grain on the Sabbath? That’s unlawful!**” Mt. 12:2; Lk. 6:2

25“**Haven’t you ever read what David did when he and the men with him were hungry and in need of food?**” Jesus replied. Mt. 12:3

26“**When Abiathar was High Priest, David went into the house of God and ate the sacred bread. Only the priests are allowed by the Law to eat this bread, but David even gave some to his men.**

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27“**The Sabbath was made for the benefit of man,**” Jesus continued, “**not man for the benefit of the Sabbath.** Ex. 23:12; Dt. 5:14

28“**And I, the Son of Man, am the Lord who decides what can and what cannot be done even on the Sabbath.**”

Jesus Heals a Shriveled Hand (Mt. 12:10; Lk. 6:6)

3 Another time when Jesus entered the synagogue, a man with a shriveled hand was there. Mt. 12:10; Lk. 6:6

2 Some of the Jewish religious leaders continued to watch Him closely, to see if He would heal this man, so they could accuse Him of working on the Sabbath. Mt. 12:10; Lk. 6:7

3 So Jesus said to the disabled man, “**Step out into the middle of the room.**”^{*} Lk. 6:8

***Mk. 3:3** – “**Step out into the middle of the room**”^{*} ... *where everyone can see you.*

4 Then He asked those who were carefully watching Him, “**Does our Jewish Law allow us to do good on the Sabbath, or are we to do evil? Are we to save life, or kill?**” But no one said a word. Mt. 12:12; Lk. 6:9; Lk. 14:3

5 So after looking around at them in anger, but also deeply grief-stricken by the hardness of their

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hearts, He said to the man, “**Stretch out your hand.**” And as he did so, it was restored! It was now just as well and strong as the other. Mt. 12:13; Lk. 6:10

⁶When this happened, the Pharisees immediately went out and began plotting against Him with the Herodians,* as to how they might destroy Him. Mt. 12:14; Lk. 6:11

Mk. 3:6 – “Herodians.” The Herodians were not a religious sect, but a political party supporting Herod’s dynasty, which had been created by Caesar. The Pharisees regarded them as untrue to their religion and country but banded together with their bitter enemies against Christ (Matthew 22:16).

A Crowd by the Lake

⁷But Jesus withdrew with His followers to the lake. Great crowds had converged on Him from Galilee, and throughout Judea, Mt. 4:25; Lk. 6:17

⁸from Jerusalem, from Idumea, and from east of the Jordan River, from Tyre and Sidon, as the news had continued to spread about the many things He did, a great multitude came unto Him. Mt. 4:25; Lk. 6:17

⁹He told His followers to get a boat ready for Him to sit in on the lake, to keep the crowd from crushing Him.

¹⁰He had healed so many people that all the others who had various diseases and sicknesses kept pressing forward to touch Him.

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¹¹And whenever evil spirits saw Him, they would cause those they were controlling to fall down before Him, and the spirits would cry out, “You are the Son of God!”

¹²But He sternly commanded them not to reveal who He was. Lk. 4:41

Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles (Mt.10:1-4; Lk. 6:12-16)

¹³Then Jesus went up into the hills. Later He called to Himself the men He wanted.* Mt. 10:1-4; Lk. 9:1-2

Mk. 3:13 – “Men He wanted.” - See Luke 6:12-13.

¹⁴When they came to Him, He appointed twelve to be constantly with Him, whom He would also send out to preach. Mt. 10:1; Lk. 9:2

¹⁵He would also give them power* to heal those with various diseases and to drive out demons.

Mk. 3:15 – “Give them power.” - See Matthew 10:1.

¹⁶He chose Simon, to whom He added the name Peter; Mt. 10:4; Lk. 6:13-14

¹⁷Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, whom He called Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”; Mt. 10:4; Lk. 6:15

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18 Andrew; Phillip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite;

19 and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Him. Then they came down from the hills and went into a house. Mt. 10:4; Lk. 6:16

20 Again the crowds came, so many that Jesus and His followers couldn't even eat.

Jesus and Beelzebul (Mt. 12:24; Lk. 11:15)

21 When His family heard about it, they tried to take custody of Him, because some were saying, "He's out of his mind!" Jn. 7:5; Jn. 10:20

22 And the teachers of the Jewish Law who had come from Jerusalem said, "He's possessed by Beelzebul!* He's able to drive out demons because the king of the demons is doing it through him." Mt. 9:34; Lk. 11:15

***Mk. 3:22** – "**Beelzebul**"* (lord of the flies) was a god of the Ekronites (2 Kings 1:2). The Jews had given this name to Satan.

23 So Jesus called them over to Him and spoke to them in parables, saying, "**How can Satan drive out Satan?**" Mt. 12:26; Lk. 11:18

24 "**If a nation is divided and fights itself, that nation won't last long.**"

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25“**And if a family is divided and they fight among themselves, that family won’t last either.**

Mt. 12:25; Lk. 11:17

26“**So if Satan’s kingdom is divided and he’s fighting himself, his kingdom will fall apart and come to an end.** Mt. 12:26; Lk. 11:18

27“**On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house and rob him of what he has, unless he first of all ties the man up. Then he can take whatever he wants.** Mt. 12:29

28“**I tell you the truth: You can be forgiven all kinds of sin—even all kinds of abusive language and cursing.** Mt. 12:31; Lk. 12:10

29“**But if anyone shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, he will never be forgiven! He is guilty of a sin that will bring eternal judgment.”**

Mt. 12:32

30He said this because they were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers (Mt.12:46-50; Lk. 8:19-21)

31Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent in a message, asking Him to come out to them. Mt. 12:46

32A crowd was sitting around Him when He was told, “Behold, Your mother and brothers are outside asking for You.” Mt. 12:47

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33“**And just who is My mother?**” he replied.
“**And who are My brothers?**”

34Then looking around at the people sitting around Him, He said, “**Look! Here are My mother and My brothers.**” Mt. 12:49

35“**Because whoever does what God wants him to do is My brother, My sister, and My mother.**”
Mt. 12:50

Four Kinds of Soil (Mt. 13:1-23; Lk. 8:4-8)

4 Another time when Jesus began to teach by the lake, such a large crowd gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while the crowd stood along the shore. Mt. 13:2

2 He then taught them many things using parables. Mt. 13:3

3 “**Listen!**” He said. “**A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field.**” Mt. 13:3; Lk. 8:4-5

4 “**And it happened that as he scattered the seed, some fell on the hard path alongside the field, and the birds flew down and ate it.**” Mt. 13:4; Lk. 8:12

5 “**Some fell on a rocky area that had only a thin layer of soil on top of it. And because the soil was shallow and warm, the green stalks sprang up quickly.**” Mt. 13:5; Lk. 8:6

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6“But they weren’t able to put their roots down, so when the hot sun came up they were scorched, and withered away. Mt. 13:6

7“Some seed fell among thorns. And the thorns grew up and choked the good plants, so they didn’t produce any grain. Mt. 13:7

8“But other seed fell on good soil. It sprang up and continued to grow, and finally produced a crop. Some produced 30, some 60, and some even 100 times as much as had been planted.” Mt. 13:8; Lk. 8:8

9Then He said, “Those of you who have been given ears for the purpose of hearing, listen!”

Why Jesus Used Parables (Mt. 13:10-17; Lk. 8:9-10)

10But when He was alone, some gathered around Him, together with the Twelve, and asked Him what He meant by the parable. Mt. 13:10; Lk. 8:9

11“**You have been given the privilege of understanding the secrets of the Kingdom of God,**” He replied. “**But to those outside the kingdom, all they hear is the parable.** Mt. 13:11

12“**The reason is, as the Scripture says:**

‘While they do look, and can see, they are never able to gain knowledge. And while they do listen, and are able to hear, still they are never able to understand. If they did, they would be converted, and they would receive

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forgiveness for their sins.’ (*Isaiah 6:9-10*)

Mt. 13:15; Lk. 8:10

13“Do you mean that you don’t understand this simple parable?” He then asked them. “If that’s the case, how can you understand any of the other parables I’ll be giving? Mt. 13:3; Lk. 8:11

14“*The farmer is anyone who is sowing God’s message.* Mt. 13:3

15“*The hearts of some people are like the hard path. They hear the message, but because of their hard hearts, Satan is able to come along immediately and take away the message that had been sown in their hearts.* Mt. 13:4; Lk. 8:5

16“*By using the same method of interpretation, those who received the seed on the rocky area are those who hear the message and immediately accept it joyfully.* Mt. 13:5; Lk. 8:13

17“*But since they don’t allow the message to take deep root in their hearts and lives, they last for only a short while. As soon as they’re given a hard time and are persecuted because of their faith in the message, they quickly fall away.*

Mt. 13:6

18“*Those who received the seed among thorns, are those who indeed continue to listen to the message,* Mt. 13:7; Lk. 8:7

19“*but because of their anxious concern about their earthly problems, and being deceived by*

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desire to be rich and by desire for many other things—all of these take such possession of their lives that the message is choked, and it never produces any fruit. Mt. 13:7; Lk. 8:14

20“But those who received the seed in good soil are those who continue to listen to the message and receive it with open hearts. These produce a crop for God—some 30, some 60, and some 100 times what had been planted.” Mt. 13:8; Lk. 8:15

21Then He said, “When you bring a lamp into a room, do you put it under a basket or a bed? No! You put it on a table. Mt. 5:15; Lk. 8:16; Lk. 11:33

22“In the same way, whatever is now hidden will one day be revealed by the light. And whatever has been done in secret will then be exposed for everyone to see. Mt. 10:26; Lk. 12:2

The Importance of Listening

23“If anyone has been given ears for the purpose of hearing, he must now listen! Mt. 11:15; Lk. 8:17

24“**You must continue to highly prize what you are hearing,**” He continued. “Because to the extent that you put My words into practice, to that same extent you will be blessed with further truth and understanding. Also, to the extent that you continue to listen intently, to that same extent you will be given still more knowledge. Mt. 7:2; Lk. 6:37-

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25“Because whoever continues to highly prize the knowledge he has, will be given more. But whoever does not highly prize what he has, even what he now has will be taken from him.” Mt. 13:12; Lk. 8:18

Parable of the Growing Seed

26Then He said, “The Kingdom of God is like what happens when a farmer scatters seed on the soil.

27“Night and day, whether he sleeps or works, the seeds sprout and the stalks grow, even though he doesn’t know how they do it.

28“Because the soil produces the crops all by itself. First comes the tender stalk. Then the head forms. Then the full-grown grain finally forms in the head.

29“When the grain ripens, the farmer immediately cuts it down with the sickle, because harvest time has come.”

A Mustard Seed (Mt. 13:31-32; Lk. 13:18-19)

30Then He continued, “To what else shall we liken the Kingdom of God? Or with what parable can we further describe it?*” Mt. 13:32; Lk. 13:18-19

Mk. 4:30 – “With what parable can we further describe it?” In Greek a “parable” *parabole* or *paraballo* means to place one thing beside another with a view to comparison.

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31“**It’s like what happens when a tiny mustard seed is planted in the ground. It’s the smallest of all seeds.** Mt. 13:32; Lk. 13:18

32“**But once it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all other garden plants. It shoots out branches so large that even the birds can perch in its shade.**” Mt. 13:32; Lk. 13:19

33As they were able to absorb them, He used many such parables to bring His message to the people. Mt. 13:34

34He didn’t say anything to the crowds without using parables. But when He was later alone with His followers, He explained everything to them. Jn. 16:25

Jesus Stops a Storm (Mt. 8:23-27; Lk. 8:22-25)

35When evening came, Jesus said to His followers, “**Let’s go across the lake.**” Mt. 8:18

36So after Jesus dismissed the crowd, they took Him along in the boat just as He was,* and several others followed Him in small boats.

Mk. 4:36 – “Just as He was.” He had been sitting in the boat teaching the people for several hours. But now, without any preparation – taking no food or extra clothing – they started across the lake, taking Him *just as He was*.

37Suddenly a violent storm hit the lake. The wind became so fierce that it blew the waves into

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the boat until it was nearly full of water. Mt. 8:24;
Lk. 8:23

38 But Jesus was in the back of the boat, asleep on a cushion. *They frantically shook Him* awake and shouted, “Teacher, don’t You care that we’re about to die?” Mt. 8:25

39 He then stood up and commanded the wind to stop blowing, and said to the waves, “**Stop your violence! Be calm!**” And the wind died down and the lake became perfectly calm. Mt. 8:26

40 “**Why are you so fearful?**” He asked them. “**Do you still have no faith in Me?**” Mt. 8:26; Lk. 8:25

41 They were totally awestruck, and said to one another, “Who is this Man? Why, even the wind and the waves obey Him!” Mt. 8:27; Lk. 8:25

Jesus Frees a Man from Demons (Mt. 8:28-34; Lk. 8:26-39)

5 When they arrived on the other side of the lake, in the country of the Gadarenes, Mt. 8:28; Lk. 8:26

2 Jesus had just gotten out of the boat, when a demon-possessed man came running up to Him from the burial caves nearby. Mt. 8:28; Lk. 8:27

3 This man lived in the caves, among the tombs.* He was so wild that no one could keep him tied up, not even with chains.

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Mk. 5:3 – “Among the tombs.” The tombs were usually dug into the walls of caves, and therefore, afforded some shelter.

⁴He had often been tied up with chains and leg irons, but he had ruthlessly torn the chains apart and smashed the iron shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. Lk. 8:29

⁵Day and night he constantly wandered among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and cutting himself with sharp stones.

⁶But when he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran up to Him and kneeled before Him.

⁷Whereupon it gave a loud shriek and screamed through the man, “What are You planning to do with me, Jesus, You Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, don’t torment me!” Mt. 8:29; Lk. 8:28

⁸Jesus immediately recognized the condition of the man and commanded the demon within him, **“Come out of the man, you evil spirit!”**

⁹**“What is your name?”** Jesus then asked.

“My name is Legion,”* the demon replied, “because there are so many of us in this man.” Lk. 8:30

Mk. 5:9 – “My name is Legion.” A legion in the Roman army consisted of a total of 6,000 soldiers.

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10 Again and again the demons begged Jesus not to send them out of the country. Lk. 8:31

11 Now on a nearby hillside, a large herd of pigs was feeding, Mt. 8:30; Lk. 8:32

12 and all the demons began pleading with Him, “Send us among the pigs, and let us go into them.” Mt. 8:31; Lk. 8:32

13 Immediately Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits all left the man and entered the pigs. And that herd of pigs, numbering about 2,000, ran madly down the steep bank and into the lake, and drowned. Mt. 8:32; Lk. 8:33

14 At this the herdsmen ran into town, and told the people there, and also in the country, what had happened. So the people rushed out to see for themselves what had actually taken place. Mt. 8:33; Lk. 8:34

15 When they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there, now in his right mind and dressed, they were frightened. Lk. 8:35

16 Then those who had been eye-witnesses told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man, and about the pigs. Lk. 8:36

17 Upon hearing all this, the people began to urge Jesus to leave the area. Mt. 8:34; Lk. 8:37

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18When He got into the boat to leave, the man who had been freed from the demons begged Him, “Let me go with You!” Lk. 8:38

19But Jesus wouldn’t let him. He said, “Go home to your family and friends, and tell them about the great things the Lord has done for you, and how He took pity on you.”

20So the man left and began telling people throughout Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him. And they were all amazed. Lk. 8:39

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman (Mt. 9:18; Lk. 8:41)

21When Jesus had again crossed by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around Him. So He stayed by the lake for awhile. Lk. 8:40

22Then Jairus, one of the officials of the local synagogue, came looking for Him. When he found Him, he fell to his knees right in front of Him. Mt. 9:18; Lk. 8:41

23“My little girl is at the brink of death! Please come and lay Your hands on her,” he earnestly pleaded with Him, “so that she may be healed, and she will live.” Mt. 9:18; Lk. 8:41-42

24So Jesus went with him. And a large crowd followed, pressing in close. Mt. 9:19; Lk. 8:42

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25 In that crowd was a woman who had suffered a severe bleeding problem for 12 years.

26 She had suffered a great deal through many treatments under various doctors, and had spent all she had. Still she was no better, but rather had grown worse.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and merely touched His prayer shawl,* Mt. 9:20; Lk. 8:43-44

Mk. 5:27 – “Prayer shawl.” The word is *garment*, and can refer to His robe, cloak, or prayer shawl.

28 because she had kept saying to herself, “If I can just touch His clothes, I’ll get well.” Mt. 9:21

29 Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she sensed in her body that she was healed.

30 Aware at once that power had gone out of Him, Jesus turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” Lk. 8:46

31 “With all these people pressing in on You,” His followers protested, “are You really asking, ‘Who touched Me?’” Lk. 8:45

32 But when He kept looking around to see who had done this,

33 the woman became frightened. And trembling, knowing what had happened to her, she came and

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fell to her knees before Him and told Him the whole truth. Lk. 8:47

34“**Daughter,**” Jesus said to her, “**your faith in Me has made you well. Go in peace, and be completely healed of your illness.**” Mt. 9:22; Lk. 8:48

35While He was still speaking, some men came from the home of Jairus, and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” Lk. 8:49

36But when Jesus heard the report, He immediately said to Jairus, “**Don’t be afraid! Just keep on believing.**”^{*} Lk. 8:50

^{*}Mk. 5:36 – “**Just keep on believing,**”^{*} that is, “only believe.”

37Then He permitted no one to follow Him any farther except Peter, James, and James’ brother John. Lk. 8:51

38When He came to the home of Jairus, He found the whole place in an uproar, full of weeping and loud wailing. Mt. 9:23

39When He went inside, He asked the people, “**Why are you weeping and carrying on like this? The child isn’t dead; she’s only sleeping.**” Mt. 9:24; Lk. 8:52

40But they couldn’t believe He would say such a thing at such a time, and they contemptuously laughed at Him in scorn. So He sent them all out.

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Then He took the child's father and mother and those who were with Him, and entered the room where the 12-year-old* child was lying. Lk. 8:53

***MK. 5:40** – “**The 12-year-old.**”* Verse 42 in the King James Version reveals her age to be twelve.

41 Then taking her by the hand, He said to her, “**Talitha, cumi,**” which is Aramaic for, “**Little girl, I say to you, get up!**” Mt. 9:25; Lk. 8:54

42 And immediately she got up and started walking around. Her parents were totally overwhelmed and ecstatic.

43 But Jesus gave them strict orders to tell no one about this. Then He told them to give the girl something to eat. Lk. 8:55-56

Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth (Mt. 13:53-58; Lk. 4:22-30)

6 Upon leaving there, Jesus and His followers went to Nazareth, His hometown. Mt. 13:54

2 On the Sabbath, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were utterly amazed. “Where did he get all this?” they questioned. “And what kind of wisdom is this that’s been given him, that he’s able to perform such great things with his hands! Mt. 13:54

3 “Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon?”

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Don't his sisters live here with us?" And they deeply resented Him. Mt. 13:55-56; Jn. 6:42

⁴But Jesus told them, "A prophet is respected everywhere, except in his hometown and among his relatives and family members." Mt. 13:57; Lk. 4:24

⁵Although He wasn't able to do any great miracles there,* He did lay His hands on a few sick people and healed them. Mt. 13:58

Mk. 6:5 – "He wasn't able to do any great miracles there."* It was not that He couldn't but that he would not because of their unbelief.

⁶He was amazed at their unwillingness to believe. So He continued His teaching in the surrounding towns. Mt. 13:58

Sending Out the Twelve (Mt. 10:1, 5-16; Lk. 9:1-6)

⁷Then He called the Twelve to Him, and sent them out by twos, and gave them authority and power over evil spirits.

⁸"Don't take anything with you as you travel, except a walking stick," He told them, "no bag for provisions, no bread, no money in your wallets. Mt. 10:9-10

⁹"Wear sandals, but don't take along any extra clothing. Mt. 10:10; Lk. 9:3; Lk. 10:4

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10“Whenever people welcome you into their home, stay there until you leave the area,” He continued. Mt. 10:11; Lk. 9:4; Lk. 10:5

11“*But whenever people refuse to offer you hospitality or listen to your message, when you leave there, shake the very dust from off your feet as a warning to them. I tell you the truth, God will show more mercy to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than to the people of that city or home.* Mt. 10:14-15

12So they went out and preached that people should repent.* Mt. 4:17; Acts 17:30-31

***Mk. 6:12** – “**Repent,**”* that is, *turn from their sin to follow and obey God.*

13They also drove out many demons, and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Death of John the Baptizer (Mt. 14:1-12; Lk. 9:7-9)

14Because Jesus’ name had become well known, King Herod heard about Him as well. “It’s John the Baptizer, risen from the dead,” Herod said. “That’s why he can do all these miracles.” Mt. 14:2

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15Others said, “It’s Elijah!” Still others said, “He’s a new prophet, but he’s just like the prophets of olden times.” Mt. 16:14

16But when Herod heard these opinions, he said, “No, this is John. I had his head cut off, but now he’s come back to life!” Lk. 9:9

17Herod himself had ordered John’s arrest. He’d had him tied up and thrown in jail. He did this to please Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. Mt. 14:3

18He had imprisoned John because John had repeatedly* told him, “You have broken God’s Law* by taking your brother’s wife!” Mt. 14:4

***Mk. 6:18 – “John had repeatedly* told him.”** In Greek this is the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action. **“You have broken God’s Law* by taking your brother’s wife!”** See Leviticus 18:6, 16; 20:21.

19In fury Herodias had lashed out against him and wanted him killed, but she wasn’t able to because of Herod.

20Herod continually feared John. He knew he was an upright man, totally dedicated to God, and he protected him. When Herod heard John, he did many good things* and enjoyed listening to him.

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***Mk. 6:20** – “**He did many good things.**”^{*} But he did not do what was demanded of him – to turn from his sin to follow God. He was like those today who treat ministers kindly, but refuse to believe in Christ, or like those who profess Jesus as Savior but refuse to obey Him as Lord.

²¹*Finally, Herodias got her chance.* On his birthday, Herod gave a banquet for his high officials, chief military officials, and the leading citizens of Galilee. Mt. 14:6

²²The daughter of Herodias came in and danced for them, and Herod and his guests were so pleased that the king told the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want, and I’ll give it to you.” Mt. 14:6

²³With an oath he further promised, “I’ll give you whatever you ask me, up to one-half of my kingdom.” Mt. 14:7

²⁴So she went out and asked her mother, “What shall I ask for?” Mt. 14:8

“Ask him for the head of John the Baptizer,” her mother replied.

²⁵She hurried back in, went up to the king, and said, “I want you to immediately give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.” Mt. 14:8

²⁶The king was greatly distressed that she’d made this request, but because of his oath and because all the people there had heard him, he couldn’t bring himself to refuse her. Mt. 14:9

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27 So he at once ordered an executioner to bring John's head. And the man went and beheaded John in jail. Mt. 14:10

28 He brought his head back on a platter and gave it to the girl, who gave it to her mother. Mt. 14:11

29 When John's followers heard about it, they came and took his body away and laid it in a tomb. Mt. 14:12

Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People (Mt. 14:13-21; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:5-14)

30 Following their preaching tour, the apostles* gathered around Jesus and gave Him a full report of all they had done and what they had taught the people. Lk. 9:10

Mk. 6:30 – “Apostles,” *an ambassador or messenger of the gospel.*

31 “Now I want you to go with Me to a remote area and rest awhile,” Jesus said. (So many people were coming and going that they didn't even have a chance to eat.)

32 So they went alone by boat to a secluded place. Mt. 14:13

33 But many in the crowds who saw them leave figured out where they were going. So people from every town around there ran on ahead and

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got there before they did, and met them when they landed. Mt. 14:13

34When Jesus got out of the boat and saw the great crowd, like sheep without a shepherd, He had pity on them. So He began teaching them many things. Mt. 9:36

35Late in the day, His followers came up to Him and said, “This is a remote area, and it’s getting late. Mt. 14:15

36“**You’d better send the people on their way, so they can go into the surrounding countryside and towns and buy food for themselves, because they don’t have anything to eat.**” Mt. 14:15

37“**You feed them,**” He replied.

“Do You mean,” they questioned, “that You want us to go out and buy 200 denarii* worth of food to feed all these people?” Mt. 14:17; Lk. 9:13; Jn. 6:9

Mk. 6:37 – “Denarii.” A denarius was a day’s wages for a laboring man. Multiply 200 by a day’s wage today for a working man and you get quite a sum. But even that amount would provide only a *tiny portion* of food (John 6:7) for *5,000 men, besides women and children*. Matthew 14:21.

38“**How many loaves of bread* do you have here now?**” He asked them. “**Go and find out.**” After they had investigated, they told Him, “We have

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only five small loaves, and two fish.” Mt. 14:17; Lk. 9:13; Jn. 6:9

Mk. 6:38 – “Bread.” A loaf of bread was generally seven inches in diameter and a half to one inch thick.

39 Jesus then commanded them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. Mt. 14:19

40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Mt. 14:19; Jn. 6:10

41 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish and, looking up to Heaven, He asked God to bless them. Then He broke the loaves and kept giving them to His followers to give to the people. He also divided pieces of the two fish among all of them. Mt. 14:19; Jn. 6:10

42 And everyone in that huge crowd ate until they were completely satisfied! Mt. 14:20; Lk. 9:17; Jn. 6:12

43 Afterward they gathered up 12 full baskets of leftovers! Mt. 14:20; Lk. 9:17; Jn. 6:13

44 That small amount of food had fed about 5,000 men! * Mt. 14:21

***Mk. 6:44** – Matthew 14:21 adds *besides women and children*.

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Jesus Walks on the Water (Mt. 14:22-23; Jn. 6:16-21)

45Right after that, Jesus ordered His followers to go ahead of Him in the boat to the other side of the lake, to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. Mt. 14:22

46After He had sent the crowd away, He went into the hills to pray. Mt. 14:23

47When it got dark, the boat was in the middle of the lake, while He was alone on land. Mt. 14:23; Jn. 6:17

48He saw them out there straining at the oars, because they were rowing against the wind. Shortly before morning, He went out to them, walking on the lake! And He walked as though He intended to walk right by them. Mt. 14:25; Jn. 6:19-20

49But when they saw Him walking on the water, they screamed in terror, thinking it was a ghost! Mt. 14:26

50They all saw Him, and were terrified. Immediately He spoke to them, and said, “**Keep up your courage, men! It is I. Don’t be afraid.**” Mt. 14:27; Jn. 6:20

51Then He climbed up into the boat with them, and the wind stopped. His followers were amazed beyond measure at what they had just seen. They just couldn’t get over their astonishment. Mt. 14:32

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⁵²Obviously, they hadn't learned anything from the miracle of the multiplying of the loaves of bread, because their hearts were still in a hardened state.

⁵³When they finished crossing, they arrived at Gennesaret, and tied up the boat on shore. Mt. 14:34

⁵⁴As they came out of the boat, the people there immediately recognized Jesus. Mt. 14:35

⁵⁵They then ran throughout the whole region and began bringing sick people on stretchers to wherever they heard He was. Mt. 14:35

⁵⁶Wherever He went—in the towns, cities, or countryside—they kept laying the sick in the marketplaces and pleading with Him that they might at least touch the fringe of His prayer shawl.* And all who touched Him were healed. Mt. 14:36

Mk. 6:56 – “Prayer shawl.” See note at Mark 5:27.

God's Commands or Man's Traditions (Mt. 15:1-20)

7 Then the Pharisees and some of the teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Him. Mt. 15:1

²When they saw some of His followers eating food with unclean hands—that is, hands that

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hadn't been washed as Jewish tradition dictated—they found fault.

³Neither the Pharisees nor any of the other Jews will eat unless they wash their hands in a certain way, in obedience to the tradition of the elders.

⁴When they come from the marketplace they won't eat until they wash in this way. And there are many other traditions which they continue to practice, such as the certain ways they must wash cups, pitchers, copper pots, and beds.

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the Law asked Jesus, “Why don't Your followers obey the tradition of the elders? Why do they eat food with unclean* hands?” Mt. 15:2

*Mk. 7:5 – “Why do they eat food with unclean*hands?” Not properly washed ceremonially.

⁶“Isaiah certainly prophesied the truth about you hypocrites,” Jesus replied, “when he wrote that God said:

‘These people honor Me with words, but their hearts are far from Me.

⁷The worship they offer Me is worthless, because what they teach as vital truths are merely rules made up by men.’ (*Isaiah 29:13*)
Mt. 15:9

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8“**You pay no attention to God’s commands, but you are so careful to obey your man-made traditions—such as the ceremonial washing of pots and cups, and many other such things.**”

9Then He added, **“You even have clever ways of setting aside God’s commands, so you can follow your traditions.**

10“ **‘For instance, Moses commanded, You must honor and revere your father and mother.’ (Exodus 20:12) He also said, ‘Anyone who speaks cruelly to his father or mother must be put to death.’ (Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9)**Mt. 15:3-4

11“**But you say, ‘A man does not need to help his needy father or mother if he tells them, “Whatever help I might have been able to give you is corban,”’* (that is, it has been dedicated as a future gift to God in his will).** Mt. 15:5

Mk. 7:11 – “Corban.” That is, whatever money or property he could have used to give help to his parents had already been dedicated as a future gift to the Temple. The Jewish teachers of that day said it was more important for a person to dedicate his property to God than to provide for the needs of his parents.

12“**By that arrangement, you no longer allow him to use any of his money or property to help his father or mother.**

13“**In this way, you cancel out the word of God by the traditions of men, which you are now even**

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teaching others. And you treat many other commands of God in the same way.” Mt. 15:6

14Then He called the whole crowd over and said to them, “Listen to Me, everyone! This is something you must understand and keep in mind: Mt. 15:10

15“It is not what goes into your body that pollutes you, but what comes out. These are the things that poison your soul. Mt. 15:11

16“If anyone has been given ears for the purpose of hearing, let him listen!” Mt. 11:15

17When He left the crowd and went into a house, His followers asked Him to explain what He meant by that statement. Mt. 15:15

18“Do you mean that you don’t understand either?” He asked. “Don’t you realize that a person is not defiled spiritually by what he eats? Mt. 15:17-18

19“**No food goes into his heart,*** but into his stomach, and then passes through the digestive system, and all that cannot be used by the body is then eliminated. Mt. 15:17-18

**Mk. 7:19, 21, 23 – “Heart.”* ... the very heart center of your being, the zone of your thoughts, intellect, passions, impulses, affections, desires, all emotions, appetites, motives, intentions, and endeavors ...*

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20“**But it’s what comes out of the person that pollutes him,**” He continued. Mt. 15:18

21“**Because from within, out of people’s hearts* come evil thoughts and decisions about adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts,** Mt. 15:19

22**covetous desires, wickedness, cheating, lust, envy, slander, pride, and all foolish desires and ambitions.** Mt. 15:19

23“**All these evils come from the heart. These are the things that make a person unclean *and unfit to be with God.***” Mt. 15:20

The Faith of a Syrophenician Woman (Mt. 15:21-28)

24Leaving there, Jesus went to the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. He entered a house and didn’t want anyone to know He was there. But He couldn’t keep it secret. Mt. 15:21

25A woman whose little girl was possessed by an evil spirit heard He was there, and she came and fell to her knees at His feet, Mt. 15:22

26begging Him to drive the demon out of her daughter. The woman was a Greek,* born in the part of Syria known as Phoenicia. Mt. 15:22

Mk. 7:26 – “The woman was a Greek,” a despised Gentile, not a Jew.

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27 But Jesus told her, “**The children* must first be allowed to eat until they are satisfied. It’s not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.**”* Mt. 15:26

***Mk. 7:27** – “**The children* must first be allowed to eat.**” Referring to the people of Israel. “**Throw it to the dogs.**” The Jews considered themselves children of God. And they were accustomed to referring to all other people as *dogs*.

28 “Yes, Lord,” she replied. “But even the little dogs under the table eat the crumbs the children drop.” Mt. 15:27

29 “**For making that admirable and compelling statement you may go now,**” Jesus responded. “**The demon has left your daughter.**” Mt. 15:28

30 When she arrived home, she found that the demon had indeed left her daughter, and the girl was lying on the bed.

Jesus Heals a Man Who was Deaf and Could Hardly Talk

31 Again He left the area of Tyre and Sidon and arrived at Lake Galilee after going through the region of Decapolis. Mt. 15:29

32 While He was there, some people brought a man to Him who was deaf and could hardly speak. They pleaded with Jesus to put His hand on the man *and heal him*.

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33 So Jesus took him aside, away from the crowd, and put His fingers in his ears. Then He spit, and touched the man's tongue with the saliva.

34 Then with a deep sigh, He looked up to Heaven, after which He said to the man, “**Effatha!**” which is Aramaic for “**Open up!**”

35 Instantly the man was able to hear! His tongue was also set free, and he spoke plainly.

36 Jesus commanded the people to tell no one what happened.* But the more He tried to stop them, the more widely they broadcast the news.

Mk. 7:36 – “Jesus commanded the people to tell no one what happened.” Too much public acclaim would only increase the fury of opposition, causing the demand of His death before His work was finished.

37 They were overwhelmed and utterly amazed. “He’s been effective in everything He’s tried to do!” they kept telling other people. “Just now He healed a deaf man, and also freed his tongue so he could speak!”

Jesus Feeds More than 4,000 People (Mt. 15:32-39)

8 The crowd following Jesus at that time was huge. And because they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His followers and said, Mt. 15:32

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2 “I am deeply concerned about these people. They’ve been with Me now for three days, and have nothing to eat. Mt. 15:32

3 “If I send them away to their homes as hungry as they are, they’ll collapse on the way, because some have come a long way.” Mt. 15:32

4 “But how can we ever find enough food way out here in this deserted area to feed all these people?” they replied. Mt. 15:33

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

“Seven,” they replied. Mt. 15:34

6 So He told the people to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven small loaves and thanked God for them, after which He broke them and gave them to His followers to distribute among the people, which they did. Mt. 15:36

7 Someone also gave Him a few small fish. After asking God to bless them, He told His followers to distribute them, too. Mt. 15:36

8 All those people ate until they were completely satisfied! Then Jesus’ followers gathered up and filled seven large hamper baskets* with the leftovers! Mt. 15:37

Mk. 8:8 – “Then Jesus’ followers gathered up and filled seven large hamper baskets.” The Greek term for ‘baskets’ does not

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indicate the specific size of the container. It is entirely legitimate to select a term which would identify a relatively large basket.

⁹About 4,000 men had eaten.* Following this, Jesus sent them home. Mt. 15:38

***Mk. 8:9** – “**About 4,000 men had eaten.**”* Matthew 15:38 adds *besides women and children.*

The Yeast

¹⁰Immediately after doing so, He got into the boat with His followers and went to the region of Dalmanutha. Mt. 15:39

¹¹There the local Pharisees came to Him and began to argue. To test Him, they said, “Make a miracle happen to show that your power is from heaven.”* Mt. 12:38; Lk. 11:16

***Mk. 8:11** – “**Make a miracle happen to show that your power is from heaven,**”*or possibility “Make a miracle happen in the sky.”

¹²Jesus sighed deeply, and then said, “**Why do you people continue to demand another miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no such sign will be given you.**”* Mt. 12:39; Lk. 11:29

***Mk. 8:12** – “**No such sign will be given you.**”* See Matthew 16:2-4.

¹³With that He left them, and getting back into the boat, He went to the other side of the lake.

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14It so happened that His followers had forgotten to take along any bread. All they had in the boat was one loaf. Mt. 16:5

15So when Jesus warned them, “**Watch out, and always be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, and the yeast of Herod,**” Mt. 16:6; Lk. 12:1

16they discussed the matter among themselves and concluded, “He said that because we don’t have any bread.” Mt. 16:7

17But Jesus knew how they were reasoning, so He said, “**Why have you come to the conclusion that I said what I did because you have no bread? Don’t you see yet or understand? Are your hearts still hardened?**” Mt. 16:8

18“**You have eyes! Haven’t you seen anything? And you have ears! Haven’t you used them to listen to what’s been said? Don’t you remember anything you’ve seen and heard?**”

19“**When I broke the five loaves of bread for the 5,000 men, how many baskets full of fragments did you collect afterwards?**”

“Twelve,” they replied. Mt. 14:20

20“**And when I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000, how many large hamper baskets* full of fragments did you collect then?**”

“Seven.”

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Mk. 8:20 – “Hamper baskets.” See note at Mark 8:8.

21“**How can it be,**” He then asked them, “**that even after seeing all that take place, you still don’t understand?**”* Mt. 16:11

*Mk. 8:21 – “**You still don’t understand**”* ... *that you don’t need to worry about having enough food to eat when you have Me with you.*

Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida

22When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and pleaded with Him to touch and heal him.

23So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of town. After He had spit on his eyes and had then laid His hands upon them, He asked him if he could see anything.

24He looked around, and said, “I see people, but they look like trees walking around.”

25So Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes again, and then told him to open them. This time his sight was completely restored. Now he was able to see everyone clearly.

26Jesus then sent him home, telling him, “**Don’t tell anyone in town what happened. In fact, don’t even go back into town.**”

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Peter's Confession of the Messiah (Mt. 16:13-20; Lk. 9:18-21)

27 Then Jesus and His followers went into the towns around Caesarea Philippi. Along the way, He asked His followers, “**What are the people saying about who I am?**” Mt. 16:13; Lk. 9:18

28 “Some say You’re John the Baptizer,” they replied. “Others say You’re Elijah; and still others, that You’re one of the other prophets *come back to life.*” Mt. 16:14

29 “**But who do you say I am?**” He then questioned.

“You are the Christ!”* Peter responded. Mt. 16:16; Lk. 9:20

Mk. 8:29 – “You are the Christ,” that is, “the Messiah!”

30 Jesus then firmly ordered them to tell no one who He really was. Mt. 16:20

Jesus Predicts His Death (Mt. 16:21-28; Lk. 9:21-23)

31 Then He began to tell them that He, the Son of Man, must suffer many things. He also told them He would be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law, and that He would be killed, but that three days later He

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would rise from the dead and come back to life.
Mt. 16:21; Lk. 9:22, 44

³²After Jesus had told them plainly what would happen, Peter took Him aside and told Him He must never allow such a thing to happen to Him.*
Mt. 16:22

***Mk. 8:32** – Peter may have said, “You must stop having such negative thoughts! With all the power You have You never need to allow anything like that to happen to You.” See Matthew 16:22.

³³But after turning and looking at the rest of His followers, Jesus spoke to Peter and gave Him a very stern rebuke, saying, “**You get behind Me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.**” Mt. 16:23

A Powerful Warning

³⁴Then Jesus called the crowd of people, as well as His twelve close followers, to come to Him *and listen to something very special He had to say to them*. Then He said, “**Whoever decides he wants to follow Me* must no longer live for the purpose of pleasing and satisfying his own natural desires. He must take up his own cross* and die to those selfish desires, and follow Me.**”
Mt. 16:24; Lk. 9:23

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Mk. 8:34 – “Whoever decides he wants to follow Me.” This message is for everyone. He makes it very clear in verses 36 and 37. **“He must take up his own cross.”*** The cross is a symbol of death. A person is to no longer live for himself but for God and the Savior.

35“Because if you choose to continue to satisfy your desire to live as you please, you will lose your soul! For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall give up his life for Me and the good news, will save it. Mt. 10:39; Lk. 9:24; Lk. 17:33; Jn. 12:25; Rom. 8:13

36“Because what good would it do you even if you gained all the wealth and power and all the flesh-fulfilling experiences in all the world, but then found yourself barred from Heaven and sent to your judgment in Hell?*

Mt. 16:26

Mk. 8:36 – “But then found yourself barred from Heaven and sent to your judgment in Hell,” (implied). Literally, “lose his own soul.”

37“*Or look at it this way:* For what can a man give in return for his soul? Mt. 16:26

38 “Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful time, the Son of man will be ashamed of him, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” Mt. 10:33; Lk. 9:26; Lk. 12:9

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9 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus continued, “some of you standing here today will definitely not die before you see the Kingdom of God present here on earth in a display of great power.”* Mt. 16:28; Lk. 9:27

***Mk. 9:1** – Some believe Jesus referred to what would happen six days later on the Mount of Transfiguration. Other believe He referred to the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47), and what followed. He could have referred to both.

The Glory of Jesus Revealed (Mt. 17:1-9; Lk. 9:28-36)

2 Six days later, Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where they were alone. Then right in front of their eyes, they saw His appearance change completely!* Mt. 17:2; Lk. 9:28-29

***Mk. 9:2** – “His appearance change completely!”* Matthew 17:2 states, “His face became as brilliant as the sun!” He revealed Himself in all His marvelous glory.

3 His clothes became dazzling white—like snow—whiter than anyone on earth could ever whiten them. Mt. 17:2

4 Then Elijah and Moses appeared on the scene, and began talking with Jesus. Mt. 17:3; Lk. 9:30

5 “Teacher!” Peter exclaimed, “it’s good for us to be here! Should we perhaps put up three

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shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah?” Mt. 17:4; Lk. 9:33

⁶He said this because he really didn't know what to say—they were so terrified. Mt. 17:6

⁷Just then a cloud covered them completely, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is My Son, whom I love dearly. You must keep on listening to Him.”* Mt. 17:5; Lk. 9:34-35; 2 Pet. 1:17

***Mk. 9:7** – “**You must keep on listening to Him.**”* In Greek this is a present tense meaning, listen and continue to listen to Him.

⁸Immediately after hearing the voice, they looked around, but no one was there, except Jesus. Mt. 17:8

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus told them to tell no one what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. Mt. 17:9

¹⁰So they didn't even mention the matter to anyone else. But they continued to question among themselves what He could mean about rising from the dead.

¹¹But the question they put to Him was, “Why do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah must come on the scene before You, the Messiah, will come?” Mt. 17:10

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12“**That’s true,**” Jesus replied, **“Elijah does come first, and will strive to get everyone ready to receive the Messiah.* Now let Me ask you: How is it that the Scriptures also state that the Son of Man must endure great suffering and be rejected as worthless?*** Mt. 17:11

Mk. 9:12 – “Elijah does come first, and will strive to get everyone ready to receive the Messiah.” His ministry will be to restore people to faith in God and to obedience to Him, and to a proper understanding about the Messiah. **“The Son of Man must endure great suffering and be rejected as worthless.”** See Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22:1-21; Daniel 9:25-26a; Zechariah 12:10; Luke 24:25-27, 45-47.

13**“But as for Elijah, he has already come,* just as it was written about him, and they treated him just as their evil hearts desired.”** Mt. 17:12

Mk. 9:13 – “But as for Elijah, he has already come.” See Luke 1:17. John the Baptizer came in the spirit of Elijah. But many believe Elijah will return in person shortly before God judges the people on earth. Malachi 4:5-6.

Jesus Heals a Boy (Mt. 17:14-21; Lk. 9:37-42)

14When Jesus came down to where His other followers were, He saw them arguing with the teachers of the Law, and a large crowd had gathered around them.

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15 When the people saw Jesus, they ran to greet Him, but they were all amazed at His appearance.*

Mk. 9:15 – “They were all amazed at His appearance.” His face evidently still retained some traces of the glory he had revealed to Peter, James, and John. The same thing happened to Moses when he talked to God on Mount Sinai. Exodus 34:29-35.

16 Then Jesus asked the teachers of the Law, “What’s the argument about?”

17 “Teacher,” one of the men in the crowd spoke up, “I’ve brought my son to You. He’s possessed by a demon that’s made him unable to speak. Mt. 17:16; Lk. 9:38-40

18 “Whenever it attacks him, it slams him to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth. He’s gradually wasting away! So I asked Your followers to drive the demon out, but they couldn’t.” Mt. 17:16

19 “Oh, you faithless people!” Jesus replied. “How long must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring the boy to Me.” Mt. 17:17; Lk. 9:41

20 So they brought him. But as soon as the boy saw Jesus, the demon in him threw him into violent convulsions, so that he fell to the ground writhing and foaming at the mouth.

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21“**How long has he been having attacks like this?**” Jesus asked the father.

“Ever since he was a small child,” he replied.

22“**The demon has often tried to kill him by throwing him into fire and into water. If you can do anything, please have pity on us and help us!**”

23“**I can help you if you will believe,**” Jesus replied. “**Everything is possible for the one who continues to believe.**”*

Mk. 9:23 – “Everything is possible for the one who continues to believe.” In Greek this is in the present tense meaning ‘everything is possible for those who believe and continue to believe.’

24Immediately the father cried out in tears, “**Lord, I do believe! Help me to overcome my unbelief!**”

25When Jesus saw that the crowd was growing rapidly, He rebuked the evil spirit. “**You spirit of deafness and speechlessness,**” He said, “**I command you, come out of the boy and never enter him again!**” Mt. 17:18; Lk. 9:42

26The demon responded by screaming and throwing the boy again into violent convulsions, and then it came out. The boy lay there as motionless as death, causing many to say, “**He’s dead!**”

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27 But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him up, and he stood on his feet.

28 After Jesus had come into the house, His followers asked Him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive that demon out?” Mt. 19:19

29 “**This kind of demon cannot be driven out,**” Jesus replied, “**except by prayer and fasting.**” Mt. 17:21

30 Then they left there and traveled through Galilee. But Jesus didn’t want anyone to know where He was, because He was teaching His followers.

31 He was telling them, “**The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men who will kill Him. But on the third day after He is killed, He will rise back to life again.**” Mt. 16:21

32 But they didn’t understand what He was talking about, and they were afraid to ask Him.

Who Is the Greatest? (Mt. 18:1-6; Lk. 9:46-48)

33 When He arrived at Capernaum and was with His followers in the house, He asked them, “**What was it that you men were arguing about among yourselves along the way?**”

34 They didn’t answer, because along the road they had been arguing among themselves about which of them was the greatest. Mt. 18:1; Lk. 9:46; Lk. 22:24

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35 Then He sat down and called the Twelve to Himself and said, “Anyone who has a continual desire to be the greatest will end up being* the least of all, and the servant of everyone else.”

Mk. 9:35 – “Anyone who has a continual desire to be the greatest will end up being the least of all.” This is future tense in the Greek. Study this in connection with Matthew 18:1-5; 20:25-28; Luke 9:46-48.

36 Then He brought a little child into their group, and taking him up into His arms He said to them, Mt. 18:2; Lk. 9:47

37 “Whoever warmly welcomes one of these little children, in My Name,* is welcoming Me. And whoever welcomes Me is welcoming not only Me, but the One who sent Me.” Mt. 10:40; Lk. 9:48; Lk. 10:16; Jn. 13:20

Mk. 9:37 – ‘In My Name,’ that is, “because of Me.”

Whoever Is Not Against Us Is For Us (Lk. 9:49-50)

38 Then John spoke up and said, “Teacher, we saw someone who’s not a member of our group driving out demons in Your name, and we told him to stop, because he’s not following You with us.” Lk. 9:49

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39“Don’t stop him,” Jesus replied. “Because anyone who performs a miracle in My name can’t be one who will then turn right around and speak against Me.

40“Anyone who is not against us is on our side.
Lk. 9:50

41“If anyone gives you even such a small thing as a cup of water as a favor to Me, because you belong to Me, I assure you, he will definitely be rewarded even for doing that. Mt. 10:42

Frightful Judgment for Tempters (Mt. 18:6-9; Lk. 17:1-2)

42“*Now back to the matter of the little child:* Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble,* would be better off if someone had hung a massive millstone around his neck and had thrown him into the sea. Mt. 18:6; Lk. 17:2

***Mk. 9:42 – “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble,”* or to lose his faith in Me.**

43“**So if your hand is causing you to sin, cut it off! It’s far better for you to enter eternal life without a hand, than to have two hands that take you to Hell, into the fire where the flames will never be quenched,** Mt. 5:30

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44 where their worm* never dies and the fire never goes out.*

Mk. 9:44, 46, 48 – “Where their worm never dies,” that is, “the worm that feeds upon them,” or “worms which feed upon decaying bodies.” “And the fire never goes out.”* A figure of unending suffering and torment.

45 “And if your foot is causing you to sin, cut it off! It’s far better for you to gain eternal life lame, than to have two feet that take you to Hell, into the fire where the flames are never quenched,

46 where their worm* never dies and the fire never goes out.*

47 “And if your eye is causing you to sin, gouge it out! It’s far better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fires of Hell, Mt. 5:29

48 ‘where their worm* never dies and the fire never goes out.’* (*Isaiah 66:24*)

49 “Because everyone will be seasoned with fire, just as every sacrifice is to be seasoned with salt.

50 “Salt serves a good purpose. But if the salt in your life has lost its sharp penetrating qualities and has become useless, how can you make it salty again? Continue to have genuine salt *in the way you live and in the things you say*. Continue to live in peace with all who are true followers of Mine.” Mt. 5:13; Lk. 14:34-35

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Teaching About Divorce (Mt. 19:3-12)

10 Jesus then left Capernaum and went south into the region just across the Jordan River from Judea. Again people flocked to Him, and again, as always, He taught them.

² Then the Pharisees came with a question to trip Him up. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” they asked. Mt. 19:3

³ “**What did Moses say about divorce?**” Jesus responded.

⁴ “Moses said a man needed to merely write a certificate of divorce and send her away,” they declared. Mt. 5:31

⁵ “**Moses gave you that law,**” Jesus replied, “**because you are so hard-hearted.**” Mt. 19:8

⁶ “**But that’s not the way it was from the beginning when God created mankind. The record states, ‘God made man male and female.’ (Genesis 1:27)**” Mt. 19:4

⁷ “**For that reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife. And the two shall become so devoted to each other that they become like one person.’ (Genesis 2:24)**”

Mt. 19:6

⁸ “**So they are no longer two, but one flesh.**” Mt. 19:6

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9“**And man has no right to separate what God has joined together.**”

10When they were again in the house, His followers had further questions for Him about the subject.

11“**Any man who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her,**” He replied. Mt. 5:32; Lk. 16:18

12“**And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.**”*

***Mk. 10:12** – “**She commits adultery.**”* See Matthew 19:9 for clarification.

The Little Children and Jesus (Mt. 19:13-15; Lk. 18:15-17)

13Then people began bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them. But His followers got upset and strongly demanded that the people not bother Jesus with little children. Mt. 19:13; Lk. 18:15

14When Jesus saw this, He was much displeased, and said to them, “**Let the little children come to Me! Don’t hinder them! Because the Kingdom of God belongs to those *who become like these little children in spirit.*** Mt. 19:14; Lk. 18:16

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15“I tell you the truth, anyone who does not receive the Kingdom of God *with the unmistakable spirit of a little child** will definitely not enter it.” Lk. 18:17

Mk. 10:15 – “A little child.” See Matthew 18:1-3.

16Then He took the little children up in His arms, put His hands on each of them, and blessed them.
Mt. 19:15

Warning to Those Who Are Rich (Mt. 19:16-30;
Lk. 18:18-30)

17Later, as He was walking along on the road, a man came running up to Him and knelt down in front of Him and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Mt. 19:16; Lk. 10:25; Lk. 18:18

18“**Why do you call Me ‘good’?**” Jesus replied. “**Only One Person is truly good, and that’s God—no one else.**” Mt. 19:17; Lk. 18:19

19“**You know the commands God has given: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not tell lies about anyone, you shall not cheat anyone in any way, and honor your mother and father.’**”
(Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20) Mt. 19:18; Lk. 18:20

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20“Teacher,” he replied, “I’ve obeyed all of these from the time I was a child.” Mt. 19:20; Lk. 18:21

21Jesus looked at him for a moment, really loving him *for his sincerity*. Then He said to him, “**There’s one thing still missing in your life: Go and sell everything you have, and give the proceeds to the poor. Then you will have riches and wealth in Heaven. After that, take up your cross* and follow Me.**”* Mt. 6:20; Lk. 12:33; Lk. 18:22

Mk. 10:21 – “Take up your cross.” The cross is a symbol of death. Jesus was demanding a total commitment, even unto physical death if necessary. This call to full surrender was a part of the message his followers were to proclaim to others (Matt. 28:20; Lk. 14:25-33; Acts 3:19; Rom. 6:17-18). **“And follow Me,”*** that is, “become My disciple.”

22The man was extremely sad when he heard that, and he went away with a heavy heart, because he was very rich.* Mt. 19:22; Lk. 18:23

***Mk. 10:22 –** He chose his possessions and riches instead of Christ and eternal life.

23Then Jesus turned around and said to His followers, **“It is so hard for those who are rich to enter the Kingdom of God!”** Mt. 19:23; Lk. 18:24

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²⁴His followers were astonished at that statement. But Jesus repeated it, this time saying, “Children, it is extremely difficult for those who put their trust in their wealth to enter the Kingdom of God.

²⁵“In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God.”* Mt. 19:24; Lk. 18:25

***Mk. 10:25** – What Jesus is teaching here is that the more money a person has the more difficult it becomes for him to surrender to the Lord. Jesus is not against riches, but He points out the extreme danger of making riches one’s God, and of using them for self-satisfying purposes instead of under God’s approval and supervision.

²⁶His followers were then even more astonished, saying among themselves, “Well, who then can be saved?” Mt. 19:25; Lk. 18:26

²⁷Looking straight at them Jesus replied, “Yes, it’s impossible for people who look at riches from man’s sense of values to be saved, but not for the one who draws near to God and gladly receives his orders. With God all things are possible, He can do anything.”* Mt. 19:26; Lk. 18:27

***Mk. 10:27** – “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’” (Mk. 10:27, NIV).

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28 Peter then spoke up, “Look, we’ve left everything and followed You.” Mt. 19:27; Lk. 18:28

29 “I promise you,” Jesus replied, “anyone who has left home or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or property for My sake, and for the sake of telling others the Great News, Mt. 19:29; Lk. 19:29-30

30 will receive a hundred times more in this present life than he gave up—homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and properties. But along with all this, he will also receive persecutions—and in the age to come, everlasting life.

31 “But many who are now thought of as being great will then have the lowest positions, and many who are now considered to be of little importance will then hold positions of great importance.”

Jesus Again Predicts His Death (Mt. 20:17-19; Lk. 18:31-34)

32 Later, as they were on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking ahead of His followers. They walked behind, both amazed and afraid, because Jesus had again taken the Twelve aside and described all that would happen to Him when they arrived at Jerusalem. Mt. 20:17

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33“Look,” He had said, “we are now on our way up to Jerusalem, where I, the Son of Man, will be handed over to the chief priests and teachers of the Law. They will sentence Me to death and hand Me over to the Romans to be killed. Mt. 20:18; Lk. 18:31

34“**The Romans will mock Me, flog Me, spit on Me, and kill Me, but three days later I will rise back to life again.**” Mt. 20:19

The Request of James and John (Mt. 20:20-28)

35It was also during this trip that James and John, the sons of Zebedee, went to Him and said, “Teacher, will You do for us whatever we ask?” Mt. 20:20-21

36“**And what is it that you want Me to do for you?**” Jesus responded.

37“Would you let one of us sit on Your right and the other at Your left in the glory of Your Kingdom?” they replied.

38“**You don’t realize what you’re asking,**” Jesus replied. “**Are you able to drink the bitter mixture in the cup of sorrow that I am about to drink, and be baptized into the baptism of extreme suffering into which I am about to be baptized?**” Mt. 20:23

39“**Yes, we are,**” they replied.

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“You will indeed drink the cup that I drink,” Jesus said, “and be baptized into the baptism into which I am baptized, Mt. 20:23

40but I have no authority to decide who will sit on My right and on My left. Those positions will be given by God to those for whom they have been prepared.”* Mt. 20:23

***Mk. 10:40** – Such promises of positions of honor, of glory, and of privilege in future service should overwhelmingly challenge every Christian to so live and serve now that he might attain to as high a position as possible in the Lord’s coming Kingdom.

41When the other ten heard what these brothers had requested, they were thoroughly disgusted with James and John. Mt. 20:24

42Calling all of them together, Jesus said, “You know how heathen rulers lord it over their subjects, and how the highest rulers lord it over those rulers.

43“But that’s not the way it’s to be among you. If any of you want to be great, then you must become one who serves others. Mt. 20:26

44“And whoever of you wants to be first, you must be a slave to everyone else.

45“Because even I, the Son of Man, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give My life as a ransom for many.” Mt. 20:28

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Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (Mt. 20:29-34; Lk. 18:35-43)

46Following this they arrived at Jericho. When Jesus and His followers, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. Mt. 20:30; Lk. 18:35-37

47When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth who was passing by, he began to shout, “Jesus! Son of David!* Have pity on me!” Mt. 20:30

***Mk. 10:47** – “**Son of David**”* is a well-known and understood title of the Messiah. Used twenty times in the New Testament, it is still used in Judaism in reference to the Messiah.

48“Stop that! Calm down!” many in the crowd shouted at him in return. But he just kept on shouting, louder than ever, “Son of David, have pity on me!” Mt. 20:31; Lk. 18:39

49So Jesus stopped and said, “**Tell him to come here.**” Lk. 18:40

Then the people called out to him, “Cheer up! He’s calling for you. Get up now!”

50So throwing his cloak aside, he got up at once and went to Jesus.

51“**What can I do for you?**” Jesus asked.

“Teacher!” the blind man said, “I want to be able to see!” Mt. 20:33

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52“Go your way,” Jesus told him. “Your faith has made you well.” And immediately he was able to see, and began *hilariously* following Jesus down the road. Lk. 18:42-43

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Mt. 21:1-9; Lk. 19:28-40; Jn. 12:12-19)

11As they were approaching Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany, just across from the Mount of Olives, and Jesus sent two of His followers on an errand. Mt. 21:1; Lk. 19:29

2“Go into the village over there,” He told them. “As soon as you enter it, you’ll see a colt tied up. No one has ever sat on it, but untie it and bring it to Me. Mt. 21:2; Lk. 19:30

3“If anyone asks you what you’re doing, just tell him, ‘The Lord needs it* and will send it right back.’” Mt. 21:3; Lk. 19:31

Mk. 11:3 – “The Lord needs it,” that is, “It’s true Owner needs it.”

4So they went. And sure enough, there was the colt in the street, tied near a door. So they untied it. Lk. 19:32

5“Hey! What are you doing there, untying that colt?” some bystanders demanded. Lk. 19:33

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6 They then told them what Jesus had said, and the men let them take it. Lk. 19:34

7 When they brought the colt to Jesus, some of the people threw their robes on its back. Then Jesus sat upon him. Mt. 21:7; Lk. 19:35

8 Many of the others spread out their robes on the roadway. Others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Mt. 21:8; Lk. 19:36

9 Then those who walked ahead and those who followed began loudly shouting:

“Hosanna!*

God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! (*Psalm 118:25-26*) Mt. 21:9; Jn. 12:13

***Mk. 11:9** – “**Hosanna!**”* Hosanna means “save now.” It later became an exclamation of praise.

10 “God bless the Kingdom of our father David, that now comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!” Mt. 21:9; Lk. 19:38

11 When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went directly into the Temple area and looked around and observed all that was going on. But since it was already late in the day, He went out to Bethany with His twelve followers.

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The Curse on a Fig Tree (Mt. 21:18-19)

12The next day, as they were coming back from Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Mt. 21:18

13In the distance, He saw a fig tree in leaf. He went over to it to see if He might find some fruit on it. But when He reached it, He found nothing but leaves, because it wasn't the season for figs. Mt. 21:19

14“**May no one ever eat fruit from you again,**” He said to the tree. And His followers were listening as He said it. Mt. 21:19

Jesus Cleans Out the Temple (Mt. 21:12-16; Lk. 19:45-48; Jn. 2:13-22)

15When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went into the Temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers* and the benches of those selling doves. Mt. 21:12; Lk. 19:45; Jn. 2:14-15

***Mk. 11:15** – “**Moneychangers.**”* It was required by Jewish law that the Temple tax of *half a shekel* be paid in Jewish coin. It was the *greed* and *fraud* rather than the practice that Jesus condemned.

16Nor would He allow anyone to carry any merchandise through the Temple courtyard.

17Then He taught them a short Bible lesson, saying, “**It is written in the Scriptures that God**

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said, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.’ (*Isaiah 56:7*) But you have turned it into ‘a place for thieves to do business!’” (*Jeremiah 7:11*) Mt. 21:13; Lk. 19:46

18When the teachers of the Law and the chief priests heard Him say this, they began in earnest to look for a way to destroy Him, because they were truly afraid of Him, because all the people were completely captivated with amazement by His teaching. Lk. 19:47-48

19When evening came, He left the city.

A Lesson from the Fig Tree (Mt. 21:19-22)

20The next morning, as they passed by the fig tree, they noticed that it was dried up clear down to the roots! Mt. 21:19-20

21Remembering the curse of the day before, Peter said to Jesus, “Look, Teacher! The fig tree You cursed is completely withered!”

22In reply Jesus said to them, “Have faith in God!

23“**I tell you the absolute truth when I tell you that whoever will say to this mountain, ‘Remove yourself from here, and throw yourself into the sea!’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, whatever he says will indeed be done for him.** Lk. 17:6

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24“For that reason I tell you: Whatever things you ask for as you pray, believe that you definitely* are in the process of receiving them, and you most certainly* will have them. Mt. 21:22

Mk. 11:24 – The words “definitely” and “certainly”* are both indicative mood, the mood of certainty.

25“But whenever you stand in prayer, and there think of something you are holding against someone, forgive that person, so your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your sins. Mt. 6:14

26“Because if you don’t forgive others, neither will your Father in Heaven forgive you the wrongs you have done.”

Jesus’ Authority Questioned (Mt. 21:23-27; Lk. 20:1-8)

27Again they arrived in Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the Temple court, the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders came up to Him. Lk. 20:1-2

28“Just what right do you think you have, to take authority into your own hands and do what you did here yesterday?” they demanded. “Who gave you authority to do such things?” Mt. 21:23; Lk. 20:2

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29“**I will also ask you a question,**” Jesus replied. “**If you answer Me, then I’ll tell you by whose authority I do the things I do.** Mt. 21:24; Lk. 20:3

30“**Did God order John the Baptizer to preach and baptize as he did, or was it just his own idea? Tell Me.**”

31They talked this over among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘He was obeying God’s orders,’ he will say, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ Mt. 21:24; Lk. 20:4-5

32“**But if we say, ‘It was all his own idea,’ this whole crowd will mob us, because they’re fully convinced that John was a prophet sent by God.**”

33So they answered, “We cannot tell.”

“**And neither will I tell you by whose authority I do the things I do,**” Jesus replied. Mt. 21:27; Lk. 20:7-8

Parable of the Sharecroppers (Mt. 21:33-46; Lk. 20:9-19)

12Then Jesus began speaking to them, using parables: “**Once there was a man who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a hole for the press that pressed out the grape juice, and built a watchtower. Then he rented it out to sharecroppers and left the area.** Mt. 21:33; Lk. 20:9

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2“At harvest time, he sent a servant to the renters to get his share of the grapes. Mt. 21:34; Lk. 20:10

3“But the renters grabbed the servant and beat him up, and sent him away with nothing. Mt. 21:35

4“The owner sent another servant to them. But they threw stones at him and wounded him in the head. After further insulting him, they sent him away. Mt. 21:36; Lk. 20:11-12

5“They killed the next man he sent. He sent still others, but they beat some and killed others. Mt. 21:36; Lk. 20:11-12

6“He still had one more person he could send. This was his only son, whom he loved dearly. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. Mt. 21:37; Lk. 20:13

7“But when the renters saw him coming, they said, ‘Look! Here comes the heir! Come on, let’s kill him, and this vineyard will be ours.’ Mt. 21:38; Lk. 20:14

8“So they grabbed hold of him and killed him, and threw his body out of the vineyard. Lk. 20:15

9“What do you think the owner of the vineyard will do now? Yes, without pity or compassion, he’ll come and kill those renters, and rent the vineyard to others. Lk. 20:15-16

10“Haven’t you ever read the Scripture that says:

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The Stone which the builders threw out as worthless has now become the Chief Cornerstone. Mt. 21:42; Lk. 20:17

11 This was done by the Lord, and it truly is something of great importance to look into with amazement?” (*Psalms 118:22-23*)

12 Those Jewish leaders knew very well that Jesus had really been speaking about them when He gave that parable, and they desperately wanted to arrest Him. But they were afraid of what the crowd would do if they did, so they left Him and went their way. Mt. 21:46; Lk. 20:19

Question About Taxes to Caesar (Mt. 22:15-22; Lk. 20:20-26)

13 But they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians* to Him, to see if they could trick Him into saying something they could use as an excuse to have Him arrested. Mt. 22:15; Lk. 20:23-26

***Mk. 12:13** – “**Herodians.**”* The Herodians were not a religious sect, but a political party supporting Herod’s dynasty, which had been created by Caesar. The Pharisees regarded them as untrue to their religion and country. But here we see them banding together with their bitter enemies against Christ as a common enemy.

14 So they came to Him and said, “Teacher, we know that you always tell the truth. And you’re not concerned about what anyone will think or do. Nor are you swayed by the importance of

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anyone, but you teach all of us the ways of God in truth. So is it right or not, according to the Laws God has given us, for us to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor? Should we pay those taxes, or shouldn't we?" Mt. 22:17

15But Jesus knew what their hypocritical plans were. **“Why are you trying to trap Me?”** He demanded. **“Bring Me a denarius, and let Me look at it.”**

16So they brought one. **“Whose picture and name are these on the coin?”** He asked them.

“The Emperor's,” they replied. Mt. 22:20

17**“Then give the Emperor the things that belong to him,”** Jesus responded, **“and give God what belongs to Him.”** They were stunned and amazed at His answer. Mt. 22:21

The Resurrection and Marriage (Mt. 22:23-33; Lk. 20:27-38)

18Then some Sadducees, who say the dead won't be resurrected back to life, came to Him. They also had a question. Mt. 22:23; Lk. 20:27

19“Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us in his writings that if a man dies and leaves his wife without any children, his brother should marry the widow and raise up a child for his brother.*
Mt. 22:24; Lk. 20:28

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***Mk. 12:19** – “**Raise up a child for his brother.**”** ... to inherit his property.*

20“Well, there were seven brothers. The oldest married, but he died before he had any children. Mt. 22:25; Lk. 20:29

21“**The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no children. The same happened to the third one.** Lk. 20:30-32

22“**All seven married her, but left no children. Finally the woman died also.** Mt. 22:27

23“**Now then, when the dead are raised back to life, whose wife will she be, since all seven were married to her?**” Mt. 22:28; Lk. 20:33

24“**You are badly mistaken,**” Jesus replied, “**because you don’t know what the Scriptures teach about the resurrection.* Nor do you realize how altogether powerful God is.***”

Mk. 12:24** – “**You don’t know what the Scriptures teach about the resurrection. See Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2. “**Nor do you realize how altogether powerful God is,***”** that is, there is absolutely nothing too hard for God.** See Genesis 18:14.

25“**Because when God raises the dead back to life, no one will marry or be given in marriage. In Heaven they will all be like the angels.** Mt. 22:30; Lk. 20:36

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26“**In regard to the fact that the dead will indeed rise again, haven’t you read about the burning bush in the book of Exodus—how God spoke to Moses there, saying, ‘I am the God who is worshipped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’?**

(Exodus 3:6) Mt. 22:32

27“**He is not the God of people who are dead, but of people who are very much alive! So you Sadducees are badly mistaken!**” Mt. 22:32; Lk. 20:37-38

The Greatest Commandment (Mt. 22:34-40; Lk. 10:25-28)

28Then one of the teachers of the Law spoke up. He had been listening to the discussion, and realized that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So he asked Jesus, “Which is the most important of all the commands of God?” Mt. 22:36

29“**The most important of all the commands,**” Jesus replied, “**is this:**

‘Listen, O Israel: The Lord our God is Lord of all, and is the one and only God.

30**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’**

(Deuteronomy 6:4-5)*

This is indeed the most important of all the commands. Mt. 22:37-38; Lk. 10:27

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***Mk. 12:30** – It does seem strange that God must command us to love Him, when our hearts should just naturally overflow with love for Him. So let us consider just how it is that God desires that we love Him: (1) We are first of all to love Him *with our whole heart*. That means that we are to love God as we love nothing and no one else. (2) We are to love God *with all our soul*. That means, with all our life. (3) We are to love God *with all our mind*. We are to gladly receive His truth with submission and gratitude. (4) We are to love God *with all our strength*. This means we are to love Him with all the faculties of soul and body.

31“**The second most important is similar. It’s this:**

‘You shall love others in the same way that you love yourself.’ (*Leviticus 19:18*)

There is no other command more important than these.”

32“Teacher, that was a good answer,” the man replied. “You have spoken the truth, because there is only one God—so there is no other God, only He* Lk. 20:39

***Mk. 12:32** – “**There is no other God, only He.**”* See 1 Corinthians 8:6.

33“**And to love Him with our whole heart, with all our understanding, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and to love others in the same way that we love ourselves—this is far more important to God than all the large or small material offerings we may give Him.**”*

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***Mk. 12:33** – “All the large or small material offerings we may give Him.”* Literally ... *than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.*

³⁴When Jesus saw how wisely the man had answered, He said, “**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**” After that, no one dared to ask Him any more questions. Mt. 22:46; Lk. 20:40

Whose Son Is the Messiah? (Mt. 22:41-46; Lk. 20:41-44)

³⁵Later on, while Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple courts, He asked them, “**How is it that the teachers of the Law teach that the Messiah is to be a descendant of King David?**” Mt. 22:42; Lk. 20:41

³⁶“**After all, David himself was inspired by the Holy Spirit to say:**

God said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies into a footstool for Your feet.” (*Psalms 110:1*)

³⁷“**So David himself calls the Messiah ‘Lord’. How then can Messiah be his descendant?**”* That great crowd listened to Him with immense pleasure. Mt. 22:45; Lk. 20:44

***Mk. 12:37** – “**How then can Messiah be his descendant?**”* Christ was actually the Son of God, therefore David’s Lord. But He took on human form, and received His human body through the ancestry of David. For that reason, He is called the Son of David, or, a descendant of David.

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Warning About Pride (*Mt. 23:1-36; Lk. 11:37-52; Lk. 20:45-47*)

38 As He continued teaching, He said, “**Watch out for those teachers of the Law who like to go around in long, flowing robes, receiving honored greetings of recognition in the market places.** Mt. 23:7; Lk. 11:43; Lk. 20:46

39 “**They want the most prominent seats in the synagogue and a place at the head table at banquets.** Mt. 23:6

40 “**But these are the same men who cunningly cheat widows out of their homes and other properties, and then pretend to be so godly by making long prayers in public. Be sure of this, these men will receive far greater and more severe sentences on Judgment Day than other sinners!**” Mt. 23:14; Lk. 20:47

The Widow’s Offering (*Lk. 21:1-4*)

41 As Jesus sat opposite the offering boxes, He watched as the people put money into them. Many who were rich put in much. Lk. 21:1

42 Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two tiny coins, worth less than a penny. Lk. 21:2

43 So Jesus called His followers to Him and said, “**I tell you the truth, that poor widow put more into the offering box than anyone else.** Lk. 21:3

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44“**All the others put in part of their surplus, but even though she is poor, she put in everything she had—even what she was to live on!**” Lk. 21:4

Signs of the End Time (Mt. 24:1-35; Lk. 21:5-36)

13As He was leaving the Temple, one of His followers said, “Teacher, look at these massive stones, and these beautiful buildings!” Mt. 24:1; Lk. 21:5

2“**Yes, look at these great buildings,**” Jesus replied. “**But not one of these stones will be left upon another. They will all be torn down.**” Mt. 24:2; Lk. 19:44; Lk. 21:6

3Later, as He sat on the Mount of Olives across from the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, Mt. 24:3; Lk. 21:7

4“**When will all these things take place? And what will happen to alert us that they are about to happen?**” Mt. 24:3; Lk. 21:7

5In answering them, Jesus said, “**Be very careful that you don’t allow anyone to fool you.**” Mt. 24:4

6“**Because many will come in My name, saying ‘I am Christ.’* And many will be fooled.**” Mt. 24:5; Lk. 21:8

*Mk. 13:6 – “**I am Christ,**”* or “the Messiah,” or “the anointed.”

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7“**And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don’t be alarmed. All of these events must take place, but they won’t mean that the end has come.** Mt. 24:6; Lk. 21:9

8“***Because when the end is actually approaching, nation will rise up against nation,* and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines and other troubles.* But all of these will be only the beginning of the birth pangs.*** Mt. 24:8; Lk. 21:10

Mk. 13:8 – “Nation will rise up against nation.” Some translate this, *race will rise up against race*. The word nation is translated from the Greek word *ethnos*, from which we get the word *ethnic*, pertaining to or characteristic of a people, especially a speech or culture group. Many of the wars today are indeed between different cultures. **“Other troubles.”*** In Matthew 24 the word *pestilence* is used in place of the word *troubles*. It could be that the Lord mentioned both words. The word *troubles* is translated from the Greek word *tarache*, which means *agitations, disturbances, resistance to lawful authority*.

9“**You will need to be constantly on your guard, because those who oppose you will arrest you and take you to court. And because of your stand and testimony for Me, you will be beaten in the synagogues, and you will be summoned to stand before governors and kings so you can tell them the Great News.** Mt. 10:18; Lk. 21:12

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10“*But in spite of all the persecution from those who oppose and hate you and your message, your main, burning concern,* must still be to tell the Great and Marvelous News to people everywhere, in all nations!* Mt. 24:14

Mk. 13:10 – “Burning concern.” This phrase, from the Greek word *proton*, is ordinarily translated *first* in this verse. But the true meaning is *first in importance, chief, principal, most important*.

11“*And when they arrest you and bring you to court, don’t worry and make careful plans beforehand about what you will say in your defense, or meditate about how you will answer their charges. Just say what comes to you as you are being tried. They won’t be your words; they will be words given you by the Holy Spirit.* Mt. 10:20; Lk. 12:11-12; Lk. 21:14-15

12“*A man will even betray his own brother to death. A father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.* Mt. 10:21; Lk. 21:16

13“*You shall be hated because of your bold stand for Me. But the one who endures the persecutions that come and remains faithful to Me to the end of life will be saved.* Mt. 10:22; Lk. 21:17

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A Warning to People in Israel (Mt. 10:16-23; Lk. 21:12-17)

14“**But when you see the abominable thing, that represents the one who has caused so much devastation, standing where it has no business being, about which the prophet Daniel wrote, (let whoever reads Daniel give diligence to understand what he is saying), then those who are in Judea must flee to the hills.** Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15

15“**Anyone who is out on his roof deck when he hears the news must not go down into the house for any reason. If he’s elsewhere outside, he must not return to take anything out of the house.** Mt. 24:17-18; Lk. 17:31

16“**The person who is in the field must not go back to the house or anywhere else even to get his clothes.**

17“**This will be a frightful and difficult time for those who are expecting babies or already have nursing babies.** Mt. 24:19; Lk. 21:23

18“**Pray that your flight will not be in the winter.** Mt. 24:20

19“**Because in those *last* days, there will be appalling trouble and persecution—far greater than at any other time since the creation of the world, until now. There will never again be anything like it.** Mt. 24:21

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20“If the Lord hadn’t shortened that terrible time, no one would be left alive on earth. But for the sake of His chosen ones,* God has set a limit to those days. Mt. 24:22

***Mk. 13:20** – “**His chosen ones.**”* God will show this mercy *for the sake of His elect*. The elect are all the chosen of God, whether Jew or Gentile. They are those persons who truly love Him, obey and serve Him.

21“During that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, the Christ* is over here!’ or, ‘Look, He’s over there!’ don’t believe it. Mt. 24:23

***Mk. 13:21** – “**The Christ.**”* Or *the Messiah*.

22“Because false Christ’s and false prophets will rise up with such amazing ability to do wonders and miracles that it will be convincing enough to deceive even God’s chosen ones, if that were possible. Mt. 24:24

23“So be on your guard. Always remember that I have forewarned you about all that’s ahead. Mt. 24:25

24“And during the days immediately after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not shine.* Mt. 24:29

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***Mk. 13:24** – “The sun will be darkened and the moon will not shine.”* See Isaiah 13:10 and Revelation 6:12.

25 The stars will not give their light from the heavens,* and the powers controlling the heavenly bodies will be violently disturbed and shaken.* Mt. 24:29

***Mk. 13:25** – “The stars will not give their light from the heavens.”* Greek *ekipto* can mean *fail to give light* or *fail to be seen*, or refer to meteorites crashing into the earth. See Isaiah 13:10; Joel 3:15. “The powers controlling the heavenly bodies will be violently disturbed and shaken.”* ... so that the planets will stray from their courses. See Isaiah 13:9-14; Joel 3:16; Haggai 2:6, 21; Hebrews 12:26.

26 “It’s after all these happenings, that the people on earth will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory! Mt. 24:30; Lk. 21:27

27 “That’s when He will send out His angels to gather together His chosen ones from all over the earth, from the extremity of one horizon to the extremity of the other.* Mt. 24:31

***Mk. 13:27** – See Matthew 24:29-31.

28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: When its branches become tender and shoot out new leaves, you know that summer is near. Mt. 24:32; Lk. 21:29-30

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29“**In the same way, when you see these things beginning to happen, realize that the end is near, right at the door.** Mt. 24:33; Lk. 21:31

30“**I tell you the truth, this generation* will positively not pass away before all of these events have taken place.** Mt. 24:34; Lk. 21:32

Mk. 13:30 – “This generation.” This refers to the generation living when these end time events begin to take place. It’s true that the generation listening to Christ at that time did not pass away before His prediction about the destruction of the Temple had been fulfilled (Luke 21:20-24). But Christ is referring here to the last generation of this age.

31“**The heavens and the earth will indeed pass away, but there’s no possibility whatever that what I say will come to nothing.** Lk. 21:33

The Day and Hour Unknown (Acts 1:7)

32“**But as for the day and hour when I will return with great power and glory, no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven. Even the Son doesn’t know. Only the Father knows.** Mt. 24:36

33“**So continually be on your guard! You must continually watch and pray! Because neither do you know when the time will come.*** Mt. 24:42

Mk. 13:33 – “Neither do you know when the time will come.”
... when God will take you from this life or when Christ will come to judge the earth.

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34“**It’s like a man who went on a long trip. He left his servants in charge of his house, telling each what he wanted done. And he gave instructions to the doorkeeper to guard and watch the entrance faithfully.*** Mt. 24:45; Mt. 25:14

Mk. 13:34 – “He gave instructions to the doorkeeper to guard and watch the entrance faithfully.” The watchman was not to watch for the master’s return, but to faithfully watch and guard the gate, to keep the household safe (in this case from false teachers, sinful practices, etc.), until the Master returns.

35“**You too must continue to be on your guard, because you don’t know when the Master of the house will return—in the late evening, at midnight, just before dawn, or during the morning hours.** Mt. 24:42, 44

36“**If He comes suddenly, you must not let Him find you sleeping!**

37“**And what I say to you I say to everyone: You must continually be awake and stay vigilantly alert!”** Rom. 13:11

Jesus at Bethany (Mt. 26:1-5; Lk. 22:1-2)

14By this time, the annual Passover Festival* and the Feast of Unleavened Bread* were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the Law were still looking for a way

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by which they could arrest Jesus in some underhanded way and kill Him. Mt. 26:4; Lk.22:1

Mk. 14:1 – “Passover Festival* and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.” Both of these festivals refer to the same event described in Exodus 12:1-20. The “Passover” celebrates the passing over of the Israelites homes by the angel of death. The “Feast of unleavened Bread” refers to the escape of the Israelites from Egypt and their bondage.

2“**But we can’t do it during the Feast, or the people might riot,**” they agreed. Mt. 26:5

3Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, who at one time had leprosy. As He was reclining* at the table, a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar containing a very expensive perfume made of pure nard. After breaking it open, she poured the perfume on His head.* Mt. 26:7; Jn. 11:2

Mk. 14:3 – “Reclining.” The custom was to recline on couches while eating. **“She poured the perfume on His head.”** John 12:3 states that the woman poured the perfume on His feet. She no doubt did both, as John 12:3 indicates she had a large amount.

4But this made some of the men there very angry, and they said among themselves, “Why this senseless waste? Mt. 26:8

5“**That perfume could have been sold for more than a working man could earn in a year, and the**

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money given to the poor!” And they scolded her harshly. Mt. 26:9; Jn. 12:5

6“Leave her alone!” Jesus demanded. “Why are you giving her a bad time? That was a beautiful thing she did for Me. Mt. 26:10

7“ You will always have the poor with you, and you can help them whenever you wish. But you will not always have Me. Mt. 26:11; Jn. 12:8

8“ She did all she could. She poured perfume on My body ahead of time to prepare it for burial. Mt. 26:12; Jn. 12:7

9“ I tell you the truth, wherever the Great News is told throughout the whole world, what this woman did for Me will also be told as a memorial to her.” Mt. 26:13

10It was at this time that Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests and offered to help them arrest Jesus. Mt. 26:14-15; Lk. 22:3-4

11When they heard what he wanted to do, they were extremely glad, and promised him money. So from then on, he kept looking for the best time and place to hand Him over to them. Mt. 26:16; Lk. 22:5

The Passover Meal (Mt. 26:17-25; Lk. 22:7-23; Jn. 13:21-30)

12On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the day the lambs for the Passover meal

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were being killed,* His followers asked Jesus, “Where do You want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for You?”

***Mk. 14:12** – “**The day the lambs for the Passover meal were being killed.**” In New Testament times the Passover lambs were slaughtered in the Temple but the meal could be eaten in any house in the city. After the Temple was destroyed in AD 70 slaughtering of lambs ceased and the Jewish Passover returned to a family feast.

13“Go into the city,” He instructed two of His followers, “and when you meet a man carrying a pitcher of water, follow him. Lk. 22:10

14“Wherever he enters, say to the man of that house, ‘The Teacher sent us to ask, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover supper with My followers?’” Mt. 26:18; Lk. 22:11

15“He will then lead you to a large upstairs room, all furnished and prepared. Get things ready for us there.” Lk. 22:12

16The two men left, and when they came into the city, they found everything just as Jesus had said they would, and they went ahead and prepared the Passover meal. Mt. 26:19; Lk. 22:13

17In the evening, Jesus came with His twelve followers. Mt. 26:20; Lk. 22:14

18As they were eating at the table, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, that one of you eating here with Me will betray Me.” Mt. 26:2

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¹⁹His followers were deeply distressed at that announcement, and one by one they asked Him, “You surely don’t mean me, do You?” Mt. 26:22

²⁰“It is one of the Twelve,” he answered. “It’s the one who is dipping his bread with Me in the same bowl.”* Mt. 26:23; Jn. 13:26

Mk. 14:20 – “It’s the one who is dipping his bread with Me in the same bowl.” He apparently said this privately to John, according to John 13:21-26.

²¹“The Son of Man will indeed leave this life in the very way it has been prophesied He would.* But woe to the man who is betraying the Son of Man. It would have been better for him if he had never been born.” Mt. 26:24; Lk. 22:22

Mk. 14:21 – “Prophesied He would.” Psalm 22:1-21; 41:9; Isaiah 52:14; 53; Daniel 9:25-26a; Zechariah 11:12-13; 12:10.

The Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-30; Lk. 22:17-18; 1 Cor. 11:23-32)

²²As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after thanking God for it and asking Him to bless it, He broke it and gave it to His followers. “Take this and eat it,” He said. “This is My body.”* Mt. 26:26

Mk. 14:22 - “This is My body.” Some suggest that *this represents or is a picture of or will bring to your remembrance My*

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body, which is being broken and sacrificed for you.

23 Then He took the cup, and after giving thanks, He also gave that to them, and they all drank from it. Mt. 26:27; Lk. 22:17

24 “This is My blood,* which will be poured out for many,” He said. “It is My shed blood that seals and guarantees God’s New Will and Agreement with mankind. Mt. 26:28; Lk. 22:20

Mk. 14:24 – “This is My blood.” Some suggest *this represents My blood.*

25 “I tell you the truth, I will no longer drink any of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God.” Mt. 26:29; Lk. 22:18

26 After they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Mt. 26:30; Heb. 2:12; Ps. 22:22

Peter’s Denial Predicted (Mt. 26:31-35; Lk. 22:31-34; Jn. 13:36-38)

27 “Tonight you will all be ashamed of Me and desert Me,” Jesus then informed them, “because it has been prophesied:

‘I will strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ (***Zechariah 13:7***) Mt. 26:31

28 “But after I have risen back to life, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Mt. 26:32

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29 Peter spoke up and said, “Even if everyone else loses faith and leaves You, I’ll never desert You!”

30 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “that today, before this night is over and before the rooster crows a second time, you will have said three times that you don’t even know Me.” Lk. 22:34; Jn. 13:37-38

31 But Peter emphatically insisted, “Even if I must die with You, there’s no way that I would ever say I don’t know You!” And all the others said the same. Lk. 22:33

Gethsemane (Mt. 26:36-46; Lk. 22:39-46)

32 Then they came to a place called Gethsemane, where He told His followers to sit down while He went farther on and prayed. Mt. 26:36

33 But He took Peter, James, and John along with Him, and He soon began to be deeply distressed and troubled. Mt. 26:37

34 “I am totally overwhelmed with sorrow,” He confided to those with Him. “It is so intense and deep that I am very close to death. Stay here and continue to keep watch.” Mt. 26:38

35 Then He went on a little farther and threw Himself to the ground, and prayed, asking God if it were possible that He could be delivered *from the awful time of suffering and separation from*

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His Father that was just ahead for Him. Mt. 26:39

36“O Father! My Father!” He earnestly prayed. “Everything is possible for You. Please! Oh, please take this cup from Me!* But I don’t want only what I want, but whatever You know must be done.”

Mk. 14:36 – “Please take this cup from Me!” His suffering on the cross was much more than physical. He evidently experienced total rejection by God.

37Then He went back to His three followers, and there they lay, asleep! “Simon!” He said to Peter, “are you sleeping? Couldn’t you keep watch with Me for even one hour? Mt. 26:40

38“**You must all continue to watch and pray so you won’t fall into temptation. Your spirit indeed wants to do what’s right, but your flesh is weak!**” Mt. 26:41; Lk. 22:40

39Again He left them and prayed, saying the same words.

40But when He returned, He again found them asleep. They just couldn’t keep their eyes open, and they didn’t know what to say to Him. Mt. 26:43

41When He came back the third time He said, “Are you still sleeping? Still taking your rest? But that’s enough of that! The time has now come. Listen, the Son of Man is right now being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Mt. 26:45

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42“Get up now and let’s be on our way. Look, here comes My betrayer now.” Mt. 26:46

The Arrest of Jesus (Mt. 26:47-56; Lk. 22:47-53; Jn. 18:3-13)

43And there he was! While Jesus was still speaking, there came Judas, one of the Twelve, with a great mob carrying swords and clubs. They’d been sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and by the elders. Mt. 26:47

44Now the traitor had given this mob a signal. “The one I greet with a kiss on the cheek is the man you want,” he had said. “Arrest him, and as you lead him away, make sure he doesn’t escape.” Mt. 26:48; Lk. 22:47

45Immediately upon his arrival, he went right up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Teacher!” Then with a great show of affection, he embraced Him, and kissed Him.* Mt. 26:49

Mk. 14:45 – “Then with a great show of affection, he embraced Him, and kissed Him.” This entire sentence is implied from the literal words *and ardently kissed Him*.

46The mob* then grabbed hold of Him and arrested Him. Jn. 18:12-13

Mk. 14:46 – “The mob,” that is, *the men there or the people*.

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47But as they did so, one of Jesus' followers standing there drew out his sword and slashed out at one of the servants of the High Priest and cut off his ear. Mt. 26:51; Lk. 22:50

48Then Jesus asked the mob, “**Have you come out against Me as you would against a thief, to arrest Me with swords and clubs?**” Mt. 26:55; Lk. 22:52-53

49“**I taught in the Temple every day, and you did not arrest Me. But this is happening so that the prophecies in the Scriptures may be fulfilled.**” Mt. 26:55

50It was at this turn of events that all of His followers deserted Him and ran. Mt. 26:56

51There was, however, a young man following Him. He had only a linen cloth thrown around his naked body, and some of the young men in the mob grabbed hold of him.

52But he left the linen cloth in their hands and ran from them naked.

Jesus Before the Council (Mt. 26:57-68; Lk. 22:54-71; Jn. 18:12-24)

53The mob then led Jesus away and brought Him to the High Priest. And gathered there with the High Priest in that very early morning hour were all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law. Mt. 26:57

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54 Meanwhile, Peter had followed Jesus at a distance, right into the courtyard of the High Priest. There he sat down with the guards and warmed himself by the fire. Mt. 26:58

55 The chief priests and the entire Council kept trying to find effective witnesses who would be able to give testimony that would prove that Jesus should be put to death, but they couldn't find any. Mt. 26:59

56 Many gave false testimony against Him, but their testimonies contradicted each other. Mt. 26:60

57 Some stood up and lied about Him, saying,

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with hands, and within three days, I will build another, made without hands.'" Mt. 26:61

59 But even in this case, they couldn't agree as to what He had actually said.

60 Then the High Priest stood up and came down among the other Council members and addressed Jesus, "Don't you have anything at all to say in answer to these charges being made against you?" Mt. 26:62

61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the High Priest addressed Him, asking, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of our praiseworthy God?" Mt. 26:63

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62“**Yes, I am,**” Jesus replied. **“And you will one day see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Almighty. You will also see Him coming with the clouds of Heaven.”*** Mt. 26:64

***Mk. 14:62** – “**You will also see Him coming with the clouds of Heaven.**”* A possible meaning is ... *with clouds of His people from Heaven.*

63At this the High Priest tore his clothes and shouted, “What further need do we have of witnesses? Mt. 26:65

64“**You all heard his blasphemy! What is your verdict?**” And they all shouted their condemnation of Him, demanding that He die. Mt. 26:66

65Then some of them began spitting on Him. Next they blindfolded Him. Then pounding Him with their fists, they’d snarl, “Prophecy, you messiah! Who hit you that time?” Some of the soldiers also slapped Him around! Mt. 26:67

Peter Disowns Jesus (Mt. 26:69-75; Lk. 22:56-62; Jn. 18:15-27)

66Peter was still in the courtyard below when one of the servant girls of the High Priest came by. Mt. 26:69

67When she saw Peter warming himself at the fire, she looked at him intently and said, “You

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were also with this Jesus from Nazareth.” Mt. 26:69

68But he denied it. “I don’t even know the Man,” he said. “In fact, I don’t understand what you’re talking about.” Then he went out into the entry court—and a rooster crowed. Mt. 26:70; Jn. 18:17

69The same servant girl saw him again, and she said to those standing there, “Here’s one of them.” But again he denied it. Mt. 26:71

70A short while later, those standing nearby said to Peter, “You have got to be one of his followers. You look like a Galilean, and you talk like one, too.” Mt. 26:73

71At this Peter began to curse. Then he said, “I swear to God, as I told you, I don’t even know the Man you’re talking about!” Mt. 26:74; Lk. 22:60; Jn. 18:27

72Just then the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told him, “Before the rooster crows a second time, you will have said three times that you don’t even know Me.” When the terrible truth sank in, he burst into tears. Mt. 26:75

Jesus Before Pilate (Mt. 27:11-14; Lk. 23:1-7, 18-25; Jn. 18:29-19:16)

15Without further delay, in that early morning hour, the chief priests, together with the elders

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and the teachers of the Law—that is, the entire Jewish Council—hurriedly held a meeting and reached a decision. Then they tied Jesus up and led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor. Mt. 27:2; Lk. 22:66; Jn. 18:28

²“Are you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked Him.

“Yes, what you say is true,” Jesus replied. Mt. 27:11; Lk. 23:3

³The chief priests then began heaping many charges against Jesus, but He didn’t say a thing in His defense. Mt. 27:12

⁴So again Pilate questioned Him, “Do you have no answer for these men? What about all these charges they’re bringing against you?” Mt. 27:13

⁵But still Jesus didn’t say a word, and Pilate was amazed. Mt. 27:14

⁶Now it was the custom at the Feast of the Passover for the governor to release one prisoner to the people—whomever they requested. Mt. 27:15; Lk. 23:17; Jn. 18:39

⁷One well-known prisoner at that time was a man by the name of Barabbas. He was chained in prison with several others who had committed murder during a revolt against the Romans. Mt. 27:16

⁸The crowd that had gathered there now began to shout at Pilate, asking him to release a prisoner

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to them as he had always done at this time of year.

9“Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. Mt. 27:17

10He knew very well that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of Him. Mt. 27:18

11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd and convinced them to ask for Barabbas instead. Mt. 27:20

12“What would you have me do, then, with the one you call the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. Mt. 27:22

13“Crucify him!”* the crowd shouted. Mt. 27:22

Mk. 15:13 - “Crucify him!” Crucifixion (by nailing to a cross) was the common Roman method of execution. It was a form of slow torture that kept the victims alive sometimes days before dying. Because the Cross is so central to the Christian gospel, it is a term that sometimes is used for the gospel itself (1Cor. 1:18; Gal. 5:11; 6:14).

14“But why?” Pilate demanded. “What wrong has he done?” But that only caused them to roar louder than ever, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Mt. 27:23

15Pilate was a cowardly and corrupt people-pleaser, so he finally let them have Barabbas. And after he’d had the Roman soldiers severely

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whip Jesus,* he handed Him over to the soldiers to be crucified. Mt. 27:26; Jn. 19:1

***Mk. 15:15** – “**Severely whip Jesus.**”* The Roman scourge consisted of a handle, to which several cords or leather thongs were fastened, weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, and sometime with spikes, to make the blows more painful and effective. Up to thirty-nine lashes with the scourge were then painfully inflicted. The punishment was so severe that the victim usually fainted, and often died from it. And this was only part of the suffering our Lord endured to free us from the guilt of our sins.

The Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus (Mt. 27:27-31; Jn. 19:2-3)

¹⁶The soldiers then led Him into the barracks within the courtyard and called the whole garrison together. Mt. 27:27

¹⁷There they put a purple* robe on Him. After twisting some branches with long sharp thorns into a crown, they put that on His head. Mt. 27:29; Jn. 19:2

***Mk. 15:17** – “**A purple* robe.**” Purple was the color of royalty. It was apparently used here in mockery.

¹⁸Saluting Him in mockery, they followed that up by contemptuously shouting, “Hail! King of the Jews!” Mt. 27:29; Jn. 19:2-3

¹⁹Again and again they hammered Him on the head with a slender pole,* and kept spitting on

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Him. Then they would kneel and bow down in front of Him in mock worship. Mt. 27:30

***Mk. 15:19** – “**They hammered Him on the head with a slender pole.**”* ... *painfully pounding the long thorns ever deeper into His skull ...*

²⁰After finally losing interest in insulting Him further, they took off the purple robe and put His own robe back on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him. Mt. 27:31; Jn. 19:16

Jesus Nailed to the Cross (Mt. 27:32-46; Lk. 23:26-46; Jn. 19:17-30)

²¹On the way, they met a man from Cyrene, in Libya, named Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was on his way into town from the country, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. Mt. 27:32

²²They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means, The Place That Looks Like a Skull. Mt. 27:33; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:17

²³There they offered Him a drink of wine that had a drug called myrrh* mixed in it, but He refused to drink it. Mt. 27:34

***Mk. 15:23** – “**A drug called myrrh.**”* This was a drug given to stupefy the senses, to make the pain more endurable. But Jesus was unwilling to blunt the pain of dying for us.

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24 After they crucified Him, the soldiers divided His clothing among themselves by throwing dice, to decide which piece each would get. Mt. 27:35; Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:24

25 It was 9 o'clock in the morning when they nailed Him to the cross.

26 Then they nailed a sign above His head,* stating the charge against Him, which read:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mt. 27:37; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19

Mk. 15:26 – “Then they nailed a sign above His head.” John 19:19-20 records that the sign was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

27 They also crucified two thieves with Him, one on His right, the other on His left. Mt. 27:38

28 So the Scripture was fulfilled that says,
“He was treated as though He were a common criminal.” (*Isaiah 53:12*) Lk. 22:37

29 Many of those passing by kept hurling vicious insults at Him, shaking their heads and shouting,
“So you're the one who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Mt. 27:40

30 “If you're so great, save yourself and come down from the cross!”

31 The chief priests, together with the teachers of the Law, also mocked Him, saying among

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themselves, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself.” Mt. 27:42

32“So you’re the Messiah, the King of Israel,” they shouted at Him. “Come down now from the cross, so we can see a real miracle, and we’ll believe.” Even the two thieves who were crucified with Him hurled insults at Him.

The Death of Jesus (Mt. 27:45-56; Lk. 23:44-49; Jn. 19:28-30)

33Then at noon, the whole country became enveloped in darkness, which lasted until three in the afternoon. Mt. 27:45; Lk. 23:44

34At 3 o’clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “**Eloi! Eloi! Lama Sabachthani?**” which means, **My God! My God! Why have You abandoned Me?*** (*Psalm 22:1*) Mt. 27:46

***Mk. 15:34** – Psalm 22:1-21 and all of Isaiah 53, prophesy Christ’s crucifixion.

35When some of the people standing there heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling for Elijah.” Mt. 27:47

36One of the men then ran and filled a sponge with vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Him to drink. “Leave him alone now,” he then said. “Let’s see if Elijah really will come and take him down.” Mt. 27:49; Jn. 19:29

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37 Following this, Jesus again cried out with a loud voice, and then breathed His last. Mt. 27:50; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30

38 Immediately following that, a most dramatic thing happened: The great curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom!* Mt. 27:51; Lk. 23:45

***Mk. 15:38** – The great curtain separated the Holy Place in the Temple from the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place has usually been considered to represent heaven and the tearing of the great curtain by the miraculous, Divine hand of God, indicates that the way into Heaven and into the very presence of our Holy God is now open for everyone to enter.

39 When the captain of the soldiers, who was standing there in front of Jesus, heard how He cried out and then immediately died, he said, “Without question, this Man really was the Son of God!” Mt. 27:54; Lk. 23:47

40 Some women were also watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. Mt. 27:56; Lk. 23:49

41 These and many other women who were followers of Jesus were there. They had helped Him while He was in Galilee, and had traveled with Him to Jerusalem. Lk. 23:49

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Jesus Is Buried (Mt. 27:57-61; Lk. 23:50-56; Jn. 19:38-42)

42It was already evening. And since preparations were being made for the Sabbath,*

Mk. 15:42 – “Preparations were being made for the Sabbath.”

The Jews prepared all food and did all other necessary work the day before every Sabbath.

43Joseph from Arimathea took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. A prominent member of the Jewish Council, Joseph was himself looking forward to the day when God would establish His Kingdom on earth. Mt. 27:57-58; Lk. 23:50-57

44Amazed that Jesus had died so soon, Pilate sent for the Roman captain and asked him if Jesus was indeed already dead.

45When the captain confirmed that He was, Pilate gave Joseph permission to take the body.

46So Joseph bought some fine linen cloth. Then He took Jesus' body down from the cross and wrapped it in the linen, and laid the body in a tomb that had been carved out of a wall of rock. Finally he rolled a huge stone to close the entrance to the tomb. Mt. 27:60; Lk. 23:53; Jn. 19:40-41

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⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James were watching as He was laid in the tomb. Mt. 27:61

The Resurrection (Mt. 28:1-8; Lk. 24:1-11; Jn. 20:1-9)

16On Saturday evening, after the Sabbath had ended,* Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and bought perfumed oils, so that they might go to the tomb and pour the perfume on Jesus' body. Mt. 28:1; Lk. 24:1; Jn. 20:1

Mk. 16:1 – “After the Sabbath had ended.” ... *at sundown* ...

²Then very early on Sunday morning, just after the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. Mt. 28:1

³On the way, their question was, “Who will roll the stone away for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

⁴But when they looked up as they were approaching the tomb, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled away.

⁵Upon entering the tomb, they were extremely startled when they discovered a young man there,

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dressed in a long, flowing white robe, sitting at their right.

6“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. But He’s not here, because He has risen back to life again. Look, here’s the place where they laid Him. Mt. 28:5-6; Lk. 24:4-6

7“But go now and tell His followers, and Peter, that He is going ahead of you to Galilee, just as He told you. You’ll see Him there.” Mt. 28:7; Mk. 14:28

8Those women got out of that tomb in a hurry, and ran. Trembling and amazed, they didn’t say anything to anyone because they were too frightened to talk. Mt. 28:8

Jesus Makes Several Appearances (1 Cor. 15:5-8)

9It was early on Sunday morning that Jesus came back to life, and the first person He appeared to was Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons. Lk. 8:2

10She immediately went and told those who had been with Him, who were still mourning and weeping.

11When they heard her say that Jesus was alive and that she had even seen Him, they didn’t believe it. Lk. 24:11

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12 Later that day, Jesus disguised His appearance and talked to two of His followers while they were walking in the country.*

*Mk. 16:12 – See Luke 24:13-35 for a full account.

13 When they finally realized who had been with them, they rushed back and told the others what had happened, but no one believed them either.

14 After these men had reported, however, Jesus suddenly appeared to the Eleven as they were at the table eating. He reprimanded them for their lack of faith and for their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen back to life.

15 Then He told them, “I want you to go to everyone in the whole world and tell them the Great News. Mt. 28:19

16 “Those who believe and are baptized will be saved, but those who refuse to believe will be condemned. Mt. 28:19; Jn. 3:18; Jn. 6:47

17 “And these miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: By using the authority of My name, they will drive out demons. They will speak in new languages.

18 “Even if they pick up a serpent or drink any poison, they will definitely not be harmed. They

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will place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

Jesus Ascends to Heaven (Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9; 1 Pet. 3:22)

¹⁹After the Lord had spoken these words to them, He was taken up into Heaven, where He sat down at the right hand of God. Lk. 24:51

²⁰After this His followers went out and preached everywhere. And the Lord was continually working with them, proving by miracles that what they preached was true. So be it!

Discipleship Questions

Mark Chapter 1

1. Mark's gospel is about: a. Moses b. Elijah c. Jesus
verse 1
2. When a king was planning to visit a city, a messenger was sent ahead to get things ready for his coming, literally straightening and smoothing the roads. In this context, making straight paths for the Lord implies repentance from sin. True or False verses 3, 15
3. Mark includes Old Testament prophecies to support his account of the Good News that Jesus is the Christ. True or False verses 1-3

4. Because early Christians had a great reverence for Scripture, and had only the Old Testament for their Bible, passages foretelling Jesus' coming are regarded as strong proof of His identity. True or False verses 1-3

5. John's mission as the Lord's messenger was to prepare people for the Messiah's coming by instructing them to confess their sins, turn to God for forgiveness, and be baptized. True or False verses 4-5

6. Jesus connected John's prophecy with Pentecost. True or False verse 8 See also Acts 1:5, 8

7. The coming of Christ (the King) brings the kingdom near to the people. True or False verse 15

8. The call to discipleship is definite and demands a response of total commitment. True or False verses 16-18

9. The synagogue provided a place where Jews could study the Scriptures and worship God. Jesus, like Paul, took advantage of the custom that allowed visiting teachers to participate in the worship service by invitation of the synagogue leaders. True or False verses 21-22

10. Jesus' authority in how he taught and in what he did impressed the people. True or False verses 27-28

11. Healing was a testimony to Jesus' divine power, since Jews believed that only God could cure leprosy. True or False verse 41 See also 2 Kings 5:15

12. Jesus' growing popularity with the people and the increasing opposition from the religious leaders finally

made it necessary for him to withdraw from Galilee into surrounding territories. True or False verse 45

Mark Chapter 2

13. Read Mk. 2:1; Mk. 1:21, 29. When, in Capernaum, Jesus probably made his home at Peter's house. True or False

14. Read Mk. 2:2. The crowd's size shows Jesus' popularity. True or False

15. Read Mk. 2:4. The roof would have been flat, constructed of mud, thatch, and branches. How did the paralytic man's friends get Jesus' attention? They dug a hole through the roof above His head.

16. Read Mk. 2:5. What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man's plight? Jesus saw how strong and determined their faith was.

17. Read Mk. 2:9-12. It is easier to say ... *your sins are forgiven* because this claim cannot be directly proved or disproved, while the claim to heal can be. How did Jesus show that He had authority to forgive sins? Jesus showed his ability to heal in order to show his authority to forgive.

18. Read Mk. 2:13-17. Tax collectors levied income and property taxes, while toll collectors took sales taxes, customs, and road tolls. Toll collectors and tax collectors were all hated by Jews because they often gouged the public (Lk. 19:8), and as agents of the Romans, they were regarded as traitors. True or False

Jesus invited Levi, a toll collector, to follow Him? True or False

Jesus likens Himself to a physician who goes where there is genuine need. It is just as absurd for Jesus to refuse to deal with publicly acknowledged sinners as it is for a doctor to refuse to treat the sick. True or False

The repentant person – the one who recognizes he is a sinner and who turns to God – is the object of Jesus' call. True or False

19. Read Mk. 2:18-22. To try to tack the gospel of Jesus to the old legalistic system of Judaism would be like patching an old garment with a new, unshrunk cloth, which will be ruined by the first wash. True or False

20. Read Mk. 2:23-27. If the Sabbath is made for man then the Son of Man, as man's Lord and representative, has authority over it. By this claim Jesus is actually stating equality with God, since the Sabbath is the Lord's day. True or False

Mark Chapter 3

21. Read Mk. 3:1-6. The Pharisees, still accompanying Jesus, carefully observed Him, not hungering for spiritual food, like the crowds, but hoping to: a. hear more. b. accuse Him of working on the Sabbath. c. get some free food.

22. Read Mk. 3:4. Would your interpretation of the law ever demand you to destroy life or do evil?

23. Read Mk. 3:7-12. What is a story of miraculous healing that you have heard?

24. Read Mk. 3:10. How were the crowds approaching Jesus with their needs? Those who had various diseases and sicknesses kept pressing forward to touch Him.

25. Read Mk. 3:11. How did the evil spirits respond to Jesus when they saw Him? They would cause those they were controlling to fall down before Him and cry, “You are the Son of God!” Why?

26. Read Mk. 3:13-19. How did the apostles respond to Jesus’ call? (verse 13-14) They obeyed and came to Him.

27. Read Mk. 3:14. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? To be constantly with Him and to go out to preach.

28. Read Mk. 3:14-15. What did Jesus want His apostles to do? To be with Him. To go out and preach. To heal the sick. To cast out devils.

29. Read Mk. 3:20-30. In your experience, when has faithfulness to Christ led to conflict with others?

What did Jesus’ family think of Him? (Mk. 3:21) That he was out of his mind.

What has following Jesus cost you?

30. Read Mk. 3:27; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Jn. 3:8; Mk. 17:17, 20. One must be stronger than Satan in order to enter his domain, bind him (restrain his action), and free people from his control. Jesus has such power over the devil. True or False

31. Read Mk. 3:28-30. The unpardonable sin is not so much an act as a state of sin, a settled attitude that regards good as evil and evil as good. Share your thoughts.

31. Read Mk. 3:31-35. Who did Jesus designate as His “family”? (verse 34) Those who do God’s will.

32. Read Mk. 3:35. What unique name is given to “whoever does God’s will”? Brother, sister and mother.

Mark Chapter 4

33. Read Mk. 4:1-20. Why did Jesus use parables instead of saying directly what He meant? (verse 2, 11) Those that receive the King (Jesus) have the privilege of understanding the secrets of the Kingdom, but those outside the kingdom only hear a parable.

34. Read Mk. 4:15-19. What are some obstacles that prevent people from accepting the gospel or hanging on to their faith? Not letting God’s Word take root in their hearts. Persecution for their faith in Christ. Earthly problems, the desire for riches, etc.

35. What area of your life does this parable speak?

36. Read Mk. 4:15-20. How does Satan “take away the Word” before it has a chance to take root? Persecution, earthly problems, the desire for riches, etc. See also Lk. 8:11-15.

37. Read Mk. 4:21-25. What will happen to those who use or put into practice what God has measured out to them? (verses 24-25) To the extent you put Jesus’ words into practice, to the same extent you will be blessed with further truth and understanding.

38. Read Mk. 4:24-25. What will happen to those who neglect or misuse the truth God has already revealed to

them? Whoever does not highly prize what he has, even what he now has will be taken from him.

39. Read Mk. 4:26-29. This parable focuses on the seed and its inevitable growth. Just as the earth produces the crops on its own, the consummation of God's Kingdom does not depend on human action. True or False

40. Read Mk. 4:30-34. If Jesus Christ had been sent to earth during our generation, how do you think He would have chosen to tell us His message?

41. Read Mk. 4:30-34; Mt. 25:31-34; 2 Pet. 3:8-13. The main point of this parable is that the kingdom of God seemingly had insignificant beginnings. It was introduced by the despised and rejected Jesus and his 12 unimpressive disciples. But a day will come when its true greatness and power will be seen by the entire world. True or False

42. Read Mk. 4:33-34. How did Jesus' approach to teaching the crowds differ from the way He taught His disciples? He didn't say anything to the crowds without using parables. But when He was alone with His followers, He explained everything to them.

43. Read Mk. 4:35-41. This passage focuses on the greatness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus' authority over natural forces demonstrated His divinity and care for His own. In what specific ways has God shown His care and love for you?

Mark Chapter 5

44. Read Mk. 5:1-20. What was the man's life like before he met Jesus? (verses 3-5) He lived in caves and among

the tombs. He was wild and screamed and cut himself with sharp stones.

45. Read Mk. 5:4. How had the townspeople coped with the demon-possessed man Jesus met? They chained and put iron shackles on him to try to control him.

46. Read Mk. 5:8. Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus? They realized He had the authority to bring judgment on them.

47. Read Mk. 5:8-20. How did Jesus treat the man He met? He treated him with kindness, compassion and brought healing to him.

48. Read Mk. 5:10. What did the demons beg of Jesus? Not to send them away or out of the country.

49. Read Mk. 5:15-20. What was the man's life like after Jesus ordered the demons out of him? He was now in his right mind and dressed.

50. Read Mk. 5:18. Where did the man whom Jesus had helped want to go? He wanted to go with Jesus.

51. Read Mk. 5:19-20. How did the man respond to Jesus' instructions? He went through out Decapolis and told all what Jesus had done for him.

52. Read Mk. 5:21-43. Why did the woman touch Jesus' clothing? (verses 27-28) She said to herself, "If I can just touch His clothes, I'll get well.

53. Read Mk. 5:29. What happened when the woman touched Jesus' cloak? Immediately she was healed.

54. Read Mk. 5:35-36. Whom did Jesus tell not to be afraid and to “just believe”? Jairus.

55. Read Mk. 5:40. How did people react when Jesus expressed confidence that the dead girl would be all right? They laughed at Him in scorn.

56. How does Jesus’ treatment of the sick woman and Jairus offer comfort to us today?

Mark Chapter 6

57. Read Mk. 6:1-6. What does this story tell us is one cost of following Christ? Rejection from others who do not follow Christ.

58. Read Mk. 6:3. Why did the people of Nazareth talk among themselves about Jesus’ family background? Only in Mark is Jesus himself referred to as a carpenter, meaning “Is he not a common worker with his hands like the rest of us?” They saw no reason to believe that he was different from them, much less that he was specially anointed by God.

59. Read Mk. 6:4. What did Jesus say to the people who scoffed at Him? A prophet is respected everywhere, except in his hometown and among his relatives and family members.

60. Read Mk. 6:5-6. What prevented Jesus from doing no more than a few miracles in Nazareth? The people’s unwillingness to believe.

61. Read Mk. 6:7-13; Lk. 9:1-2. What task did Jesus give the disciples? He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God, repentance, and heal the sick, and cast out devils.

etc. What does it mean to preach the Kingdom of God? The word “kingdom” is made up of two words, “king” meaning “absolute ruler; one who rules or presides over.” “Dom” meaning “domain, the territory He rules, that is, His subjects.” We are turning from the authority of Satan unto the authority of God (also called repentance), that we might receive the forgiveness of our sins (Lk. 24:47).

62. Read Mk. 6:8; Mt. 10:9-10. Who was to provide the food and money for the disciples? The worker is worthy of being supported by those to whom he ministers.

63. Read Mk. 6:7, 12. What was the central focus of the mission of the Twelve? The King (Jesus) and His Kingdom. People were to reject Satan’s authority by accepting God’s authority through repentance and faith in Him.. See Luke 24:47.

64. Read Mk. 6:14-29. Herod, disturbed by an uneasy conscience and disposed to superstition, feared that John had come back to haunt him. (verse 16) True or False

65. Read Mk. 6:18-19. What had John told Herod that caused Herodias to hold a grudge against John? “You have broken God’s law by taking your brother’s wife!”

66. Read Mk. 6:20. Why did Herod fear and protect John? He knew he was an upright man, totally dedicated to God.

67. Read Mk. 6:30-44. What does Jesus’ reaction to the crowds tell you about His character and mission? (verse 34) He was full of mercy. He showed pity and compassion in His mission as the Saviour.

68. Read Mk. 6:35-36. What problem did the disciples notice? The people had nothing to eat.

69. Read Mk. 6:42-44. How much food did Jesus provide? Enough to feed 5,000 men besides women and children. See Mt. 14:21.

70. Read Mk. 6:30-44. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach His disciples through this miracle?

71. Read Mk. 6:45-56. Why do you think Jesus, who was the Son of God, spent time in prayer?

How do you think you would have reacted if you had been with the disciples that night?

When has God done something for you that was completely amazing to you? What was it?

Mark Chapter 7

72. Read Mk. 7:1-23. What are some of the traditions in your church?

73. Read Mk. 7:3. Certain unwritten traditions had come to be regarded as equal in authority to the Old Testament. True or False

74. Read Mk. 7:8-9. Years of tradition, Jesus is saying, had brought some Jewish religious practices into conflict with the commands of God. True or False

75. Read Mk. 7:10-13. The precept, “Honor thy father and thy mother,” which included “honoring” by financial support, is among the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:12). It became customary for supposedly pious Jews to claim

that their funds were already designated as a gift to God, when they were confronted with their parents' need. Jews could evade responsibility to parents by declaring their substance Corban, "devoted to God." True or False

76. Read Mk. 7:13. Jesus' quarrel was not with God's Word, but with human misuse of it. True or False

77. Read Mk. 7:20-23. What actually makes a person "unclean?" An evil heart.

78. Read Mk. 7:24-30. What two words identify the woman in this story? (verses 25-26) Greek and Syrophenician. Non-Jewish and from two countries, Syria and Phoenicia.

79. Read Mk. 7: 26. What did the woman in the story want from Jesus? Healing (deliverance) for her daughter.

80. Read Mk. 7:27-28. The woman accepted the priority of Jesus' mission to the Jews but pointed out that Israel's privileges did not exclude Gentiles from enjoying the overflow. God's blessing is so vast that the smallest fraction of it is satisfying. True or False

81. Read Mk. 7:29; Mt. 15:28. The woman's saying demonstrated her faith. True or False

82. Read Mk. 7:31-37. This account is likely part of a larger healing ministry in the Decapolis that Matthew summarized in Matthew 15:29-31. True or False

83. Read Mk. 7:32-34. Why did Jesus resort to this healing procedure when a word could do all that was necessary? Here they asked Him to touch the deaf-mute, so He obliged.

84. Read Mk. 7:35-37; Isa. 35:5-6. Jesus was doing what God had promised to do when he came to redeem His people. True or False

Mark Chapter 8

85. Read Mk. 8:1-13. How did Jesus feel toward the crowd of people that had gathered? (verse 2) He had compassion and concern.

When was a time someone showed compassion to you?

86. Read Mk. 8:2. How long had the crowd in this story been gathered? For three days.

87. Read Mk. 8:5-8. How did Jesus involve His disciples in this problem? He ask what they had then gave it to the disciples to distribute.

88. Read Mk. 8:6. What did Jesus do with the seven loaves and few small fish that the disciples had found? He thanked God for it then gave it to the disciples to distribute.

89. Read Mk. 8:12. Why did Jesus “sigh deeply?” Probably because of their unbelief.

90. Read Mk. 8:12; Mt. 16:2-4. What announcement did Jesus make to the generation of His day? No sign will be given except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

91. Read Mk. 8:14-21. Jesus challenges the disciples to deeper discernment. The disciples apparently failed to realize from the feeding of the five thousand (Mk. 6:30-44) and from the feeding of the four thousand that Jesus can certainly provide for their needs. True or False

92. Mk. 8:14-21. If Jesus had been speaking directly to us, what negative example might He have warned us to watch out for?

93. Read Mk. 8: 22-26; Isa. 35:5. This second laying on of hands is unique in Jesus' healing ministry. Giving sight to the blind was another indication that Jesus was doing what God had promised to do when he came to bring salvation through the Messiah. True or False

94. Read Mk. 8:27-30. "Who do you say that I am?" This is the crucial question in Mark's Gospel. By it the author challenges his readers to consider how they will answer the question as well. True or False Who do you say Jesus is?

95. Read Mk. 8:31-38. In Jewish thought of that day there was no room for a doctrine of a suffering Messiah - to Peter that would be a contradiction in terms. True or False

96. Read Mk. 8:34-38. Jesus teaches how to follow Him and why. List what you feel is important in order to follow Him and why.

Mark Chapter 9

97. Read Mk. 9:1-13. (verse 1) What did Jesus mean when he said that some of the disciples would see the Kingdom of God come with power? There are several possibilities. He could have been foretelling his transfiguration, resurrection and ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, or his second coming.

98. Read Mk. 9:5-6; Prov. 18:7. Peter proves that when you don't know what to say, it's best to be quiet. True or False

99. Read Mk. 9:7-8; Dt. 18:15. "Hear Him!" (v. 7) actually means, "Be obedient to Him." This reflects the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:15. True or False

100. Read Mk. 9:13. Jesus gave John his true significance which John did not even recognize about himself. True or False

101. Read Mk. 9:14-32. (verses 17-18, 25) That the disciples couldn't cast out this demon is surprising because Jesus had commissioned them to do so and they had previously succeeded. The demon was able to resist the disciples, but not the Lord. True or False

102. Read Mk. 9:24. Both faith and unbelief resided in the father's heart. The father begged for Jesus' help to eliminate the latter. True or False

103. Read Mk. 9:28-29. To the disciples' question *why*, Jesus told them *this kind* required spiritual preparation on the part of the exorcist, specifically *prayer and fasting*. True or False

104. Read Mk. 9:33-37; Mt. 18:4. In Jesus value system, being first did not come through aggressiveness and privilege but through humility and by being servant of all. True or False

105. Read Mk. 9:38-41; Num. 11:26-29; Mk. 16:17. Apparently the disciples thought they were the only ones authorized to cast out devils. True or False

106. Read Mk. 9:42-50. (verse 42) The word “offend” refers to hindering discipleship or causing someone to sin. True or False

107. Read Mk. 9:42-48. In what ways is causing another person to sin worse than sinning yourself?

Mark Chapter 10

108. Read Mk. 10:1-12. What do you think makes a marriage strong and lasting?

109. Read Mk. 10:5. How did Jesus explain Moses’ instructions? Moses gave you that law because you are so hard-hearted.

110. Read Mk. 10:6-9. What was God’s original plan for marriage before sin entered the picture? That the two become so devoted to one another that they become like one person.

111. Read Mk. 10:9. How could a person separate “what God has joined together?”

112. How can the church help people with struggling or failed marriages?

113. Read Mk. 10:13-16; Mt. 18:3-5. Mark does not explain what characteristics of children make them fit for the Kingdom of God; Matthew 18:4-5 suggests that the attributes include humility and the ability to receive things simply. What about the behavior of children does God want us to copy?

114. Read Mk. 10:17-31. (verse 18) The rich man wanted to enter the Kingdom of God, and Jesus was

contrasting God's goodness with the man's own human sinfulness. True or False

115. Read Mk. 10:19. Jesus' reply seems strange to Christians who are familiar with Paul's teaching on this subject (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16). In naming five of the 10 Commandments Jesus was not implying that the man could earn eternal life by keeping them; he was telling him what God's standards are and allowing the man to evaluate his own performance. True or False

116. Read Mk. 10:21. The man still lacked one thing: He loved riches more than he loved God, thus breaking the first and most important commandment. Entering the Kingdom of God requires repentance and Jesus helped this man to understand exactly what repentance entailed for him. True or False

117. Read Mk. 10:22. Mark records the rich man's tragic choice. The man departed, still possessing his earthly riches but lacking eternal life. True or False

118. Read Mk. 10:28. The disciples had done what Jesus told the rich man to do – they had given up everything to follow Jesus. True or False

119. Read Mk. 10:32-34. As the Son of God, Jesus had unique knowledge of his upcoming unique death as the Savior of the world. True or False

120. Read Mk. 10:35-45. (verse 37) The brothers' request indicates that James and John correctly understood that Jesus was the Messiah. However, they completely misunderstood what it meant to be a leader in God's kingdom. True or False

121. Read Mk.10:41-45. All of Jesus' disciples needed a new understanding of what leadership in God's Kingdom means. True or False

122. Read Mk. 10:46-52; Luke 4:18-19. Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was concerned with bringing God's Kingdom to the poor, maimed, lame, and blind, and he requested mercy and healing – which was in harmony with Jesus' own understanding. True or False

Mark Chapter 11

123. Read Mk. 11:1-11; Zech. 9:9. (verses 2-3) Jesus had intentionally planned to enter Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zech. 9:9. True or False

124. Read Mk. 11:7-8; Jn. 12:16. The disciples undoubtedly understood that they were witnessing the arrival of the Messiah. True or False

125. Read Mk. 11:9-10. “Hosanna was an exclamation of praise that literally means “save now!” By the first century AD it was no longer used literally as a cry for rescue from enemies, but had become an idiomatic expression of joy and jubilation. True or False

126. Read Mk. 11:12-19. (verse 13) why did the fig tree have no fruit? It was too early in the season for fruit.

127. Read Mk. 11:13-14. What did Jesus do to the fig tree? He cursed it by saying, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”

128. Read Mk. 11:13-17. What do both the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple tell us about Jesus' attitude toward the people of Israel? Jesus did not

curse the fig tree merely because it lacked fruit. Rather, he was performing a prophetic sign act like those of earlier prophets (Isa. 20:1-6; Jer. 13:1-11; 19:1-13; Ezek. 4:1-17. Just as Jesus judged the fruitless fig tree, so too he judged the Temple and the worship of Israel, in which he found no fruit. This judgment was fulfilled in AD 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans.

129. Read Mk. 11:20-26. The withered fig tree gives occasion for Jesus to expound concerning: a. faith b. prayer c. giving d. forgiveness.

130. Read Mk. 11:20-26. On what do answers to prayer depend?

131. Read Mk. 11:27-33. This whole story is a vivid example of what happens to men who will not face the truth. They get themselves in a position that they have nothing they can say. What lessons can we learn from this story?

Mark Chapter 12

132. Read Mk. 12:1-12. Whom do the farmer, servants, and son in the parable represent? The tenants represent the leaders of Israel: the owner represents God; the servants represent the Old Testament prophets; the beloved son represents Jesus, the Son of God; the murder of the son represents Jesus' crucifixion; and the giving of the vineyard to others represents the judgment coming upon Israel. The leaders who were Jesus' contemporaries understood it clearly enough that they sought to kill him.

133. Read Mk. 12:13-17. The Pharisees and Herodians thought they had the perfect question to trap Jesus. But Jesus answered wisely. Jesus said that the coin bearing the emperor's image should be given to the emperor. But our lives, which bear God's image, belong to God. Are you giving God all that is rightfully His?

134. Read Mk. 12:18-27. (verse 18) Who were the Sadducees, and what did they want from Jesus?

135. Read Mk. 12:24-27. In what way were the Sadducees "in error?"

136. Read Mk. 12:24-27. What was wrong with the Sadducees' viewpoint?

137. In what ways do you think Christians today misinterpret what the Scriptures actually say?

138. How can we guard against reading into Scripture what we want it to say?

139. Read Mk. 12:28-34. (verse 28) What significant question did the teacher of the law pose to Jesus?

140. Read Mk. 12:29-31. How did Jesus respond to the man's question?

141. Read Mk. 12:31. What did Jesus say was the second most important commandment?

142. Read Mk. 12:33. What does God value more highly than sacrifices and offerings?

143. Read Mk. 12:35-40. Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1 to show that David considered the Messiah to be his Lord,

not just his son. The religious leaders did not understand that the Messiah would be far more than a human descendant of David; he would be God manifest in the flesh. True or False

144. Read Mk. 12:38-40. Jesus exposed the religious leaders' impure motives. The teachers of the law received no pay, so they depended on the hospitality extended by devout Jews. Some of them used this custom to exploit people, cheating the poor out of everything they had and taking advantage of the rich. Through their pious actions they hoped to gain status, recognition, and respect. What do some Christians do that is like the actions of the teachers of the law?

145. Read Mk. 12:41-44. In the Lord's eyes, this poor widow gave more than all the others put together, though her gift was by far the smallest. The value of a gift is not determined by its amount, but by the spirit in which it is given. True or False

146. How does God evaluate a person's giving?

Mark Chapter 13

147. Read Mk. 13:1-31. (verses 3-4) What did Jesus' disciples ask Him privately on the Mount of Olives?

148. Read Mk. 13:5-8. How did Jesus respond to His disciples' question?

149. Read Mk. 13:11. How did Jesus tell His followers to act when they were arrested for their faith?

150. Read Mk. 13:12-13. What did Jesus tell His followers to do to be assured of eternal life?

151. Read Mk. 13:21-23. What will be the greatest temptation during the “days of distress?”

152. What can we do to avoid being deceived by false teachings about God or spiritual matters?

153. Read Mk. 13:32-37. (verse 34) What will Jesus’ return be like?

154. Read Mk. 13:34. What should the “servants” do to occupy their time while they wait for the owner’s return?

155. Read Mk. 13:37. What did Jesus want us to do?

Mark Chapter 14

156. Read Mk. 14:1-11. When have you ever been criticized for doing something good?

157. Read Mk. 14:3. What amazing thing did a woman do while Jesus was visiting Bethany?

158. Read Mk. 14:4-5. What reaction did the woman’s actions get? Why?

159. Read Mk. 14:6. Whom did Jesus rebuke? Why?

160. Read Mk. 14:12-26. (verse 13) How did Jesus make the arrangements for the Passover meal?

161. Read Mk. 14:13-15. What specific instructions did Jesus give the disciples He sent out?

162. Read Mk. 14:22-24. The central emphasis of the Passover meal was traditionally the sacrificial lamb; where did Jesus place His emphasis?

163. Read Mk. 14:25. What important announcement did Jesus make?

164. Read Mk. 14:26. How did Jesus and the disciples conclude their Passover meal?

165. What does the account of Judas' betrayal of Jesus tell us about God's sovereignty?

166. What does the account of Judas' betrayal of Jesus tell us about our accountability to God?

167. Read Mk. 14:27-31. (verse 27) What did Jesus reveal to His disciples?

168. Read Mk. 14:27. How would Jesus' prediction fulfill Scripture?

169. Read Mk. 14:29. How did Peter respond to Christ's words?

170. Read Mk. 14:30. What did Jesus say about Peter's loyalty?

171. Read Mk. 14:31. What was the reaction when Jesus said that Peter would disown Him?

172. Read Mk. 14:31. What do the disciples' reaction tell us about them?

173. Read Mk. 14:32-42. (verse 32) What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?

174. Read Mk. 14:33-34. What emotions was Jesus feeling?

175. Read Mk. 14:35-36. What did Jesus do in response to His deep sorrow?

176. Read Mk. 14:37. What did Jesus find when He returned to the disciples who were keeping watch?

177. Read Mk. 14:38. How did Jesus instruct the disciples to prevent themselves from falling into temptation?

178. Read Mk. 14:43-52. (verses 43-48) Why did the religious leaders bring a large, armed force to arrest Jesus?

179. Read Mk. 14:44-45. How did Judas greet Jesus? Why?

180. Read Mk. 14:44-45. In what way were Judas' actions contradictory?

181. Read Mk. 14:50-52. Who fled the scene? When?

182. Read Mk. 14:53-65. (verse 55) What did the men of the Sanhedrin want to do to Jesus?

183. Read Mk. 14:55-59. Why did the Sanhedrin have such a difficult time convicting Jesus?

184. Read Mk. 14:61. What was Jesus' response to all the accusations against Him?

185. Read Mk. 14:61. What did the high priest finally do in an attempt to speed up the trial?

186. Read Mk. 14:62. What did Jesus tell the Sanhedrin?

187. Read Mk. 14:64. What did the Sanhedrin consider blasphemy?

188. Read Mk. 14:64. To what punishment did the Sanhedrin sentence Jesus? Why?

189. Read Mk. 14:66-72. (verse 67) Who confronted Peter about his association with Jesus?

190. Read Mk. 14:68, 70. How did Peter respond to the servant girl's questioning?

191. Read Mk. 14:72. How did Peter react when he realized what he had done?

192. What does this story tell us about human nature?

193. What can we learn about the cost of being a disciple of Christ's from this passage?

Mark Chapter 15

194. Read Mk. 15:1-15. (verse 1) What did all the religious leaders decide to do with Jesus?

195. Read Mk. 15:2. What did Pilate question Jesus about?

196. Read Mk. 15:3-4. What prompted Pilate to goad Jesus about defending Himself?

197. Read Mk. 15:3-5. What amazed Pilate?

198. Read Mk. 15:6-8. Who was Barabbas and what role did he play in this situation?

199. Read Mk. 15:14. What reason did the crowd give Pilate to crucify Jesus?
200. Read Mk. 15:15. What finally happened to Jesus? Why?
201. When is it unimportant to defend ourselves or our actions?
202. Read Mk. 15:16-20. What kind of suffering did Jesus undergo even before being crucified?
203. Read Mk. 15:17. Why did the soldiers put a purple robe and a crown on Jesus?
204. Read Mk. 15:19. Why did the soldiers fall on their knees before Jesus?
205. What do you think the soldiers had heard about Jesus?
206. Read Mk. 15:21-32. (verse 21) Why did Jesus not carry the cross Himself?
207. Read Mk. 15:26. What was significant about the notice that was placed on the cross above Jesus?
208. Why is the tragic story about Christ called “good news?”
209. Read Mk. 15:33-41.(verse 33) What unusual occurrence took place as Jesus was dying?
210. Read Mk. 15:34. What did Jesus say “at the ninth hour?”

211. Read Mk. 15:38. What happened right after Jesus' death?

212. Read Mk. 15:39. How did the centurion react to Jesus' crucifixion and death?

213. Read Mk. 15:42-47. (verse 43) What kind of man was Joseph of Arimathea?

214. Read Mk. 15:43-46. What do Joseph's actions tell us about his own understanding of Jesus?

215. Read Mk. 15:45. How did Pilate respond to Joseph's request?

216. Read Mk. 15:47. Who witnessed Jesus' burial?

Mark Chapter 16

217. Read Mk. 16:1-20. (verse 4) What did the women see when they got to the tomb?

218. Read Mk. 16:6, 8. How did the women react to the man dressed in white?

219. Read Mk. 16:6-7. What did the angel tell the women to do?

220. Read Mk. 16:7. To whom did the angel want the women to tell his message?

221. Read Mk. 16:9. To whom did the resurrected Jesus appear first?

222. Read Mk. 16:11-12. How did Jesus' disciples respond each time someone told them that He had risen from the dead?

223. Read Mk. 16:15-18. What instructions did Jesus give to His followers?

224. Read Mk. 16:20. What did the disciples do after Jesus had left earth to return to heaven?

225. What can we learn from this passage about the importance of baptism?

226. What does it mean to have faith in God or Christ?

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