

**Mark wrote this good news
about Jesus
(The book in the Holy Bible
called Mark)
About this book**

The Holy Bible has 4 books about the things that Jesus did, and the messages he told to people when he was here on the earth, about 2,000 years ago. Those books are in the 2nd part of the Holy Bible, called the *New Testament*. The men that wrote them were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They wrote their books after Jesus went back to heaven. Most of the things in their books happened in the country we now call Israel.

This book has everything that Mark wrote about Jesus. It is important for us today because it tells us about the good things that Jesus did, and the messages that he brought to us from God.

Mark was a young man when Jesus was here on the earth. He probably knew Jesus and Jesus's special workers very well. Some of the things he wrote about are things he probably saw happen, and the rest he probably heard about from Peter and other people that saw them happen. Mark wrote this book about 20 or 30 years after those things happened.

Mark was sometimes called John Mark. His mother had a house in Jerusalem city, and after

Jesus went back to heaven, his followers sometimes met together in Mark's mother's house (see Acts 12:12). Some time later, Paul and Barnabas went to lots of different places to tell people about Jesus, and they took Mark with them to help them (see Acts 13:5; 15:36-39; 2 Timothy 4:11). He was a friend of Peter and a cousin of Barnabas (see Colossians 4:10).

John baptised people

¹ This story is good news. It is all about Jesus Christ, God's son. The story starts like this.

²⁻³ A long time before Jesus was born, God told a man called Isaiah to write in God's book about something God was going to do for Jesus. And it happened the way Isaiah wrote. He wrote this, "God will send a man to get everything ready for him.

That man will talk about him and make a way for people to listen to him.

That man will be out in the bush, and he will call out to people, and he will say, 'You mob get ready.

God is coming to this country, so you have to get ready for him.

It is like when a big boss comes, and you have to make a good road for him.' ""*

⁴⁻⁶ Isaiah was talking about a man called John. God sent him to get things ready for Jesus, so he started to tell people God's message. He lived out in the bush and wore rough clothes made

* **1:2-3** Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1

out of camel's hair, and a leather belt. He ate grasshoppers and bush honey.*

John talked to people out there in the bush. He said, "You mob have to be really sorry for the wrong way you are living. You have to turn right around and live God's way." He also told them, "If you do that, I will baptise you. That means, I will take you through a special washing ceremony. And God will not do payback for the bad things you did."

A lot of people went out into the bush to listen to John. They came from the city called Jerusalem and from other towns in that country called Judea. Some people told John that they were sorry for the wrong things they did, so he baptised them in the Jordan River.

⁷ John told them, "A man will come to this country later. He is more important than me, and he is stronger than me. I'm not good enough to untie his shoes. I'm just nothing. ⁸ You see, I baptised you just with water, but this new man will put the Holy Spirit in you. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

John baptised Jesus

⁹ At that time, Jesus was living in a town called Nazareth, in Galilee country. Then Jesus left his home, and he walked all the way south to a place on the Jordan River. John was baptising people there. ¹⁰ After he got to that place, Jesus went down into the water and John baptised him. As he came up out of the water, Jesus looked up, and

* 1:4-6 2 Kings 1:8

he saw the sky split open, and he saw the Holy Spirit. It looked just like a pigeon, and it flew down to Jesus. ¹¹ And God said to Jesus, “You are my son. I love you very much, and I’m very happy with you.”*

Satan tested Jesus

¹² Straight away, the Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the bush. ¹³ Jesus stayed out there for 40 days. And Satan went to him and tried to trick him. Satan is the boss over all the bad spirits. He tried to make Jesus do something bad. But Jesus didn’t do it. There were wild animals in that place, but angel messengers went and looked after Jesus.

Jesus went back to Galilee

¹⁴ One day, that country’s government boss was angry with John the Baptist, so he sent some soldiers to grab John and put him in jail. After that, Jesus went back to Galilee country, and he told everyone God’s good news. ¹⁵ He said, “Now is the right time for God to take people into his family. You mob have to take notice and turn right around and live God’s way. You have to believe this good news.”*

Jesus told some fishermen to leave their job and follow him

¹⁶ One day, Jesus walked next to a big lake, called Lake Galilee, and he saw 2 men throwing a net into the water to catch fish. That was their

* **1:11** Genesis 22:2; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 12:18; Mark 9:7

* **1:15** Matthew 3:2

job. One man was called Simon, and the other man was his young brother Andrew.

¹⁷ Jesus said, "I want you 2 to come with me. I want you to stop catching fish and start catching people for me." ¹⁸ Straight away, Simon and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

¹⁹ Jesus kept walking along next to the water, and he saw James and John getting their nets ready to catch fish. And their father Zebedee was with them too. ²⁰ Like before, Jesus called out to James and John to stop their work and follow him. Straight away, they left their father and the other work-men in the boat, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus forced a bad spirit to leave a man

²¹ Jesus and his followers went to a town called Capernium. On Saturday they went to the Jewish meeting house, and Jesus taught God's word to the people. You see, Saturday was their day to rest and show respect to God. ²² Jesus talked with clear and strong words, and the people listened to him, and they were really surprised. They knew that he was teaching God's words really straight. The Jewish law teachers didn't talk like that.*

²³ Then, in the middle of the meeting, a man with a bad spirit in him called out, ²⁴ "Leave us, Jesus from Nazareth. Why do you trouble us bad spirits? Are you going to finish us up? We know you. You are God's special man."

* **1:22** Matthew 7:28-29

²⁵ Jesus talked to the bad spirit strongly. He said, “Be quiet. Come out of him.”

²⁶ The bad spirit knocked the man down and made him shake and scream out loud as it came out of him, and then it went away.

²⁷ All the people were watching, and they were really surprised. They asked each other, “What’s going on? This man is teaching us something new, and he has so much power. He tells bad spirits to get out of people, and they do what he tells them to do. They just go away.”

²⁸ Then all those people went out and told everyone about Jesus. Everyone in Galilee country heard that story about him.

Jesus made a lot of sick people better

²⁹ After that, Jesus left the meeting house and went with Simon and Andrew to their house. James and John went with them. ³⁰ Simon’s mother-in-law was sick. She was lying in her bed, really hot and sweating a lot. They told Jesus, “She is very sick.” ³¹ So he held her hand and started to lift her up. Straight away, she got better. Then she got up, and she gave them some food to eat.

³² Late that afternoon, just after the sun went down, all the people from that town got all the sick people, and the people with bad spirits in them, and they brought them all to Simon’s house. ³³ A big mob of people were there outside that house. ³⁴ Jesus made lots of sick people better, and he forced lots of bad spirits to go out of people. The bad spirits knew that Jesus

was God's son, but Jesus wouldn't let them tell everyone. He forced those bad spirits to be quiet.

Jesus prayed

³⁵ The next day, Jesus got up very early, before the sun came up, and he walked out from the town to pray by himself. ³⁶ Then Simon and the others went and looked everywhere for Jesus. ³⁷ After they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "Come on, let's go. I have to go to the other towns around here too, and tell everyone the good news. That's the job I came to do."

³⁹ So Jesus went all around Galilee country, talking to people in their meeting houses, and telling them God's story. And he forced bad spirits to go out of lots of people.*

A man had a bad skin sickness, but Jesus made him better

⁴⁰ A man walked up to Jesus. He had a really bad skin sickness. He got down on his knees in front of Jesus to show him respect, and he kept on asking Jesus to make him better. That man said, "I know that if you want to, you can make me better."

⁴¹ Jesus felt really sorry for the sick man, and said, "I do want to make you better." Then Jesus touched him with his hand, and said, "You are better now." ⁴² And straight away, that man was better.

* **1:39** Matthew 4:23; 9:35

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Then Jesus told him strongly, “I don’t want you to tell anyone about this. But I want you to go to God’s ceremony house and show your skin to the leader of the Jewish ceremonies there, so that he can see that you are better. And you have to do the right ceremony that Moses gave us, to say thank you to God. When you do that ceremony, everyone will know that you are better.”*

⁴⁵ But the man didn’t do what Jesus said. He went away and told everyone, “Jesus made me better.” After people heard the man’s story they went to Jesus from everywhere. Lots of people went to him and stood around him. So he couldn’t go into the towns any more, because there were too many people. So he had to stay out in the bush. But people still came from everywhere and found him, even in the bush.

2

Some men carried their sick friend to Jesus

¹ Some time later, Jesus went back to the town called Capernium. The people heard that Jesus was at a house there, ² so they all went to see him. Soon the house was too full and there was a big mob outside too.

³ Jesus was inside the house, teaching the people God’s story. Then ⁴ men brought a crippled man to that house. He couldn’t walk so they carried him on a swag. They wanted to get that man close to Jesus, so that Jesus could make him better. ⁴ But those men found a lot of

* **1:43-44** Leviticus 14:1-32

people blocking the house. So they carried the sick man up on to the flat roof of the house and made a hole in it. Then they picked up the sick man on his swag and put him down through the hole into the house where Jesus was.

⁵ Jesus saw them do that, and so he knew that they really trusted him. Then Jesus said to the crippled man, “You know all the bad things you did? I say you are not guilty of those things, and God will not punish you.”

⁶ But some of the Jewish law teachers didn't like Jesus saying that. Those law teachers were thinking, ⁷ “He can't say that. Only God can talk like that. This man is talking like he is God. He can't talk like that. He is shaming God.”

⁸⁻⁹ Straight away, Jesus knew what the Jewish law teachers were thinking, so he said to them, “You are thinking the wrong way. I might say to this man, ‘You did bad things, but I say you are not guilty of them.’ Or I might say to him, ‘Get up, pick up your swag and go home.’ I can do both of those things. ¹⁰ I will show you that God made me the boss over both of those things, so I can say that people are not guilty, and God will not punish them. I'm God's special man from heaven, and I have the power to say those things, and I have the power to do those things.”

Then Jesus looked at the crippled man and said, ¹¹ “Come on, get up, pick up your swag and go home.”

¹² Straight away, that man got up, and he picked up his swag in front of all the people,

and he walked out of the house and went home. Everybody there saw him do it, and they were really surprised. They started talking about it. They praised God, telling him that he is really good. They said, "We've never seen anything like this before."

¹³ After that, Jesus left the house and walked along next to the lake. The people from the town kept coming to him, so he kept on teaching them.

Jesus told a tax man to join his followers

¹⁴ At that time, the Roman people were the bosses over all that country, and they got some Jewish people to take tax money from the other Jewish people and give it to the Roman government. One of those tax men was called Levi, and his father's name was Alfius. Jesus walked along, and he saw Levi and said to him, "I want you to be one of my followers. Come on, follow me." And straight away, Levi stood up and went with Jesus.

¹⁵ Later that day, Jesus and his followers were eating some food at Levi's house. There were lots of people there. Some of them were men that used to get tax money from people and give it to the Roman government, and some other people there didn't live God's way. ¹⁶ Some of the Jewish law teachers saw Jesus eating with all those people. Those law teachers also belonged to the Pharisee mob. They were really strong for the law, so they asked Jesus's followers, "Why does Jesus eat with those people that don't live God's way?"

¹⁷ Jesus heard them, and said to them, “Listen, sick people need a doctor, but healthy people don’t need a doctor. I’m telling you, I’m like a doctor. You mob reckon these people do bad things, so I’m here to help them turn around and do good things. But you mob think you never do anything wrong yourselves, so I can’t help you.”

Jesus talked about not eating food

¹⁸ The mob called Pharisees, that were strong for the Jewish law, they sometimes stopped eating food for a while to show God that they respected him. The followers of John the Baptist did the same. Some people went to Jesus and asked him, “How come your followers don’t stop eating food to show God that you respect him, you know, just like the Pharisee mob and John’s followers do?”

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “At a wedding ceremony everybody is happy, and they all eat food together with the man that is getting married. It’s the same way for my followers. I’m still here, so they are happy and don’t need to stop eating food. Not yet. ²⁰ One day, my enemies will take me away, then my followers will be sad, and they will stop eating food.”

²¹ Then Jesus told them 2 picture stories about the things he was teaching, to get them to start thinking a new way. He said, “If you have an old coat with a hole in it, you can’t fix that hole with a new bit of cloth. If you try to do that, and then if you wash it, the new cloth will tear away from the old cloth, and the coat will still be useless.

²² And this is another story. You don't put new drink into an old cracked bottle. That drink will all leak out and you will lose it. You have to put new drink into new bottles."

Jesus talked about the Jewish rest day

²³ One day, on the Jewish rest day, Jesus and his followers walked through a garden that had seed food growing in it. They walked along and they got a bit hungry, so his followers grabbed some of the seeds to eat.* ²⁴ Some of the Pharisee mob saw Jesus's followers doing that. That mob were strong for the Jewish law, so they got angry. They said to Jesus, "Your mob are doing the wrong thing. Our Jewish law says that today is the rest day. But your mob are getting seeds off those plants. That is work. They are breaking our law."

²⁵⁻²⁶ Jesus said to them, "Remember the story about David and his men. You know, it was when Abiathar was the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. David and his men were really hungry, and they didn't have any food. So David went into God's ceremony place and got the special bread. Only the men that look after the Jewish ceremonies can eat that bread. But David and his men ate that special bread, and so they broke our Jewish law, but God didn't punish them."*

²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Listen to me now. God gave us the rest day to help us, not just to give us another law to follow. ²⁸ Listen, I am

* **2:23** Deuteronomy 23:25
Leviticus 24:9

* **2:25-26** 1 Samuel 21:1-6;

God's special man from heaven, and I'm boss over everything. I am even the boss of our Jewish rest day. So I'm not worried about my followers grabbing some seeds to eat."

3

Jesus made a man's hand better on the Jewish rest day

¹ Jesus went to the Jewish meeting house again on another rest day, and he saw a man with one hand that was no good. It was all dried up and useless. ² Some of the Pharisee mob were there. They were strong for the Jewish law. They wanted to make trouble for Jesus, so they watched him there. They wanted to see if he was going to help the man with the dried up hand, and make it better on their Jewish rest day. If he did that, they were going to say, "He worked on the rest day, so he broke the law."

³ Jesus knew they were thinking like that, and so he said to the man, "Come here and stand in front of everybody, so they can see you."

⁴ Then Jesus said to the Pharisee mob, "What does our law say about our rest day? Is it right to do good things on our rest day, or is it right to do bad things? Can I make this man better? Or can I hurt him?" The Pharisee mob said nothing.

⁵ Jesus looked at them. They didn't care about people, they only worried about their law, and that made Jesus really angry. And it made him really sad too. Then Jesus said to the man with the useless hand, "Hold out your hand." The

man put his hand out, and straight away it was better. It wasn't dried up any more.

⁶ Then the Pharisee mob went away and had a meeting with another mob of Jewish leaders. That other mob were good friends with the big boss called Herod. At that meeting they tried to work out a way to kill Jesus.

A big mob followed Jesus to the big lake

⁷ Jesus and his followers went away to the big lake, called Lake Galilee, and a big mob of people followed them. ⁸ Those people came from a lot of places. They came from Galilee country, and from Judea country, and from Idjulia country, and some people came from Jerusalem city, and other people came from the country near the towns called Tyre and Sidon, and some people came from the other side of the Jordan River. All those people heard about the things that Jesus did, so they wanted to see him themselves.

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus made lots of people better that day, and a lot more people wanted to touch him to get better too. A lot of people pushed up close to him, so he said to his followers, "Get a boat ready for me. I might need more room. If they push me too much, I will get up on that boat."*

¹¹ Some of the people had bad spirits living inside them. Every time those people saw Jesus, the bad spirits pushed them down to the ground and they shouted out, "You are God's son."

* **3:9-10** Mark 4:1; Luke 5:1-3

¹² And every time they shouted out, Jesus told them strongly to stay quiet. He said, "Don't tell anyone that I'm really God's son."

Jesus picked out 12 men to be his special workers

¹³ One day, Jesus walked up a hill and called out to some of the people to follow him. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Then Jesus picked out 12 of them. He wanted them to be his special workers. Jesus told them, "You mob will walk around with me and live with me, and after that, I will send you to other places to tell people God's good news, and God will give you the power to force bad spirits out of people."

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ These are the names of those 12 men that Jesus picked out,

- Simon. Jesus gave him another name. He called him *Peter*.
- James and John. They were Zebedee's sons, and they were loud men, so Jesus gave them another name. He called them *Thunder men*.
- Andrew
- Philip
- Bartholomew
- Matthew
- Thomas
- James. He was the son of Alfius.
- Thadius
- Simon. He used to be one of the mob that wanted to fight the Roman government bosses.
- Judas Iscariot. Some time later he turned against Jesus.

Jesus is stronger than Satan

²⁰ Jesus went into a house, and a big mob of people came there to see him. They were a really big mob of people, so Jesus and his followers were really busy, and they couldn't even stop and eat some food. ²¹ Somebody went and told Jesus's family about him. So his family said, "He is mad," and they went to get him. They wanted to take him home to look after him.

²² Some teachers of the Jewish law that were from Jerusalem were there in that place. They said, "The boss over all the bad spirits is living inside Jesus. That bad spirit boss is called Beelzebul, and he is also called Satan. He is the one that gives Jesus the power to force bad spirits out of people."*

²³ Jesus knew the law teachers were rubbishing him like that, so he called out to them and said, "Come here and listen to me." Then he told them stories to teach them. He said, "Think about Satan, the boss over the bad spirits. Do you reckon he fights against his own mob of bad spirits? That doesn't make sense. ²⁴ Listen to me. If a tribe splits up into 2 mobs that fight against each other, that tribe will get weak and finish up. ²⁵ In the same way, people in a family, if they fight each other all the time, they will split up and will stop being a family. ²⁶ So, if Satan is fighting against his own mob of bad spirits, he will get weak and will not have any power. So Satan never does that. You have got it all wrong.

²⁷ Listen to this picture story. A man wanted to take some things from a strong man's house.

* **3:22** Matthew 9:34; 10:25

First he tied up that strong man. After that, he took all the strong man's things. Well, in that story Satan is like that strong man, and I'm like the man that tied him up, and now I'm taking my people away from him.

²⁸ Listen, people might do bad things, and they might say bad things against God, but later, if they are sorry for those bad things, God can say they are not guilty. ²⁹ But if somebody says bad things about the Holy Spirit, they are always guilty. God will blame them and punish them for ever.”*

³⁰ That's what Jesus said to those Jewish law teachers. You see, they reckoned that Jesus had a bad spirit in him. That is the reason why Jesus talked so straight to them.

Jesus talked about his true family

³¹ Jesus's mother and his young brothers came to the house where Jesus was teaching, and they sent somebody in to tell him to come out and talk to them. ³² There was a big mob of people sitting around Jesus, listening to him at that time. The people said to him, “Your mother and your younger brothers are outside looking for you.”

³³⁻³⁴ Jesus looked around at the people sitting there and said, “Do you want to know my real family? You just have to look around. These people here are my real family. ³⁵ My real family are the people that listen to God, and that do what he says. Those people are my brothers, and my sisters, and my mothers.”

* **3:29** Luke 12:10

4

Jesus told a story about seeds and ground

¹ Jesus went down to the lake again, and he started to teach people. A big mob of people went to listen to him, so he got into a boat and sat in it. He was a little bit away from the dry ground. All the people stayed on the dry ground and listened to his words.* ² He told them picture stories to teach them lots of things.

Jesus told them this story. He said, ³ “You mob listen to me now. A man wanted to grow some seed food in a garden. ⁴ He threw the seeds all over the garden.

Some seeds went too far and fell on the road. The road was hard, so the seeds couldn’t grow there. Some birds saw those seeds lying there, so they ate them and finished them up.

⁵⁻⁶ And some seeds went another way. They fell on ground that had too much rock in it. Those seeds grew up really fast, but they had too much rock and only a little bit of ground, so when the sun got hot, they dried up and died.

⁷ Some other seeds fell into the rubbish grass that was growing right next to the garden. Those seeds tried to grow, but the rubbish grass blocked them, so they couldn’t grow properly. They didn’t grow any new seeds on them.

⁸ But some of those seeds fell on really good ground, and those seeds grew properly and became seed food plants. When they were ready, they had really big mobs of new seeds on them.”

* **4:1** Luke 5:1-3

⁹ Then Jesus said, “You’ve got ears, so you have to listen to me properly, and take notice of my words.”

Jesus told stories to teach people

¹⁰ Some time later, Jesus came away from that big mob of people. Then just his 12 special workers and a few other people sat around him. They said to him, “You tell us picture stories, but we can’t understand them. What are your stories all about?”

¹¹ Jesus said, “You mob follow me, so God wants you to know what my stories are all about, so I will tell you what they mean. Those stories are about how God gets people into his family. But other people don’t follow me, so they only get the picture stories. I will not tell them what they mean. ¹² You know, God got one of his men to write these words, and they are in God’s book. He wrote,

‘People will look with their eyes at what I do,
but they will not try to understand what it means.

They will hear my words with their ears, but they will not try to understand them properly.

If they do understand me properly, then they will turn around and come back to God, and then God will not blame them for the bad things they did. But they don’t want to know about that.’

And those things are happening now.”*

This is what the story about seeds and ground means

* **4:12** Isaiah 6:9-10

¹³ Jesus kept on talking. He said, “Why can’t you understand this picture story? If you can’t understand this easy story, you will not understand the other stories that I’m going to tell you.

¹⁴ Listen to me again. In my story, a man threw the seeds into his garden, to grow some food. He is a picture of somebody that tells God’s word to people.

¹⁵ I said that some seeds fell on the road, and birds ate them up. Those seeds are a picture for God’s word, and the birds are a picture of Satan, the boss over the bad spirits. When some people hear God’s word, Satan makes them forget it, so they take no notice of its message.

¹⁶ In my story there was ground with too much rock in it. That is a picture of people that listen to God’s word and they are happy about it, and they start to take notice of it. ¹⁷ But other people see them believing that word, and those other people make trouble for them, so they stop taking notice of God’s word. They soon turn their back and walk away from it.

¹⁸ In my story the man threw some seeds into rubbish grass, and that grass blocked them, so they couldn’t grow. This is a picture of people that hear God’s word, ¹⁹ but after that, they let other things stop them, so they don’t live properly for God. They worry too much about the things they want in this life. They start to think too much about money, and they trick themselves. They want a lot of different things all the time, and they worry too much about

all those things. They just think about what they want for themselves, and that stops them listening properly to God's word, so they can't live properly for God.

²⁰ In my story, the seeds that fell on the good ground grew properly, and after those plants grew up big, they made lots of new seeds. This is a picture of people that are ready to listen to God's word, and do what he says. When they believe God's word, they grow stronger and stronger for God, and they live God's way."

Jesus told a picture story about a light

²¹ Then Jesus said, "When somebody lights a candle, they don't put it under a bowl. And they don't put that candle under their bed. No way. People put candles up high, so everyone can see clearly.* ²² Well, just like that, God wants people to understand the things that are true. He will not hide them away. You see, there are some things that God hasn't told anyone yet, but people will know them soon. It will be like a light will shine on them.* ²³ You've all got ears, so you have to listen to me properly, and take notice of my words."

²⁴⁻²⁵ Then Jesus said, "Make sure you listen to the right message and think about it properly. When you really take notice of a true message, God will help you understand it, and he will help you to know more and more of his word. But if you don't want to listen to that message, God will

* **4:21** Matthew 5:15; Luke 11:33 * **4:22** Matthew 10:26; Luke 12:2

stop you from understanding the little bit you did hear.”*

God's family grows like plants

²⁶⁻²⁹ Jesus kept on teaching. He said, “I want you to know how God’s family grows. This is another picture story. A man wanted to grow some seed food, so he threw some seeds on the ground in his garden. Then that man walked away and left the seeds there. Those seeds grew all by themselves in that ground, and that man didn’t know what made those seeds grow. He just left them there for a few months, and they grew. At first the long stick part grew, and after that, the head part grew with all the seeds inside it. Then, when the seeds were ready, that man cut those plants down and picked up the seed food. God is boss for everyone, and his family will grow just like the plants in that story.”*

Jesus talked more about God's family

³⁰ Jesus talked some more. He said, “Do you know what God’s family is like? I will tell you another picture story to help you understand it. ³¹ God’s family is like a little seed, like the seed of the plant we call *mustard*. Its seeds are very little. ³² When somebody puts one of those little seeds into the ground, it grows and grows. Later it gets really big with lots of branches. It gets bigger than all the other plants in a vegetable garden, and birds can sit down in the shade of its branches, and they can make their nests there

* **4:24-25** Matthew 7:2; 13:12; 25:29; Luke 6:38; 19:26 * **4:26-29**
Joel 3:13

too. Well, that is a picture of how God's family will grow."

³³ Jesus taught the people this way whenever they were ready to listen. ³⁴ Whenever he talked to all the people, he used picture stories. But later, when Jesus was sitting down with only his followers, he told them what those stories really mean.

Jesus told the storm to stop and be quiet

³⁵ On that same day, while Jesus was teaching, the sun started to go down. He was still sitting in the boat, so he stopped teaching and told his followers to take him across the lake. ³⁶ So they left all the other people behind, and his followers started to take him across the lake in their boat. Some other people got into their boats and followed them.

³⁷ A little bit later a really strong storm came. The wind got very strong, and the waves started to fill the boat with water, so it was starting to sink. ³⁸ Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. His followers were frightened, so they woke him up, and they shouted at him, "Teacher, we will all drown, and you don't care. Why don't you do something?"

³⁹ Jesus opened his eyes, then he stood up, and he talked strongly to the wind and the water. He said, "Stop. Be quiet." Straight away, the wind stopped and the water lay down flat. Everything was quiet and still.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to his followers, "Why are you so frightened? You should know by now that you can trust me."

⁴¹ They said to each other, “Look. The wind and the water listen to this man, and they do what he says. He is really powerful.” So they were really surprised and frightened.

5

Jesus forced bad spirits out of a man

¹ Then Jesus and his followers went to the other side of the lake, to the country called Gerasene.

²⁻⁵ There was a man there that had a bad spirit in him. He was mad. He camped in the cemetery there.

Before Jesus came to that place, that man walked around in the cemetery, and all over the hills there, and he yelled out and screamed all the time. He did that in the day time and also at night time. And he cut himself with stones. People couldn't tie him up, not even with chains. They tried to do that lots of times. They tied up his hands and his feet, but it was no good. He was too strong. He just broke those chains every time. Nobody was strong enough to hold him or make him sit down quiet.

When Jesus got out of the boat, ⁶ that mad man saw him from a long way off. He ran right up to Jesus. The spirit in him knew that Jesus was stronger than him, so he got down on his knees in front of Jesus.

⁷⁻⁸ Jesus said to the bad spirit, “Come out of this man.”

But the spirit in him made him yell at Jesus, “Why did you come here? I know you. You are Jesus. You are the son of God. He is the big boss

over everything. Promise me truly that you will not hurt me.”

⁹ Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

He said, “Our name is *Big Mob*. You see, we are a mob of bad spirits inside this man. ¹⁰ Please don’t send us away from this country.”

¹¹ There were about 2,000 pigs feeding themselves on the hill nearby. ¹² The bad spirits asked Jesus, “Can we go into that big mob of pigs over there?”

¹³ So Jesus sent those bad spirits out of the man and let them go into the pigs. Then those pigs went mad, and they ran down the steep hill into the lake, and they drowned themselves in the water.

¹⁴ The men that looked after the pigs were frightened, and they ran back to their town, and they told everyone what happened. They told that story to the people in the town, and they told it to the people that lived outside of the town too. A lot of people wanted to see what happened, ¹⁵ so they ran out to that place where Jesus was. They saw that man sitting down quiet and wearing clothes. He wasn’t mad any more. Then those people got frightened. ¹⁶ The men that looked after the pigs told them the story about the man and the pigs. ¹⁷ Then all that mob started to ask Jesus strongly to go away from their country and leave them alone.

¹⁸ Jesus listened to them, and he started to get into the boat. Then the man that used to have the bad spirits in him, asked Jesus, “Please, can I come with you?”

¹⁹ Jesus said, “No, I want you to go back to your family, and to your own mob. I want you to tell everybody about the good things God did for you. Tell them that God felt sorry for you, and he was really good to you.”

²⁰ Then that man went all over that country called *Ten Towns*, and he told everybody that story. He told them all about the good things Jesus did for him. Everybody that heard him was really surprised.

Jesus made a woman better

²¹ Jesus and his followers got back into the boat and went to the other side of the lake. A really big mob of people were waiting for them there, beside the water.

²² There was a Jewish meeting house near there. One of the bosses of that meeting house saw Jesus and went up to him, and he got down on his knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect. That man’s name was Jairus. ²³ He strongly asked Jesus to help his daughter. He said, “My little girl is really sick, and I think she will die. Please come and put your hands on her. I know that you can make her better, so that she will not die.”

²⁴ Jesus listened to the man and started to go with him. The big mob of people followed them. They went up really close and pushed up against Jesus, all around him.

²⁵ While they were walking along, a sick woman was there. A long time before this, she started bleeding, and that bleeding didn’t stop.

²⁶ She went to every doctor, but none of them could help her. She spent all her money trying to get better, but it was no good, she only got worse. She kept on bleeding for 12 years. ²⁷⁻²⁸ Then somebody told her about Jesus, and she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his coat, I will get better.” So she came up behind Jesus, and she touched his coat. ²⁹ And straight away, her bleeding stopped. She knew she was better.

³⁰ Jesus knew straight away that power went out from him, so he stopped walking, turned around, and asked the people, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ Jesus’s followers said, “There are big mobs of people here pushing up against you. Why do you ask, ‘Who touched me?’ Lots of people touched you.”

³² Jesus kept on looking around to see the person that used his power. ³³ That woman knew that she was the person that got better, so she was very frightened, and she was shaking. She came to Jesus, and she got down on her knees in front of him, to show him respect, and she told him her story. She told him that she touched him. ³⁴ Jesus said to her, “My friend, you really believed in me, so now you are better. You can go home, and you will not have any more trouble. You are not sick any more.”

Jesus made a dead girl alive again

³⁵ While Jesus was talking to the woman, a man from Jairus’s house came to him with bad news.

He said, "I'm sorry, it's too late. Your little girl is dead. Don't bother Jesus now."

³⁶ Jesus heard the man's words, but he took no notice of them. He said to Jairus, "Don't be frightened. Just trust me." ³⁷ Then Jesus told the people, "Don't come with me to this man's house." He only let a few people go with him. They were the girl's mother and father, and 3 of his special workers, Peter, James and John. They were the only people that went with him.

³⁸ They got close to the house, and Jesus heard other people inside it making a big noise. They were crying for that dead girl and shouting out loud. ³⁹ Jesus went into the house, and he asked them, "Why are you making all this noise? That little girl isn't dead. She is just sleeping."

⁴⁰ But they just laughed at Jesus. So he told them all to get out of the house. Then Jesus said to the girl's mother and father, and to his 3 followers, "You come with me." Then they went together into the room where the girl lay.

⁴¹ Jesus held the girl's hand and talked to her in their language. He said, "*Talitha koum.*" That means, *Get up, little girl.* ⁴² Straight away, that girl got up and walked around the room. Her mother and father were really surprised. Their little girl was alive again. She was 12 years old at that time.

⁴³ Jesus told them strongly, "Don't tell anyone that I made this little girl alive again." Then he said to them, "Now give her some food to eat."

6

Jesus's own countrymen rubbished him

¹ Jesus and his followers left that country and went back to his own town, called Nazareth.

²⁻³ On the Jewish people's rest day, Jesus went to the Jewish meeting house, and he started to teach the people God's message. A lot of the people heard his words, and they were really shocked. They said, "How does he know so much? How come he can do powerful things? He's nobody special. We know him. He grew up here, in this town. His mother, Mary, lives here, with his brothers, James, Joses, Judas and Simon, as well as his sisters. His job here is to make things with wood." So those Nazareth people got angry, and they wouldn't take any notice of him.

⁴ Jesus then said to them, "If God gives a man a message, lots of people know he is God's man, and they respect him. But not his own people. They lived with that man and knew him from the time he was a little boy. They don't respect him. Even his close family and relatives don't listen to him."*

⁵⁻⁶ You see, the people of Jesus's own town didn't believe in him, and he was really shocked. He couldn't do anything really powerful there, because they didn't believe in him. He only touched a few sick people and made them better. Then he left Nazareth, and went to other towns, and taught God's word to the people there.

Jesus sent out his 12 special workers

* **6:4** John 4:44

⁷⁻¹¹ Jesus called together his 12 special workers. He told them, “You have to go to every town and tell my message to the people. Let them take care of you when you go there. Don’t take a bag, or food, or money, or spare clothes with you. Just take your shoes and a walking stick. After you get to a town, if the people in that town are happy for you to stay there, just stay in one house. Don’t move around to different houses. But if the people in that town don’t want you to be there, and if they will not listen to you, then you have to go away from that town. As you leave it, shake the dirt off your feet. That will show those people that they will get trouble. It will be like you are telling them, ‘You didn’t take any notice of my message, so God will judge you and punish you.’ ”*

And Jesus told his special workers, “I’m giving you my power to force bad spirits out from people.” Then Jesus split them up into 6 teams with 2 men in each team, and he sent them out to do God’s work. ¹² So his special workers went to other towns, and they told everyone to turn around, to change their lives, and to come back to God’s way. ¹³ Those men forced a lot of bad spirits out of people. And they put olive oil on a lot of sick people, like medicine for them, and those sick people got better.*

Herod killed John the Baptist

* **6:7-11** Luke 10:4-11; Acts 13:51 * **6:13** James 5:14

14-29 This is the story about what happened to John, the man that baptised people. The big boss over that country was Herod, and his brother was Philip. Philip's wife's name was Herodias. But Herodias left Philip, and Herod married her.

John kept on telling Herod, "You are breaking God's law. You shouldn't have your brother's wife." Herodias hated John for saying that, and she wanted to kill him, but Herod sent some soldiers to grab John and keep him in jail, so Herodias couldn't do anything to him. John was a good man, one of God's own men, so Herod respected John, and he was a bit frightened of him too. Herod used to talk with John. He didn't really understand John's message, but he liked to listen to him.

Some time later, Herod had a birthday party. All the leaders of Herod's army, and the government bosses from Galilee country, they were all there at Herod's party.

Herodias's daughter danced for them at that party. Herod and everybody else really liked to watch her dance. She made them really happy, so Herod made a strong promise to her. He told her, "I want to give you something really good. You can ask for anything. I will give you anything you ask for, even as much as half of this country. This is true. I'm not lying."

That young girl went outside and asked her mother, "What will I ask for?"

Her mother said, "Go back in and ask the big boss to send a soldier to cut off John the Baptist's head and give it to you."

The girl ran back into the party and said to Herod, "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a big plate, and I want it right now."

When Herod heard her say that, he was really sad. But he didn't want to break his promise. He didn't want to feel shame in front of his friends, so he sent a soldier to cut off John's head, and to bring it back to the girl on a big plate.

The soldier went to the jail, and he cut off John's head, and he brought it back to the party, and he gave it to the young girl, and then she gave it to her mother.

John's friends heard the bad news, so they came and got his body, then they took it away and buried it.

Herod was worried about Jesus

Later lots of people heard about what Jesus was doing, and they talked about him all the time. Some people said, "Jesus is really Elijah, that old man that told God's messages a long time ago. God made him alive again."

Some other people said, "Jesus is a man talking for God, just like those other men that told God's messages a long time ago."

But some people reckoned, "Jesus is really John the Baptist. God made John alive again, and God gave him power to do great things."

Herod heard those stories, and he said, "I got my soldiers to cut John's head off, but this man, Jesus, he has to be John the Baptist. I reckon God made him alive again."*

* **6:14-29** Matthew 16:14; Mark 8:28; Luke 3:19-20; 9:19

Jesus fed more than 5,000 people

³⁰ Some time later, Jesus's 12 special workers came back from telling his message to all the towns. They stood around Jesus and told him everything they did, and everything they taught the people in the towns.

³¹ While they were talking, lots of other people kept on coming up to Jesus, and Jesus and his followers didn't have time to eat any food. So Jesus said to his followers, "Let's go to a quiet place out bush, so that we can rest for a while."

³² Then Jesus and his followers got into a boat and started to go across the lake, to a quiet place away from all the people. But lots of people saw them leave. ³³ Those people were from a lot of different towns, but they knew the place that Jesus and his special workers were going to, so they ran around the side of the lake, and they got there first, before the boat.

³⁴ Then Jesus and his special workers got to that place, and they got out of the boat. Jesus looked at the mob of people waiting for him, and he felt sad for them. They didn't have anyone looking after them. They were like a mob of sheep that had nobody to take care of them. So Jesus started to teach them lots of things.*

³⁵ At the end of the day, Jesus's followers went to him and said, "It's nearly time for the sun to go down, and we are way out here in the bush.

³⁶ You have to send the people away from here

* **6:34** Numbers 27:17; 1 Kings 22:17; 2 Chronicles 18:16; Ezekiel 34:5; Matthew 9:36

so that they can find some food. They can go to a nearby farm or to a town, to buy some food to eat.”

³⁷ Jesus said to them, “No. You mob give them some food to eat.”

But they said, “What? We haven’t got that much food. Do you want us to go and buy a lot of bread for them? That will cost thousands of dollars.”

³⁸ Jesus said to his followers, “How much food have you got? Go and see what there is.”

They came back to him and said, “We’ve got 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.”

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Jesus told his followers to get the people to sit on the green grass in groups, maybe about 50 people in each group, or maybe 100 people.

⁴¹ Then Jesus picked up the bread and the fish, then he looked up to the sky, and he said, “Thank you God for this bread and this fish.” Then Jesus broke the bread and the fish into bits, and he gave them to his followers to give to the people.

⁴² All of the people got some bread and some fish, and they ate until they were full. ⁴³ After that, Jesus’s followers picked up the bits of food that nobody ate. They filled up 12 big baskets with that left-over food. ⁴⁴ A really big mob of people ate that food. There were 5,000 men in that mob, as well as women and kids.

⁴⁵ As soon as they finished eating, Jesus told his followers, “Get into the boat and row across the lake, to the place called Bethsayida. I will follow you mob some time later.”

Then he started telling all the people, “You mob can all go home now. Goodbye.” ⁴⁶ After he said

goodbye to them, Jesus went up into the hills to pray.

Jesus walked on top of water

⁴⁷ Then night time came, and Jesus was still alone on the land, and the boat was half-way across the lake.

⁴⁸ Later that night, Jesus looked out and saw that his followers were having a hard time rowing the boat. The wind was stopping them. Just before day-light, Jesus walked to them on top of the water, and it looked like he was going to keep going past them.

⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰ His followers saw him walking on the water, and they thought he was a ghost. They got really frightened, and they screamed. Straight away, Jesus said to them, "It's all right. It's me, I'm Jesus. Don't be frightened."

⁵¹ Then Jesus got into the boat with his followers, and straight away the wind stopped blowing. The men in the boat were surprised. ⁵² They still couldn't understand about Jesus. They saw what he did with the bread and the fish the day before, but they couldn't work it out. It was like their brains were no good.

Jesus made a lot of sick people better

⁵³ Then they got to the dry land again, in the country called Gennesaret, and they tied up the boat. ⁵⁴ A lot of people saw Jesus getting out of the boat, and they knew who he was, ⁵⁵ so they ran around everywhere in that country, and they put the sick people on swags, and they carried them to Jesus, to wherever people said that Jesus

was. ⁵⁶ Jesus went to little towns, and to big towns in that country. Wherever he went, the people carried their sick friends and family to the middle of the town, and they put them on the ground. Those sick people asked Jesus if they could touch his clothes, and everyone that touched his clothes got better.

7

Some people teach rules that don't come from God

¹⁻⁴ There were some Jewish law teachers, and some of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they went from Jerusalem to see Jesus and his followers. A long time before that, those mobs made up a lot of rules that are not in God's book. One of those rules that they made up was this. Before they could eat anything, they had to wash their hands in a special way, and after people came home from the shops, they had to wash that same way. There were other rules too, that those leaders made up, a long time ago. They had rules about the way to wash cups, and billycans, and cooking pots, and the chairs they sat on to eat their food. Those rules didn't come from God.

After they got there from Jerusalem, they saw that some of Jesus's followers didn't wash their hands that special way before they ate food. ⁵ So they said to Jesus, "Your followers are going wrong. They are not following the rules that our old leaders gave us a long time ago. They didn't wash their hands the right way before

they started to eat their food. You have to make them follow the rules properly.”

⁶ Jesus said to them, “You mob tell everyone you are good, but really, you are not good. You know the man that was called Isaiah. He lived a long time ago, and he told God’s messages. He wrote true words about you, and they are in God’s book. He wrote,

“These people show respect to me with their mouths,
but really, they think another way.

⁷ They have ceremonies for me,

but, really, they rubbish me.

You see, they teach rules that men made up themselves,
and they tell everybody that those rules come from God.’*
⁸ You mob are just like that. You turn your back on God’s law, but you are strong on the rules that men made up.”

⁹ And Jesus kept on talking to them. He said, “You mob are tricky in the way you turn your back on God’s law, and follow your own rules.

¹⁰ You see, God told Moses to tell everyone to look after their old people. Moses wrote this law,

‘You have to respect your father and mother.’
And he also wrote,

‘You have to punish anyone that rubbishes their

father or mother. You have to kill that person.’*

* **7:7** Isaiah 29:13 * **7:10** Exodus 20:12; 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 5:16

¹¹ But you mob reckon that somebody can tell their father or mother, ‘I want to help you old people, but I’m sorry. I know that you need that thing, but I promised to give it to God, so I can’t give it to you.’ ¹² You reckon that if a person says that to their father or mother, they don’t have to help their father or mother. ¹³ When you tell people that, you take God’s word away from them, so they will just follow the rules that you made up. You do all sorts of wrong things like that all the time.”

¹⁴ Then Jesus called out to all the people to come and listen to him. He said, “Listen to me, everyone, and try to understand what I’m saying. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ It’s not the things you eat that make you no good. Don’t worry about what goes into you, but worry about what comes out of you. It’s the things that come out of you that make you no good.”

¹⁷ After that, Jesus stopped talking to all the people, and he went into his house to take a break. His followers went in with him, and they asked him what he meant by the words he just told the people. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, “What’s wrong with you? You still don’t understand what I’m saying. Listen. If you eat something, it goes into your belly, then, some time later, it goes out of your body into the toilet. It doesn’t go into your brain. So God will not say, ‘You ate the wrong food and made yourself no good.’ No, he will not say that.” (Jesus said that about food, and he made it clear for us that every sort of food is all right.)

²⁰⁻²³ Then Jesus kept on teaching his followers. He said, "People think inside their heads about bad things, and then they go wrong. They do those bad things, and that makes them no good. These are the things they might do.

- They might think about all sorts of bad things.
- They might sleep with somebody that is not their own husband or wife, and do what married people do together.
- They might steal things.
- They might murder somebody.
- They might sleep with somebody else's husband or wife, as if they are married to them.
- They might be greedy, and try to get lots of money and things.
- They might do really bad things.
- They might trick people.
- They might do the first bad thing that they think about.
- They might want to get something that other people have.
- They might rubbish people.
- They might think that they themselves are great.
- They might only think about what they want for themselves, and do really stupid things.

All those bad things come from people thinking the wrong way inside their heads, and those things make people no good."

A woman that was not Jewish trusted Jesus

²⁴ After that, Jesus left Galilee country and went north to a town called Tyre. The people that lived in Tyre were not Jewish people. Jesus and

his followers stayed at somebody's house there. He didn't want other people to know that he was in that house. But a lot of people heard that he was there.

²⁵⁻²⁶ There was a woman in that town that was not a Jewish woman. She was from a place called Fonisha, in Syria country. Her daughter had a bad spirit inside her, so that woman went to Jesus to get help. She got down on her knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect, and she asked him to force the bad spirit out of her daughter.

²⁷ Jesus said to her, "You know, a man gives food to his own kids first. He will not take their food and throw it to the dogs. Well, that is a picture of me. I belong to the Jewish nation. I have to look after my own people first, not you people that are not Jewish."

²⁸ The woman said, "Yes, teacher, you are right about that, but while the kids in that picture story are eating, they drop a few little bits of food, and the dogs under the table can eat those little bits of food. So you can still do a little thing to help me, even though I'm not Jewish."

²⁹ Jesus said, "That's a good answer. It shows me that you trust me. You can go home now. I just made that bad spirit go out from your daughter."

³⁰ Then the woman went home and found her daughter lying down quietly on a bed. The bad spirit was not in her any more.

Jesus made a deaf man better

³¹ Then Jesus left Tyre and walked back through another town called Sidon. Then he

went around the north of Lake Galilee to the country everyone called *Ten Towns*.

³² Some people brought a man to Jesus. That man was deaf, and he couldn't talk properly. His friends asked Jesus strongly to put his hand on their friend and make him better.

³³ Jesus took the man away from all the other people there and put his fingers in the man's ears. He spat and touched the man's tongue.

³⁴ Then Jesus looked up into the sky and prayed for the man. He talked in their language. He said, "*Efatha*." That means, *Open up*. ³⁵ And straight away, that man could hear properly, and his tongue was better so he could talk properly.

³⁶ Jesus went back and told the people strongly, "Don't tell anyone about the great thing I just did."

But they didn't listen to Jesus. Jesus kept on telling them not to talk about it, but they just kept on telling other people, "Jesus made that man better."

³⁷ Everyone was really surprised, and they said to each other, "Jesus does everything properly. He does really good things for people. He makes deaf people better, so they can hear again. And people that can't talk, he makes them better too, so they can talk."

8

Jesus fed 4,000 men

¹ Jesus kept on teaching the people in that country. A big mob of people stayed there and listened to him for 3 days. And in that time, they

finished up all their food. ² Jesus called to his followers to come to him, and he said, "I feel really sorry for this mob. They are hungry, and they haven't got anything to eat. ³ I can't send them home like this. Some of them have walked a long way to get here, and if they start walking home now, they will get weak and fall down. We have to give them some food."

⁴ His followers said, "But they are a really big mob of people. We can't get enough food out here in the bush to feed them all."

⁵ Jesus said, "How much bread have you got?"

The men said, "7 loaves of bread."

⁶ Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the ground. Then he picked up the 7 loaves of bread and said, "Thank you God for this bread." Then Jesus broke it into bits and gave it to his followers, and they gave it out to all the people.

⁷ Somebody had some little fish there, and they gave them to Jesus, and he said, "Thank you God for these fish." Then Jesus also gave the fish to his followers, to give out to the people.

⁸ They all ate and ate until they were full, and there was a lot of food that they didn't eat. Then they picked up all those left-over bits of food, and they filled up 7 baskets with it. ⁹ There were 4,000 men in that big mob. After they finished eating that food, Jesus told them to go home.

¹⁰ Straight away, Jesus and his followers got into a boat and went across the lake to a place called Dalmanutha.

Some of the Pharisee mob asked Jesus to show everyone his power

¹¹ There were some of the Pharisee mob at that place. They were strong for the Jewish law. They heard people say that Jesus was there, so they came to talk to him. They wanted to trick him, so they started to argue with him. They said, “Hey, show us that God sent you here. Do something powerful so we can see that you have special power from God.”*

¹² Jesus was a little bit upset. He breathed deeply and said, “You mob that are alive today always want to see something powerful, and if I don’t do something powerful, you will not believe that I came from God. Listen, I will not do anything powerful for you mob here now.”*

¹³ Then Jesus and his followers walked away from that Pharisee mob, and they got into a boat and went across to the other side of the lake.

Jesus told his followers to be careful

¹⁴ But, before they got into the boat to go across the lake, Jesus’s followers forgot to buy more food. So they only had one loaf of bread with them.

¹⁵ Jesus talked straight to his followers. He said, “You know how we make damper. We put some baking powder into the flour to make it swell up. Well, I’m telling you this, stay away from the baking powder that comes from the Pharisee mob, that are strong for our law, and stay away from the baking powder that comes from Herod, the big boss.”*

* **8:11** Luke 11:16 * **8:12** Luke 11:29 * **8:15** Luke 12:1

¹⁶ Jesus's followers didn't understand what Jesus meant, and they started to argue with each other. They said, "We didn't get enough food for the trip. That is what he is talking about."

¹⁷ Jesus knew what they said to each other, and he said, "Why are you mob arguing about food? You still haven't learned about me. You don't understand me. Maybe your minds are closed. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ You've got eyes, but you don't look. You've got ears, but you don't listen. Do you remember the time we had 5 loaves of bread, and I gave food to 5,000 men? How many baskets of left-over bits did you pick up?"*

They said, "12 baskets full."

²⁰ Then Jesus said, "Do you remember the time we had 7 loaves of bread, and I gave food to 4,000 men? How many baskets of left-over bits did you pick up?"

They said, "7 baskets full."

²¹ Then Jesus asked them, "So how come you still don't understand about me?"

Jesus made a blind man see again

²² Jesus and his followers got to a place called Bethsaida, on the west side of Lake Galilee, and they got out of the boat. Some people brought a blind man to him, and they asked Jesus to touch him and make him better. ²³ Jesus held the man's hand and took him outside the town. Then Jesus spat on the man's eyes, and then put his hands on him and said, "Can you see anything now?"

* **8:18-19** Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2; Mark 4:12

²⁴ The man looked around and said, “Yes, I can see a little bit. I can see people, but they look like trees walking around.” ²⁵ So Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes again. Then the man carefully looked around again, and his eyes were properly better, and he saw everything clearly.

²⁶ Jesus told the man to go straight home. He said, “As you walk home, don’t go into that town. Don’t let anyone see that I made you better.”

Peter told Jesus, “You are the special man that God promised to send”

²⁷ Then Jesus and his followers left Galilee country, and they went north to some towns in the country called Caesarea-Philippi. As they walked along the track, Jesus asked his followers, “When people talk about me, who do they reckon I really am?”

²⁸ They said, “They reckon you are one of God’s men that died, but then God made you come alive again. Some people reckon you are John the Baptist. Other people reckon you are Elijah, that man that lived a long time ago. And other people reckon you are one of those other men that told God’s messages a long time ago.”*

²⁹ Then Jesus asked them, “Who do you reckon I really am?”

Peter said straight out, “You are the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us.”*

* **8:28** Mark 6:14-15; Luke 9:7-8 * **8:29** John 6:68-69

³⁰ Jesus told them strongly, “Don’t say that to anyone else. Don’t tell anyone about me.”

Jesus told his followers, “They will kill me”

³¹ Then Jesus told his followers about the bad things that were going to happen to him. He said, “I am God’s special man from heaven, but our Jewish elders, and our ceremony bosses, and our law teachers, they will all reckon I’m no good. They will hurt me badly in lots of ways, and they will kill me. I will be dead for 2 nights, then on the 3rd day I will come alive again.”

³² Jesus talked straight to them, but Peter couldn’t believe it. He took Jesus away from the others and told him not to talk like that. ³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his other followers there, then he said strongly to Peter, “Go away from me. You are like Satan, the boss over the bad spirits. You are not thinking God’s way. You are just thinking like a man.”

³⁴ Then Jesus called out to all the people that were there. He called them to come up close, with his followers, and he said to them all, “If any of you wants to follow me properly, you have to stop thinking only about yourself. You have to live like me. You have to be ready to die, yes, die like a criminal on a cross, just like I will die.* ³⁵ If you only want to look after your own life here on earth, you will lose it. You will not live for ever with me. But if you are ready to give up your life here, and live my way, and tell other people the good news about me, then you will find real

* **8:34** Matthew 10:38; Luke 14:27

life, and you will live with me for ever.* ³⁶ You see, you might get lots of money and things for yourself, and you might even get everything in the world. But if you miss out on real life, and you don't live for ever with me, all that stuff is useless to you. ³⁷ You can't use it to get that real life.

³⁸ You know that some people are really bad, and they don't take any notice of God. If you are frightened of them, so that you don't tell them about me, and you don't say that you belong to me, then later, I will not say that you belong to me. I'm God's special man from heaven, and one day my father, God, will make me really great, and I will come back here to the earth, with all God's angel messengers. But if you don't tell people now that you belong to me, then when I come back here, I will not say that you belong to me."

9

¹ Then Jesus said, "Listen, some of you people will see a very special thing. God will show you that he is boss over everything, and you will see that he is really powerful. You will see that happen before you die."

3 men saw Jesus become bright and shiny

² After 6 days, Jesus got Peter, and James, and John, and they went by themselves up to the top of a big hill. While they were there, Jesus started to look different. ³ His clothes got really

* **8:35** Matthew 10:39; Luke 17:33; John 12:25

white and shiny. Nobody can wash clothes good enough to make them properly white like that.

⁴ And Peter, James and John saw 2 men that lived a long time ago. They were Elijah and Moses. Elijah was a man that told God's messages to people, and Moses was a leader of the Israel nation. They were there, and they talked to Jesus.

⁵⁻⁶ Peter, James and John were very surprised and frightened, and they didn't know what to say. But Peter talked anyway. He said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We can put up 3 special bush shades here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

⁷ Then a cloud covered them all, and God talked to them from the cloud. He said, "This is my son. I love him very much. You have to listen properly to him."* ⁸ Then Peter, James and John looked around for those 2 old men, but they couldn't see them any more. Only Jesus was there with them.

⁹ Then they all started to come down from the hill. And as they walked along, Jesus told them really straight, "Don't tell anyone what you just saw. You have to wait until after I die. I'm God's special man, and I will die, and then I will come back alive again. After that, you can talk about what you saw."

¹⁰ So Peter, James and John kept quiet about it. They didn't tell anyone, but they talked to each other about the words Jesus said, "I will die, and

* **9:7** Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22; 2 Peter 1:17-18

then I will come back alive again.” They didn’t know what Jesus meant.

¹¹ Then they asked Jesus about the Jewish law teachers. They said, “Those law teachers say that first of all Elijah has to come back, God’s man that lived a long time ago. He has to come back, and after that, God will send his special man.”*

¹²⁻¹³ Jesus said, “Those law teachers are right. That man did come, and he told them God’s message, just like Elijah did a long time ago. That man got things ready for me, but bad people killed him. And they will do the same to me, God’s special man from heaven. They will turn against me and not listen to me, and they will hurt me a lot. A long time ago God got his men to write about that, and it is in God’s book.”

Jesus forced a bad spirit out of a boy

¹⁴ They came back down the hill, and they found Jesus’s other followers arguing with the Jewish law teachers. There were lots of people standing around. ¹⁵ That mob looked up and saw Jesus, and they were surprised, and they all ran to him, and they said *hello* to him.

¹⁶ Jesus asked them, “What are you mob all arguing about?”

¹⁷ One of them said, “Teacher, my son has a bad spirit inside him, and it stops him from talking.

¹⁸ It pushes the boy down on to the ground, and his body goes stiff, and he rubs his teeth together, and spit comes out of his mouth. I asked your

* **9:11** Malachi 4:5; Matthew 11:14

followers, 'Please force that bad spirit out of him.' But they can't do it."

¹⁹ Jesus said, "Look, you mob, I've been here with you a long time, but still you don't trust God properly. I can't stay here and wait for you for ever. All right, bring the boy here to me."

²⁰ The people brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as that bad spirit saw Jesus, it shook the boy and pushed him down, so that he wriggled around on the ground, and a lot of spit came out of his mouth.

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

The man said, "For a long time, from when he was a little kid. ²² Lots of times the bad spirit pushed him into fires and into water. That bad spirit is trying to kill him. Please feel sorry for us, and help him if you can."

²³ Jesus said, "You said to me, 'If you can.' But you know that God is strong enough to do anything if you trust him to do it, right?"

²⁴ The boy's father yelled out, "I believe God can do it. But please help me believe properly."

²⁵ Jesus looked around, and he saw a big mob of people coming to watch, so he talked strongly to the bad spirit. He said, "Listen, you bad spirit. You stop people from talking and hearing. I'm telling you now, come out of this little boy, and stay out of him. You can never go back into him."

²⁶ Then the bad spirit screamed, and it forced the boy to have another bad fit and fall down on the ground, then it went out of the boy. The boy looked like he was dead, and a lot of people said,

“Poor boy, he’s finished.” ²⁷ But Jesus grabbed the boy’s hand and helped him stand up. Then the boy’s father took him home.

²⁸ After that, Jesus and his followers went into a house, and his followers asked him quietly, “Why couldn’t we force the bad spirit out of that boy?”

²⁹ Jesus told them, “The only way you can force that sort of bad spirit out of somebody is to pray to God, and get him to force it out.”

Jesus said, “They will kill me, and after that, I will come alive again”

³⁰⁻³¹ Later Jesus and his followers left that place and went through Galilee country. He didn’t want everyone to know where he was going, so they went along secretly and quietly, and he was teaching his followers as they walked along. He told them about what was going to happen to him. He said, “I’m God’s special man from heaven, but bad men will grab me, and they will kill me. I will be dead for 2 nights, then on the 3rd day I will come alive again.” ³² His followers couldn’t understand what he was talking about. But they felt shame, so they didn’t ask him about it.

Jesus’s followers argued about who was the most important

³³⁻³⁴ While they walked along the road, Jesus’s followers argued with each other about which one of them was the most important. Then, after they got to Capernium, they all went into a house, and Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing

about on the road?” His followers didn’t answer him. They felt too much shame.*

³⁵ Then Jesus sat down to teach them, and he called to his 12 special workers to come close to him, and he said, “If any one of you wants to be the leader, you have to think to yourself, ‘I’m not important at all.’ And you have to be a worker for everyone else.”*

³⁶⁻³⁷ There was a young kid in that house, and Jesus picked him up and said, “Look at this little kid. If you follow me, and if you are friendly to little kids like this one, and if you help them, well, really you are friendly to me too. And if you are friendly to me, well, really you are friendly to my father in heaven too. He is the one that sent me here.”*

A man used Jesus’s power to force bad spirits out of people

³⁸ John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw a man forcing bad spirits out of people, and he was using your power by saying your name. But he’s not one of our mob. So we told him to stop.”

³⁹ But Jesus said, “No. Don’t stop him. If somebody uses my power by saying my name to do good and powerful things for people, that person can’t soon turn around and say bad things about me. ⁴⁰ You see, if somebody is not trying to stop us, well, that person is really on our side.* ⁴¹ And listen, if somebody knows that

* **9:33-34** Luke 22:24 * **9:35** Matthew 20:26-27; 23:11; Mark

10:43-44; Luke 22:26 * **9:36-37** Matthew 10:40; Luke 10:16;

John 13:20 * **9:40** Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23

you are my follower, and so they try to help you, even if they just give you a drink of water, God will be sure to pay that person with something good for that good thing they did.”*

The right way to live

⁴² Jesus kept on teaching his followers. He said, “If a little kid trusts me, and if somebody gets that little kid to do something bad, God will properly punish that person. Suppose somebody gets a big stone and ties it to that person’s neck and throws them into the sea and drowns them, that is bad for that person, but it is not as bad as the trouble God will give them for getting that little kid to go wrong.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Look, if there is something that gets you to go wrong, you have to stop yourself. If you want to do something bad with your hand, you have to stop yourself from doing it. It is like you have to cut off your hand. It is better for you to live with God for ever with only one hand, than for God to send you to hell with 2 hands. That fire in hell never goes out.* ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ In the same way, if you want to do something bad with your foot, you have to stop yourself from doing it. It is like you have to cut off your foot. It is better for you to live with God for ever with only one foot, than for God to send you to hell with 2 feet. ⁴⁷ It is the same for your eye. If you want to look with your eye at something, and if it gets you to do something bad, you have to look away. It is like

* **9:41** Matthew 10:42 * **9:43-44** Matthew 5:30

you have to dig your eye out. It is better for you to be in God's family with only one eye, than for God to send you to hell with 2 eyes.* ⁴⁸ Hell is a really bad place and people that go there will have bad pain all the time. It will be like maggots are eating them all the time, and like a fire is burning them all the time. Their pain will never stop.”*

⁴⁹ Jesus also said to them, “God is going to let you have some trouble. He wants to test you to see if you are following him properly. You know how people shake salt on to food to make it good? Well, this trouble will be like God is shaking fire on to you, and it will make you good.

⁵⁰ You know that salt is good. It makes food better. But if that salt loses its salty taste, it is no good any more, and you can't fix it up. That is a picture of you mob. You have to be like good salt for people. You have to try to make their lives better, and don't fight with anyone, but live happy and quiet together.”*

10

Don't split up married people

¹ Jesus left Capernium in Galilee and went south, through Judea to the country on the east side of the Jordan River. A lot of people went to him there, and he taught them God's word, the same as he always did.

* **9:47** Matthew 5:29 * **9:48** Isaiah 66:24 * **9:50** Matthew 5:13; Luke 14:34-35

² Some of the Pharisee mob also went to Jesus. They were strong for the Jewish law, and they tried to trick Jesus with a hard question. They said, “Is it all right for a man to break up his marriage, and send his wife away?”

³ Jesus said, “What did Moses write in the law part of God’s book?”

⁴ The Pharisee mob said, “Moses wrote a law like this, ‘A man can split up from his wife. That man has to write a divorce letter to say she is not his wife any more. He has to give that letter to his wife, and then he can force her to go away.’ ”*

⁵ Jesus said to them, “You people have closed ears, and you will not listen to God, so Moses had to write those words for you like that. ⁶ But God tells us in his book that he made people and everything else. His book says,

‘He made them man and woman.’*

⁷ And he tells us,

‘A man will leave his mother and father and marry a woman. The man and his wife will join with each other, and their bodies will be like one body again.’

⁸ So they are not 2 people any more. They are like just one body.* ⁹ You see, God joined them together like that, so don’t let anyone split them up.”

¹⁰ After that, Jesus went back to the house with just his followers, and they asked him more about the things he said. ¹¹ Jesus said to them,

* **10:4** Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 5:31 * **10:6** Genesis 1:27; 5:2 * **10:8** Genesis 2:24

“If a man splits up from his wife, and then if he marries another woman, he is sleeping with the wrong woman as if she is his proper wife. But she is not, and he is breaking God’s law, and he is doing wrong to his proper wife. ¹² And if a woman splits up from her husband, and then if she marries another man, she is sleeping with the wrong man as if he is her proper husband. But he is not, and she is breaking God’s law, and she is doing wrong to her proper husband.”*

Jesus held kids in his arms

¹³ Some time later, some people took their kids to Jesus. They wanted him to put his hands on them, and ask God to be good to them. But Jesus’s followers got angry with those people and told them to take their kids away.

¹⁴ Jesus saw his followers stopping the kids from coming to him, and he got upset. He said, “Don’t stop those kids. Let them come to me. They are the sort of people God wants. You see, if you are like these little kids, God will let you join his family. ¹⁵ You know, little kids know they are weak and not important, so they trust their mothers and fathers and do what they say. Well, I’m telling you straight, you have to be like those kids. You have to trust God and let him be your boss. If you can’t do that, you can’t be in God’s family.”*

¹⁶ Then Jesus held those kids in his arms, and he prayed for God to be good to them.

* **10:12** Matthew 5:32; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 * **10:15** Matthew 18:3

A rich man asked Jesus how to live for ever

¹⁷ After that, Jesus started to leave that place. Then a man ran up to him and got down on his knees to show Jesus respect. The man said, "Teacher, you are a good man. Tell me, what can I do so that I will live with God for ever?"

¹⁸ Jesus said, "You call me good, but think about it. Only God is properly good. ¹⁹ You know God's laws,

- Don't murder anyone.
- Don't sleep with a woman that is not your wife, as if you are married to her.
- Don't steal things that belong to other people.
- Don't tell lies about anybody.
- Don't trick people to get something from them.
- You always have to respect your father and your mother."*

²⁰ That man said, "Teacher, I always do all those things. I always lived like that, from when I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him, and he loved him. And Jesus said, "There is still one more thing you have to do. Go and sell all your things to get some money, and give all that money to people that haven't got anything. After you do that, God will be really happy with you. And later, in heaven, he will give you lots of other good things. So go and do what I told you, then come with me, and follow me."

²² That man heard what Jesus said, and he got really sad. He was a rich man, but Jesus told

* **10:19** Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20

him to give all his things away. That made him very sad, and he just walked away with his eyes looking down.

²³ After that man left, Jesus looked around at his followers, and he said, "It's really hard for rich people to join God's family and to let him be their boss."

²⁴⁻²⁵ This shocked Jesus's followers. So he told them more. He said, "It is hard for anyone to let God be their boss. Think about a big camel. Do you reckon it can go through the little hole in a needle? No, it can't. But I'm telling you, it's more easy for a big camel to get through that little hole, than for a rich person to get into God's family. Rich people find it really hard to let God be the boss over their lives."

²⁶ This shocked Jesus's followers, and they said to each other, "Is there anyone that God will save and take into his family? Maybe nobody."

²⁷ Jesus looked straight at them and said, "Nobody is good enough to get into God's family. But God can make people good enough. God can do anything."

²⁸ Peter said to Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you. What about us?"

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus said, "Listen, if anyone leaves anything, so that they can tell people God's good news, they will get back more than they leave. If somebody leaves their home, or their brothers, or their sisters, or their mother, or their father, or their kids, or their land, so that they can follow me and tell people God's good news, they will get a much better life. They will get a lot more

homes, a lot more brothers and sisters, a lot more mothers, a lot more kids, and a lot more land. But I have to tell you this too. If they do this work for me, they will get trouble from other people. But later they will live with God for ever.

³¹ People that are important leaders today will find out later that they are nothing. God will make them workers for everybody. And people that are just workers today will be the important leaders later.”*

Jesus told his followers, “They will kill me”

³² Then Jesus and his followers walked along the road towards Jerusalem, and Jesus went ahead of his followers. Jesus’s special workers were shocked because there were people in Jerusalem that wanted to make big trouble for Jesus, but he wanted to go there anyway. And his other followers were frightened too.

Then Jesus stopped walking, and he took his 12 special workers away from the other people, and he told them what was going to happen to him later. ³³ Jesus said, “We are all going to Jerusalem, and after we get there, somebody will change sides, and he will help the other mob catch me. That other mob are the bosses of our Jewish ceremonies and our law teachers. I’m God’s special man from heaven, but those Jewish leaders will grab me and take me to the Roman bosses. The Jewish leaders will say that I’m guilty, and they will tell the Romans to kill me. ³⁴ Then the Romans will make fun of me,

* **10:31** Matthew 20:16; Luke 13:30

and spit on me. They will hit me with whips, and then they will kill me. I will be dead for 2 nights, then on the 3rd day I will come alive again.”

James and John asked Jesus to make them important

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, went up to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to do something good for us. Will you do what we ask you?”

³⁶ Jesus asked them, “What do you want me to do?”

³⁷ They said, “Later you will be the most important leader. Can you make us the next most important? Can you let one of us sit on one side of you, and the other one sit on the other side of you?”

³⁸ Jesus said, “You 2 don’t understand what you are asking me. People will give me a really hard time. Do you reckon you can stay strong for God even when people give you a really hard time? I will have really bad pain. It’s like I will have to drink really bad drink, like poison. I will even die.”*

³⁹ James and John said, “Yes. We can do that.”

So Jesus said, “You are right. You will get the same hard time as me, and you will get bad pain like I will get. ⁴⁰ But I can’t give you what you want. God is the one that picks the people that will be the important leaders, and he picks the people that will sit beside me later on.”

* **10:38** Luke 12:50

⁴¹ Jesus's other 10 special workers heard what James and John asked for, and they got angry.
⁴² So Jesus called them all together and said, "You know what government people are like here in this world. They like to be bosses over everybody. It is like that everywhere in this world, the leaders boss everyone around, and the big bosses like to show everyone that they are strong. ⁴³⁻⁴⁴ But I don't want you to be like that. If you want to be a leader of my people, you have to really want to help them, so you have to work hard for them, and don't think about pay. And if you want to be the most important person, you have to be a worker for everyone.* ⁴⁵ You see, all the leaders of my people have to be like that. They have to be just like me. I'm God's special man from heaven, but I didn't come here to be bossy and get people to work for me. I came here to work for other people. And I came here to die for a lot of people. I will let God punish me instead of them. He will punish me for the bad things that they did."

Jesus made a blind man see again

⁴⁶ Jesus and his followers kept going towards Jerusalem, and they walked through a town called Jericho. As they left Jericho, a big mob of people walked with them along the road.

A blind man was sitting at the side of that road, asking people to give him money so that he could

* **10:43-44** Matthew 23:11; Mark 9:35; Luke 22:25-26

buy some food. He was called Bartimayus. His father's name was Timayus.

⁴⁷ Bartimayus heard that Jesus from Nazareth, was coming along the road, so he started to yell out, "Jesus, you belong to David's family, and you are the man that God promised to send to us. Please feel sorry for me, and help me."

⁴⁸ A lot of the people there told him to be quiet, but he kept on yelling out even louder, "You belong to David's family, and you are the man that God promised to send to us. Please feel sorry for me, and help me."

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Tell him to come to me."

So they called out to the blind man, and they said, "Listen, Jesus is calling out for you. So you can be happy now. Get up and go to him."

⁵⁰ That blind man jumped up. He didn't worry about his coat. He left it behind on the ground. He just got up and walked to Jesus. ⁵¹ Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

That blind man said, "Teacher, I just want to see again."

⁵² Jesus said to him, "You believe in me, so now you can see again. You can go home now." Straight away, Bartimayus could see again, and he joined in with the other people and followed Jesus along that road.

11

Jesus went into Jerusalem on a donkey

¹ Jesus and his followers kept going, and they got near to Jerusalem. They came to the 2 towns called Bethany and Bethfage, on the hill called Olive Trees Hill.

² Then Jesus told 2 of his followers to go to a town nearby. He said, "As soon as you get there you will see a donkey tied to a post. Nobody ever rode that young donkey yet. I want you to untie that donkey and bring it to me. ³ If anyone asks you why you are taking that donkey, you can say, 'Our leader needs it for a while, but don't worry, he will send it back to you later.' "

⁴ The 2 men went into the town, and they found the donkey near the door of a house, then they started to untie him. ⁵ Some people standing there said to them, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that young donkey?" ⁶ Jesus's followers told them what Jesus said, and then those people let them take the donkey and go.

⁷ They took the donkey back to Jesus. Then they put their coats on top of the donkey, and Jesus sat on their coats on the donkey, and he started to ride it into Jerusalem. ⁸ A lot of people laid their coats down on to the track in front of the donkey, and other people cut leafy branches from trees, and they put them on the track for the donkey to walk on. ⁹ Some of the people walked in front of Jesus, and some of them walked behind him. They all kept on yelling out,

"God, you are really great and powerful. God, we want you to look after the man you have sent. Make him strong and happy.

¹⁰ God, please make this man our big boss, just like David was our big boss. David was our grand-father that lived a long time ago.

God in heaven, you are very great and powerful.”*

¹¹ Then Jesus got to Jerusalem, and he went into God’s ceremony house. He looked around at everything that was going on there. The sun was starting to go down, so Jesus left God’s ceremony house, and he and his 12 special workers went back to Bethany.

Jesus cursed a fruit tree

¹²⁻¹³ The next morning, Jesus and his followers started to walk from Bethany back to Jerusalem. Jesus saw a tree not far away. It was the sort of tree that gets fruit, called figs. Jesus was hungry, so he went to look for some figs on that tree, but there was nothing. It had lots of leaves, but no fruit. You see, it was not yet the right time of the year for that sort of fruit. ¹⁴ His followers heard Jesus say to that tree, “Nobody will ever eat any fruit from you again.”

Jesus stopped people selling things in God’s ceremony house

¹⁵ Then Jesus and his followers went into Jerusalem, and they went to God’s ceremony house. Inside that house people were buying and selling animals and pigeons, to use in their ceremonies. And other people were taking people’s Roman money and giving them Jewish

* **11:10** Psalm 118:25-26

money, to give to the bosses of God's ceremony house. But they did those things inside that house. They didn't respect God's house, so they were wrong. So Jesus hunted all those people out of God's ceremony house. He hunted out all the men that sold things, and the people that bought things, and those people that changed money. He knocked over their tables with their money on them, and he knocked over the chairs of the men that sold pigeons. ¹⁶ He wouldn't let anyone carry those things through God's ceremony house.

¹⁷ Then Jesus taught everyone. He said, "Do you know what God says? These words are in his book,
'God wants his special house to be a place for people from every tribe to come and pray in.'

But you mob turned God's house into a place where criminals steal money from people."*

¹⁸ The Jewish law teachers and the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies heard about what Jesus did at God's house, and they were angry. But all the other people were really happy with Jesus. Whenever he taught them, they listened to him, and they were really surprised by the things he said. So the Jewish leaders were frightened of him. They thought that maybe everyone was going to listen to Jesus and stop listening to them. So those leaders started to work out a way to kill Jesus.

* **11:17** Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11

19 Later that day, when the sun started to go down, Jesus and his followers left Jerusalem and went back to Bethany.

The fruit tree died

20 In the morning, Jesus and his followers walked past that fruit tree that he talked to the day before. They looked at it. It was dead and dry, right down to the ground. 21 Peter remembered the words Jesus said to it, and Peter said, “Teacher, that tree you cursed is already dead and dry.”

22 Jesus said, “If you trust God properly, you can do things like that too. 23 Listen, if you ask God to do something, and if you really trust him to do it, then he will do it for you. If you trust him properly, you can even say to a big hill, ‘God will pick you up and throw you into the sea,’ and God will do it.*

24 So I’m telling you, if you ask God for something, and if you trust him properly, that is, if you believe that he will give you that thing, then God will make it happen for you.

25-26 And whenever you pray, first think about this. If somebody did a wrong thing to you, you have to let it go. Don’t think about payback. If you let it go, then God will let go all the wrong things you have done too. He will say you are not guilty, and he will not do payback. So before you pray to God, you have to let go all the wrong things that people did to you.”*

* **11:23** Matthew 17:20; 1 Corinthians 13:2
Matthew 6:14-15

* **11:25-26**

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus a question

²⁷ Then Jesus and his followers went into Jerusalem, and they walked into the yard of God's ceremony house. As Jesus walked along, some Jewish leaders went up to him. They were some bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and some law teachers, and some elders. ²⁸ They asked Jesus straight, "Who told you to hunt all those people out of God's ceremony house? What big boss said that you can do that?"

²⁹ Jesus said to them, "You answer my question first. If you answer me, then I will tell you which big boss said that I can hunt those men out of God's ceremony house. ³⁰ My question is about John the Baptist. Who told him to do that washing ceremony for people? Did people tell John to do that, or did God tell him to do it?"

³¹ Those Jewish leaders talked together to work out their answer. They said to each other, "If we say that God told John to do it, then we will be in trouble. He will say to us, 'So why didn't you mob listen to him?'" ³² But we can't say that people told him to do it." You see, those leaders were frightened of the people there. They knew that the people believed that John was God's man. So if those leaders said that John wasn't God's man, then the people might hit them.

³³ So the Jewish leaders said, "We don't know who told John to do that washing ceremony for people."

Then Jesus said, "You did not answer me, so I will not answer you. I will not tell you which big

boss said that I can do those things.”

12

The story about men that looked after a garden

¹ After that, Jesus told them all a picture story. He said, “A man planted some fruit trees in his garden. Then he built a strong fence around it, and he made all the things he needed to look after those trees properly. Then he got some men to look after those trees for him. They agreed to give him some of the fruit from that garden, instead of paying rent money for it. After that, the owner went away to another country.*

² The time came for the men to pick the fruit, and the owner sent one of his work-men to get some of his fruit from the garden. ³ But the men in the garden grabbed that work-man, and they beat him up, and they sent him back with nothing.

⁴ Then the owner sent another work-man to the garden, but those men hit him on the head and said bad things to him. ⁵ After that, the owner sent another work-man to the garden, and this time the men killed him. Again and again the owner sent work-men to get some of his fruit, but the men in the garden killed some of them, and they beat up the others.

⁶ The owner of the garden had one more person to send to get the fruit from the garden. The owner said to himself, ‘I will try one more time. I will send my son. I love him, and those

* **12:1** Isaiah 5:1-2

men in the garden will respect him too.’ So he sent his son to that garden.

⁷ But the men in the garden saw the owner’s son, and they said to themselves, ‘After that old man dies this young man will get this garden for himself. Let’s kill this man now so that we can get the garden for ourselves.’ ⁸ So they grabbed the young man, and they killed him and chucked his body out of the garden.”

⁹ Then Jesus asked the people, “What do you reckon the owner of that garden will do? I’m telling you, he will go to the garden and kill all those men there. Then he will get other people to look after the garden for him.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, “You mob can read this picture story in God’s book, so think about its message. God said,

‘Some workers built a house out of big stones, but those workers thought one of those stones was rubbish, so they chucked it away.

They were wrong. That stone was properly good, and now God made it the most important stone of all.

¹¹ Yes, God did that, and we are really happy about it. We reckon he did something great.’ ”*

¹² The Jewish leaders heard that story, and they knew that it was a picture of themselves, that they were the bad workers in the story. They got angry, and they wanted to grab Jesus and take him to jail. But they were frightened of the big

* **12:11** Psalm 118:22-23

mob of people there, so they just walked away and left him alone.

Some people tried to trick Jesus

¹³ Then the Jewish leaders sent some other men to try to trick Jesus. They sent some of the law men that were called Pharisees, and they sent some men that were good friends of Herod. Herod was the big government boss at that time. Those men tried to get Jesus to say something wrong, so they could make trouble for him.

¹⁴ They said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know that you always want to do the right thing, and you always say true words. You talk to everyone the same way, people that are important and people that are not important. You always teach God’s words the right way. Well, we have a question about the Roman government bosses over our country. Is it right or wrong for us Jews to pay tax money to them?”

¹⁵ Jesus knew that if he said, “Don’t pay that tax money,” then he will be in trouble with the Roman bosses, and if he said, “Pay that tax money,” then he will be in trouble with the Jewish people. They wanted to be free from the Roman bosses. So Jesus said, “Don’t try to trick me. Have you got some money? I want to look at a coin.”

¹⁶ The men gave Jesus a coin. He looked at it and said, “Who is this on this money? Whose picture is this? And whose name is this?”

They said, “That is Caesar, the Roman government’s big boss.”

17 Jesus said, “Well, you have to give Caesar and the Roman government whatever belongs to them, and you have to give God whatever belongs to him.”

When they heard him say that they were all really surprised.

Other people asked Jesus a tricky question

18 There were some Jewish people that believed that after somebody dies they will stay dead, and they will never come alive again. They were called *Sadducees*. They tried to trick Jesus too.* 19 They said to him, “Teacher, Moses wrote down God’s law like this, he said, ‘If a married man has no kids, and if he dies, then his brother has to marry his widow. Then they have to have kids, and everyone will call those kids that dead brother’s kids.’* ”

20 But what about this. There were 7 brothers. The oldest brother got married, but he died before his wife could have a baby. 21 So the next brother married that woman to follow God’s law, but he died too, before they could have a baby. Then the next brother did the same, but he died too, before they could have a baby. 22 The same happened to all of those brothers. They all followed God’s law and married the woman, but each of them died before they could have any kids. And then last of all, that woman died too.

23 Well, you reckon that one day all the dead people will come alive again. So here is our question. If all those brothers and that woman

* 12:18 Acts 23:8 * 12:19 Deuteronomy 25:5

come alive again, which brother will have that woman as his wife? All 7 brothers had her as their wife before they died.”

²⁴ Jesus said, “You mob have a problem. You don’t know God’s word properly, and you don’t know about God’s power. ²⁵ You see, after all the dead people come alive again, they will be like God’s angel messengers in heaven. Those angels never marry each other. And people that come alive again will be the same. Nobody will promise a wife to anyone, and nobody will marry anyone.

²⁶⁻²⁷ You mob reckon that dead people will never come alive again, but think about this story about Moses. You can read it in God’s book. Moses saw a little tree on fire, and then God said to him,

‘I am the God of Abraham, and I am the God of Isaac, and I am the God of Jacob.’

He didn’t say, ‘At one time, I used to be the God of those men.’ He said that he is their God now. That means those men are alive, not dead. They are living right now, with God. You see, you mob are really wrong.”*

The most important laws

²⁸ One of the Jewish law teachers listened to Jesus and thought that Jesus answered them well. Then he asked Jesus, “Which one of God’s laws is the most important one?”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “The most important law is this one,

* **12:26-27** Exodus 3:6, 15

'Listen to me, you Israel people, our God is the only God.

He is the number one boss over everybody.

³⁰ You have to love God properly, not just a little bit. You have to love God from right inside yourself.

You have to love God in the way you feel, and in the way you think.

And you have to love God in the way you do things.*

³¹ The 2nd most important law is this one,

'You have to love other people just as much as you love yourself.*

Those 2 laws are the strongest and most important laws."

³² The Jewish law teacher said, "That is a good answer, teacher. God is the number one boss over everybody. There is no other god, just him.* ³³ We have to love God properly, not just a little bit. We have to love God from right inside ourselves. We have to love God in the way we feel, and in the way we think. And we have to love God in the way we do things. That is really important for us. It is not so important for us to do ceremonies, like we do when we burn meat to give it to God."*

³⁴ Jesus heard the man's words and knew this man was thinking the right way, so Jesus said,

* **12:30** Deuteronomy 6:4-5 * **12:31** Leviticus 19:18 * **12:32**
Deuteronomy 4:35; 6:4; Isaiah 45:21 * **12:33** 1 Samuel 15:22;
Psalm 40:6-8; Isaiah 1:11-15; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8

“You are right. You are nearly ready for God to take you into his family.”

After that, nobody was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions to try to trick him.

Jesus taught people in God's special house

³⁵ Then Jesus taught people in the yard of God's ceremony house. He said, “You know that David lived a long time ago, and now our Jewish law teachers say that one of his grand-sons will be the special man that God promised to send, called the Christ. What do they mean by that? ³⁶ Think about this. God's Holy Spirit told David to write these words, and they are in God's book. He wrote,

‘God said to my boss, “Come here and sit down beside me until I make you boss over all your enemies.” ’*

³⁷ You know, David was talking about that special man that God was going to send, and David called him *boss*, so how can that man be David's grand-son?”

A lot of people listened to his words, and they were really happy with him.

³⁸ Jesus kept on teaching the people. He said, “Look out for those Jewish law teachers. They think they are great. They wear real good clothes so that people will think they are important. They like people to say *hello* to them whenever they go shopping. ³⁹ Those law teachers want everyone to respect them, so they want to have special chairs at the meeting houses, and if they

* **12:36** Psalm 110:1

go to parties, they want to have special places to sit. ⁴⁰ But they do bad things. They trick old women that haven't got anybody to look after them. They take everything off those women. They take their houses and all their things, and then those law teachers go to the meeting house and say long prayers, so that people will think they are good. They just pretend to live God's way. You know, God will punish them more than he will punish the other people that do bad things."

A poor widow gave money to God

⁴¹ Then Jesus sat down near the money box at God's ceremony house, and he watched the people put money in the box to give it to God. Some rich people put in a lot of money. ⁴² But then a poor widow woman came in, and she didn't put much money into the money box. She just put in 2 very little coins.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Jesus called his followers to him and said, "Listen, this poor woman gave more money than those rich people. You see, those rich people gave some of their money, but they still have lots more back at their homes. But that poor woman gave all the money she had. She kept nothing for herself, not even money to buy some food for herself."

13

Jesus talked about the way everything will finish up

¹ Jesus and his followers started to leave God's ceremony house, and as they walked along, one of them said, "Teacher, look at these lovely buildings. And look at these big stones. This is a really good house that they made for God."

² Jesus said, "You see these lovely big buildings? One day, these buildings will not be here. Somebody will knock them all down. They will just be a big pile of rubbish."

³ Then Jesus and his followers went out of Jerusalem, and they sat down on the hill called Olive Trees Hill. They could see God's ceremony house from there. Peter, James, John and Andrew talked quietly to Jesus. They asked him, ⁴ "When will somebody knock that building down? Will there be something to show us that it will soon happen?"

⁵ Jesus said, "Listen, you have to be careful. Don't let anybody trick you. ⁶ A lot of people will come and say, 'I'm Jesus Christ, the man that God sent,' and they will trick a lot of people. ⁷ You will hear stories about big fights, and somebody might tell you stories about big fights that will happen later. Don't let those stories frighten you. Those fights will happen, but the world will not finish up yet. ⁸ There will be a lot more fights. People from some tribes will get up and fight against people from other tribes, and people from some nations will get up and fight against people from other nations. And in lots of different places the ground will shake in earthquakes. And sometimes there will not

be any food, and people will be really hungry. These bad things will happen, and after that, more big trouble will come. You know about women, when they have babies. At first a woman has some pain, then later her pain gets really bad. Well, the trouble I just told you about is like the first pain for a mother, and after that, the trouble will get really bad.

⁹ You have to watch out. You see, you follow me, but some people don't like me, so they will not like you. They will grab you and take you to their leaders, and they will punish you. And people will beat you up in their meeting houses. They will take you to court, so that you will stand up in front of big leaders and big government bosses. Then you can tell everyone about me.

¹⁰ You see, people everywhere will hear about me. The people in every nation will hear the good news about me, and some time after that, the world will finish up.

¹¹ Yes, people will grab you to take you to court. But before you get there, don't worry about what you will say to the judge. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words to say, so just talk the way the Holy Spirit tells you to.*

¹² You see, there is going to be so much trouble that people will fight their own families. Some men will turn against their own brothers, and they will get people to kill them. And some fathers will do that to their own kids. And some kids will turn against their mothers and fathers

* **13:11** Matthew 10:17-20; Luke 12:11-12

and get people to kill them. ¹³ And everybody will know that you follow me, so they will hate you. But if you stay strong and don't give up, God will save you.”*

¹⁴ Then Jesus said, “Somebody will put a really bad thing inside God's ceremony house. That bad thing ruins everything around it, so it shouldn't be in God's house. It will bring a lot of trouble.” (Everyone that reads this story has to try hard to understand what it means.) And Jesus said, “When you see that happen, you mob that live in Judea country, you have to quickly run away to the hill country.* ¹⁵ If you are outside your house, don't go back into it to get anything. ¹⁶ Or if you are out working somewhere, don't go back to your house to get something, not even your coat. Just run away quick.* ¹⁷ It will be hard for women that are carrying babies inside them, and for mothers with little kids at that time. ¹⁸ You have to ask God to stop this trouble from coming at the time when the weather is bad and it's hard to go anywhere. ¹⁹ This trouble will give people really bad pain. People never had bad pain like that before, not in all the time since God made everything. And nothing that bad will ever happen again.* ²⁰ You see, if God lets that trouble keep on going, everybody will die. But God has picked out some people, and he doesn't want them to die, so after a short time he will stop that trouble so that they will not die.

* **13:13** Matthew 10:22 * **13:14** Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11

* **13:16** Luke 17:31 * **13:19** Daniel 12:1; Revelation 7:14

²¹ Don't believe people that say, 'We have found the Christ, the special man from God. Here he is.' Or if they say, 'There he is over there,' don't believe them.

²² There will be a lot of people that will tell lies and try to trick you. Some people will say that they are the Christ, the special man from God. Other people will say that they are telling people God's words, and they might do all sorts of clever things. Those people will be thinking, 'Maybe we can trick the people that God picked out for himself.' But really, they can't do that. ²³ So keep on being careful. You see, I'm telling you about it now, so that later, when it happens, you can be ready for it. ²⁴ After that time of trouble, things will happen that God tells us about in his book. He says,

'The sun will go dark, and the moon will stop shining.

²⁵ The stars and the other powerful things in the sky will all shake about and fall out of the sky.'*

²⁶ Then everybody will see God's special man come back from heaven in the clouds. People will see that he is really strong, and powerful, and shining really bright.* ²⁷ Then he will send God's angel messengers out to every place in the world. They will not miss any place, anywhere. They will get all the people that belong to God.

* **13:25** Isaiah 13:10; 34:4; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Revelation 6:12-13 * **13:26** Daniel 7:13; Revelation 1:7

He picked out those people for himself. The angels will bring all those people to God.

²⁸ Think about this. Whenever you see new leaves on a bush tucker tree, you know that the weather's going to change soon. Those new leaves show you that. ²⁹ It's the same with all these things that I'm telling you about now, they will show you something too. You will see these things happen, and you will know that I will come really soon. ³⁰ Listen, there are some people alive now that will still be alive when these things happen. ³¹ One day, everything will finish up. The sky, and the ground, and everything, it will all finish up, but not my words. My words stay true for ever. They will never finish up."

Stay awake and keep on looking out

³² Then Jesus said, "I'm telling you straight. Nobody knows the time when God will do these things. Nobody knows what day it will be, or what the time will be on the clock. God's angel messengers in heaven don't know. Even I don't know. My father in heaven is the only one that knows. ³³ You don't know what time God will do these things, so you have to always be ready and keep on remembering everything I told you, like you have to stay awake and keep on looking out for me.

³⁴ Listen to this picture story. A man wanted to go to stay in another place for a while, so he told his workers to look after everything at his house while he was away. He told each one of them to

do their own jobs. He said to the guard at the gate, 'Keep looking out to see me coming back.'^{*}
³⁵⁻³⁶ Those workers didn't know what time that boss was going to come home. He might come after the sun goes down, or he might come in the middle of the night, or he might come as the birds call out in the morning, or he might come back after the sun comes up. So those workers have to be ready all the time. You are like those workers in that picture story, and I am like that boss. You don't know what time I will come back here, and you have to be ready for me all the time. So you have to keep on looking out for me, like that guard at the gate has to keep on looking out. Don't get lazy.

³⁷ I'm telling you mob to be careful, like I tell everybody else. You've got to always be ready for me to come."

14

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus

¹⁻² Every year Jewish people went to Jerusalem for a special ceremony where they ate flat damper for a week. On the first day of that ceremony, they always ate a special dinner called *Passover*.

It was 2 days before that ceremony was going to start, and the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers met together to work out a way to grab Jesus and kill him. But they wanted to grab him when nobody was looking. So those leaders said to each other, "Everybody

* **13:34** Luke 12:36-38

likes Jesus, so we have to wait a bit. We can't grab him while there are lots of people here for the ceremony. They will get angry with us, and we will have a very big fight."*

A woman put special perfume on Jesus's head

³ At the time, Jesus was at the town called Bethany. A man lived there that used to have a skin sickness, but then he got better. His name was Simon. Jesus went to Simon's house, and he was eating dinner there.

A woman came into the house with some special perfume in a pretty bottle. That perfume smelled really good and it cost a lot of money. She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus's head.* ⁴ Some of the people there said to each other, "Why did she waste that perfume? ⁵ Why didn't she sell it and get a lot of money, and give that money to poor people?" And they said angry words to her too.

⁶ But Jesus said to them, "Leave her alone. Don't make trouble for her. She did something really good to me. ⁷ You will always have poor people with you, and you can give them money whenever you want to. But I will not be here with you much longer.* ⁸ I will die soon, and people will bury my body. This woman poured the perfume on me to get my body ready. She did a good thing. ⁹ Listen. People will go everywhere in the world to tell people God's story, and they will remember this woman and they will tell

* **14:1-2** Exodus 12:1-27
Deuteronomy 15:11

* **14:3** Luke 7:37-38

* **14:7**

people about her too, and about the good thing she did today.”

Judas Iscariot turned against Jesus

¹⁰ Judas Iscariot was one of the 12 men that Jesus picked out to be his special workers. But at this time he turned against Jesus, and he went to the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and he said, “I can help you catch Jesus.”

¹¹ They heard him say that, and they were very happy. They promised to pay him money. So he waited for a good time to help them catch Jesus.

Jesus and his followers ate the Passover dinner

¹² The day came for people to kill a young sheep to cook it and eat it. That was the start of the ceremony time called Passover. They ate flat damper at that time too, and they remembered the time, long ago, when their grand-fathers were in Egypt, and God’s angel messenger passed over them, and didn’t kill any of them.

On that day, some of Jesus’s followers went up to him, and they asked him, “Where do you want us all to eat this dinner? We can go and get it ready.”

¹³ Jesus said, “All right, you 2 go over there into Jerusalem city, and after you get there you will meet a man. He will be carrying a big jug of water. Follow him, and he will go into a house. ¹⁴ You talk to the boss over that house. You tell him, ‘Our teacher wants you to show us the room you have for visitors. He wants to eat the Passover dinner there with his followers.’ ¹⁵ Then that boss will take you upstairs to a big

room that he's got set up and ready. You can get the dinner ready for us there."

¹⁶ Those 2 men left him and went into Jerusalem. Everything happened just like Jesus told them. So they got the food ready for that special Passover dinner.

¹⁷ When the sun went down, Jesus and his special workers went to that house to eat the Passover dinner. ¹⁸ While they were eating, Jesus said to them, "Listen, one of you men, that is eating with me here right now, will turn against me and help the people that want to kill me."*

¹⁹ His 12 special workers were sad, and each of them said to him, "Were you talking about me? No, not me. I will not do that."

²⁰ Jesus said, "It is one of you that is eating food with me right now. ²¹ I'm God's special man from heaven, and I have to die, just like God says in his book. But the man that helps my enemies to catch me will get really bad trouble from God. He will wish he was never born."

²² After that, while they were still eating their dinner, Jesus picked up some damper and thanked God for it, then he broke it into bits and gave it to his special workers. He said, "This damper is my body. Take a bit and eat it."

²³ Then he picked up the cup of wine and said thank you to God for it, and he gave it to them, and they passed it around, and each of them drank a little bit of wine. ²⁴ He told them, "This wine is my blood. I will die and pour out my blood for a lot of people. It's like this, God has

* **14:18** Psalm 41:9

agreed to save people, and I will die so he can do that. My blood will come out, and it is like I'm using my blood to sign God's new agreement with people, to say that they are not guilty of the bad things they did.* ²⁵ Listen, I will not drink any wine again until the day that I sit down with God and all his family, and he will show everyone that he is the biggest boss. Then I will drink a new sort of wine with you."

²⁶ After Jesus said that, they all sang a song to God, and then they went out of that house to go to the hill called Olive Trees Hill.

Jesus talked straight to Peter

²⁷ They walked along the road, and Jesus talked to his followers. He said, "All you mob will run away and leave me. A long time ago, God got one of his men to write about this in his book. He wrote,

'God will knock down the man that looks after the sheep,

and all his sheep will run away.'*

He wrote those words about me. I will die, like he wrote about that man, and you will all run away.

²⁸ But after that, God will make me alive again. Then I will go ahead of you to Galilee country, and I will wait for you there."*

²⁹ Peter said, "Maybe all the others will run away, but not me. No way."

³⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Listen to me, Peter. Tonight you will tell people that you don't know

* **14:24** Exodus 24:8; Jeremiah 31:31-34 * **14:27** Zechariah

13:7 * **14:28** Matthew 28:16

me. You will say that 3 times, and then a chook will yell out 2 times, just like it always does before the sun comes up.”

³¹ But Peter talked really strong to Jesus. He said, “No. People might try to force me to say that. They might even tell me that they will kill me, but I will never say that I don’t know you.”

All the other followers said the same thing.

Jesus prayed in the place called Gethsemane

³² Jesus and his followers got to the place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “I want you to sit here and wait for me. I’m going to pray to God.”

³³ He asked Peter, James and John to go with him, and they walked away from the others.

³⁴ Then he said to them, “I feel really sad right now. I feel so sad, it’s like I’m dying. Stay here and keep on looking out for trouble.”

³⁵ Then Jesus walked away from them a little bit and lay down on the ground. ³⁶ He said to God, “Father, you can do anything. You can take this trouble away from me. It’s too hard for me. But you do what you want to do, not what I want.”

³⁷ Jesus went back to his 3 followers and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Wake up, Simon. Can’t you stay awake with me for just one hour?”

³⁸ Stay awake and pray to God so that nothing will get you to go wrong. I know that you want to do the right thing, but your body is weak and wants to sleep.”

³⁹ Jesus left them again, and he prayed again. He kept on asking God the same thing. ⁴⁰ Jesus’s 3

followers were very tired, and they just couldn't stay awake. Then Jesus came back to them again, and they were asleep again. After they woke up, they felt shame, and they didn't know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Jesus went away and prayed to God again. Then he came back to his 3 followers and said, "Are you still resting? You can't sleep any more now. Look. I'm God's special man from heaven, but those bad men will soon come and get me.

⁴² So get up, we have to go now. See, here is the man that is helping them catch me."

A mob of men grabbed Jesus

⁴³ Just before that time, the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers and the Jewish elders, they told a big mob of men to go with Judas to grab Jesus. Those men all had long knives and fighting sticks. Judas was one of Jesus's 12 special workers, but he changed sides, and he took that mob of men to Gethsemane to grab Jesus. They got there while Jesus was talking to his followers. ⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ Judas walked up to Jesus and said, "Hello teacher," and kissed him on the cheek. He did that to show those men which man they had to grab. ⁴⁶ So they grabbed Jesus.

⁴⁷ One of Jesus's followers was standing right there, and he pulled out his long knife. He cut off the ear of a man that worked for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to the mob, "Why have you got all these long knives and fighting sticks? I'm not

a criminal. No way. ⁴⁹ I was always in God's ceremony house, and I taught the people there every day, but you didn't grab me then. But a long time ago, God said that you will grab me. It is in his book. So you will grab me now."*

⁵⁰ Then Jesus's followers got frightened, and they ran away and left him there.

⁵¹ There was a young man there that followed along a little bit behind Jesus. He was just wearing a sheet wrapped around him. ⁵² That mob of men tried to grab him, but they only grabbed the sheet. He wriggled out of it and ran away naked.

They took Jesus to court

⁵³⁻⁵⁴ That mob took Jesus to court at the house of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. All the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and the elders, and the law teachers, they all went to that court too.

That house had a yard with a wall around it. Peter followed a little bit behind the mob, and he followed that mob into the yard of that house, and he sat down with them near their fire.

⁵⁵ All the Jewish leaders there tried to get somebody to say, "We saw Jesus do bad things," so that they could kill him, but nobody told a strong story against him. ⁵⁶ Lots of people stood up and told lies about Jesus, but they didn't agree with each other. Their stories were all mixed up.

⁵⁷ Some men stood up and told this lie. ⁵⁸ They said, "We heard this man say, 'I will knock down

* **14:49** Luke 19:47; 21:37

God's ceremony house and build another one in 3 days. Lots of men built this one, but I will build a new one just by myself.' "* 59 But even those men had their stories mixed up. They didn't agree with each other.

60 The big boss of the Jewish ceremonies stood up in the meeting and said to Jesus, "All those people said that you did bad things. You heard them. What do you say?" 61 But Jesus didn't answer him. He just kept his mouth shut.

Then that boss said, "All right, tell us this. Are you the Christ, that special man that God promised to send to save us? Are you the son of God?"

62 Jesus said, "Yes, I am. I'm God's special man from heaven. And one day, you mob will all see me sitting there in heaven on the right-hand side of God, the powerful one. And you will also see me come back here in the clouds."*

63-64 Then that big boss of the Jewish ceremonies got so angry that he tore his clothes and said to the Jewish leaders, "Did you hear that? This man said that he is the same as God. We don't need anyone to say anything more. We heard it ourselves. So what do you reckon, did he break our law?"

They all said, "He did. He broke our law. He's got to die."*

65 Some of the people in that meeting spat on Jesus. They tied a rag across his eyes so that he couldn't see, then they hit him with their hands

* 14:58 John 2:19 * 14:62 Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13

* 14:63-64 Leviticus 24:16

and said, "Hey. You reckon that God gives you power to know things, so tell us, who hit you?" Then the guards grabbed Jesus and hit him.

Peter said, "I don't know Jesus"

⁶⁶⁻⁶⁷ All this time, Peter sat next to the fire in the yard of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. One of the girls that worked in that house came along and saw Peter there. She looked at him and said, "I think you were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

⁶⁸ But Peter said, "No. I don't know what you are talking about." Then Peter went back to the gate of that yard. Just then a chook yelled out.

⁶⁹ That girl saw Peter at the gate and started to tell the people, "This man is one of Jesus's mob."

⁷⁰ But again Peter said, "No, I'm not."

A little bit later those people there at that gate said to Peter, "You talk like the Galilee people talk, and Jesus is from Galilee, so you have to be one of his followers."

⁷¹ Peter got really wild, and he said, "I'm telling you, I don't know that man. I don't know what you are talking about. God knows that this is true, or if not, he can kill me."

⁷² Straight away, that chook yelled out again. Then Peter remembered the words Jesus said to him before, "Tonight you will tell people that you don't know me. You will say that 3 times, and then a chook will yell out 2 times." When Peter remembered these words, he was very sad, and he cried a lot.

15

The men of the Jewish Leaders Council took Jesus to the judge

¹ Early in the morning, the men of the Jewish Leaders Council talked with each other about what they will do with Jesus. That council mob were the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and the law teachers, and the elders. They tied Jesus's hands together, and they took him over to the big government boss. His name was Pilate. They asked him to judge Jesus. ² So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the big boss over the Jewish nation?"

Jesus said, "Those are your words."

³ The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies blamed Jesus, and they told Pilate he did a lot of bad things, but Jesus didn't say anything. ⁴ Then Pilate said to him, "They are saying lots of bad things about you. Why don't you say something for yourself?"

⁵ But Jesus said nothing, and Pilate was really shocked.

⁶ Every year, at the ceremony time called Passover, Pilate always did something special for the people in Jerusalem. He let one prisoner go free from the jail.

⁷⁻⁸ At this Passover time, some of the Jerusalem people came to Pilate and asked him to let a prisoner go free, like he always did. They came up to Pilate while Jesus was still there. At the same time, there was a murderer in jail there. His name was Barabbas. Before that time, Barabbas and his mob fought against the

government and killed some of the government people, so the soldiers grabbed him and put him in jail.

⁹⁻¹¹ Pilate knew that the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies were jealous of Jesus, and that was the only reason why they brought him to Pilate. They wanted Pilate to kill him. So when those Jerusalem people asked Pilate to let a prisoner go free, Pilate said, "All right, how about I let Jesus go? You reckon he says that he is your big boss. What do you reckon, will I let him go?"

But the ceremony bosses got all those people to be angry with Jesus, and those people told Pilate, "No. Not him. We want you to let Barabbas go free."

¹² Pilate said, "So what do you want me to do with this man that you Jewish people call your big boss?"

¹³ They all yelled, "Kill him. Nail him to a cross and let him die there."

¹⁴ Pilate said, "Why? What did he do that was so bad?"

But they didn't listen. They yelled even louder, "Kill him. Nail him to a cross."

¹⁵ Pilate didn't want that mob to get wild, so he did what they wanted. He let Barabbas go out of jail, and he told his Roman soldiers to hit Jesus a lot with whips. After they finished whipping him, Pilate told them to nail Jesus to a cross and leave him to die.

The soldiers made fun of Jesus

¹⁶ The soldiers took Jesus outside into the yard of the big house where Pilate lived. They called

out to the rest of the soldiers there to come out into that yard. ¹⁷ They put a purple coat on Jesus. Then they made some prickly branches into a headband that looked like a crown, like a big boss wears, and they put it on Jesus's head. ¹⁸ And they made fun of him. They got down on their knees in front of Jesus and said, "Hey, you reckon that you are great. And you reckon that you are the big boss over the Jewish people. But you are not." ¹⁹ And they kept on hitting him on the head with a stick, and they spat on him.

²⁰ When they finished making fun of him, they took off the long purple coat and put his own clothes back on him. Then they took him out to another place to kill him.

²¹ There was a man walking past them on the road at that time. He was coming into the city from the bush. His name was Simon, and he was from the country called Cyrene. (He was the father of our friends Alexander and Rufus.) The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus.* ²² Then they got to the place called *Golgotha* in their language. That name means *Skull Place*.

²³ Then the soldiers tried to give Jesus some wine to drink. That wine had some medicine called myrrh mixed in it. But Jesus wouldn't drink it.

²⁴⁻²⁶ Then the soldiers nailed Jesus's hands and feet to the cross. Then they stood it up, and they left him to die like that. And they made a sign and put it above his head, to say why they killed

* **15:21** Romans 16:13

him. It said, “The big boss over the Jews.” It was 9 o’clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to that cross. After that, the soldiers gambled with each other to get his clothes.*

²⁷⁻²⁸ The soldiers also nailed 2 criminals to crosses next to Jesus. One criminal was on his left-hand side, and the other criminal was on his right-hand side. ²⁹ Some other people walked past Jesus and rubbished him too. They stood there and shook their heads to shame him, and they said, “You reckon you can knock down God’s ceremony house, and then build it again in 3 days, do you?*” ³⁰ All right, if you are so smart, save yourself. Get off the cross and come down.”

³¹ The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers joined in and laughed at Jesus. They said to each other, “He saved other people, but he can’t save himself. ³² He thinks he is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us. He reckons he is the big boss over us Israel nation. No way. We will not believe him unless we see him come down off that cross.”

The men on the other crosses joined in too and rubbished Jesus.

Jesus died

³³ In the middle of the day, at about 12 o’clock, all of the country got dark, like it was night time. It stayed dark for about 3 hours, until 3 o’clock in the afternoon. ³⁴ Then Jesus yelled out in his language. He said, “*Eloy, Eloy, lama sabakthani?*”

* **15:24-26** Psalm 22:18

* **15:29** Psalm 22:7; 109:25; Mark

14:58; John 2:19

That means, *My God, my God, why did you go away and leave me all by myself?**

³⁵ Some of the people standing around heard Jesus say that. They thought that he called out for Elijah to come to him from heaven. ³⁶ One man got up quickly and got a sponge, and he filled it with sour wine, and he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus's mouth, so he could suck a bit of it. And that man said, "All right, just leave him. Let us wait and see if Elijah will come and get him down."*

³⁷ Jesus yelled out again, and then he died.

³⁸ Over in Jerusalem, in God's ceremony house, there was a big curtain that blocked off God's special place. At the same time that Jesus died, that curtain just ripped right down the middle from the top to the bottom, into 2 bits.*

³⁹ And at the cross, the boss over those Roman soldiers stood near Jesus, and he saw the way Jesus died. Then that boss soldier said, "I reckon this man really was the son of God."

Some women saw everything that happened

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ There were some women there at the cross too. Before this time, those women went everywhere with Jesus in Galilee country. They looked after him there, and after that, they came with him to Jerusalem. While Jesus was dying, they stood looking from a long way off. They were Mary Magdalene, and Salomi, and the other

* **15:34** Psalm 22:1 * **15:36** Psalm 69:21 * **15:38** Exodus 26:31-33

Mary that was the mother of young James and Joses, and some other women with them.*

Joseph buried Jesus

⁴² That day that Jesus died was the day when the Jewish people got everything ready for their rest day. That rest day was going to start when it got dark. ⁴³ There was a man there that was called Joseph, and he was from a place called Arimathia. Everyone said that he was a good man, and he was one of the Jewish Leaders Council men too. He was waiting for the time when God will get all his family together and show everyone that he is the biggest boss. So when it was nearly night time, before that rest day started, he went to Pilate. He was a little bit frightened, but he went to Pilate anyway, and he asked him, "Can I get Jesus's body to take care of it our way?"

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ Pilate was shocked. He said, "Is that man dead already?"

He sent somebody to get the boss over the soldiers, and he asked that boss soldier, "Is it true? Is that man properly dead now?"

That boss soldier told Pilate, "Yes, it is true."

Then Pilate told Joseph, "All right, you can take Jesus's body."

⁴⁶ So Joseph bought a good sheet, and he took Jesus's body down from the cross and wrapped it in that sheet. Then he took Jesus's body and put it in a cave to bury it. That cave was a special place to put dead bodies. It was a big hole, like a

* **15:40-41** Luke 8:2-3

little room that somebody cut in the rock. Then Joseph rolled a big flat stone in front of that cave to block it.

⁴⁷ And those women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph, they saw the place where Joseph put Jesus's body.

16

God made Jesus alive again

¹ The next day was Saturday. It was their rest day. When the sun went down, that rest day was finished. Then some women went and bought some perfume to put on Jesus's body, so they could bury him the right way. They were Mary Magdalene, and Salome, and Mary the mother of James. ² Early on Sunday morning, when the sun was just starting to come up, they went to that cave to find Jesus's body. ³ As they walked along, they said to each other, "Who will roll away that big stone to open up the cave for us? It's way too big for us."

⁴ But when the women got there they looked up and saw that the big stone was not blocking the cave any more. Somebody already came before them and rolled that big stone away.

⁵ Then they walked into the cave, and they saw a young man sitting there on the right-hand side, wearing really white clothes. They got a big surprise. ⁶ He said to them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for the body of Jesus, the man from Nazareth that they killed on a cross. God made him alive again. He isn't here. Look, see

this place just here. They put his body here, but it isn't here now." ⁷ And he said to them, "Go back to his followers and tell them, 'You mob have to go back to Galilee country. Jesus will go there ahead of you, and when you go back there you will see him. You remember, he told you about that some time ago.' Make sure you tell that message to Peter and the other followers."*

⁸ The women didn't know what to think. They were so frightened they were shaking. They came out of that cave and ran away. Those women were too frightened to talk to anybody. They just ran away.

Nobody knows for sure the words that Mark wrote at the end of this story about Jesus. We don't have the book that he wrote, we only have copies of it. Some of those copies end here, and some copies have the next bit from verse 9 to verse 20. Maybe somebody else wrote this ending to Mark's book.

Jesus sent his followers to tell everyone about him

⁹ Early on Sunday morning, before those women went to the cave, Jesus came alive again. He let Mary Magdalene see him first. (Some time before this, Jesus forced 7 bad spirits out of her.)

¹⁰ After Mary saw Jesus, she went to his friends, the people that used to walk around with him. When she got there, they were all very sad and

* **16:7** Matthew 26:32; Mark 14:28

crying. ¹¹ Mary told them, “Jesus is alive again. I have just seen him.” But they didn’t believe her.

¹² A little while after that, 2 of Jesus’s other followers were walking from Jerusalem to another place out in the bush. Jesus came to them, and he let them see him, but he made himself look like a different man, so they didn’t know it was him.

¹³ Then, after they found out it really was him, they turned around and quickly went back to Jerusalem, and they told Jesus’s other followers that they saw Jesus. But those other followers didn’t believe them.

¹⁴ After that, Jesus’s 11 special workers were eating food together, and Jesus came to them, and he let them see him alive. He said to them, “Why didn’t you listen to those people that said they saw me? What they said was true, but you didn’t believe them.”

¹⁵ After that, Jesus said to his followers, “You have to go out to everywhere in the world and tell everybody the good news about me.

¹⁶ Some people will believe your message. You have to take them through that special washing ceremony, called baptism, and God will save them. But God will not save people that don’t believe that message. He will blame them and say they are guilty. ¹⁷ And the people that believe in me will do great things with the power that I will give them, to show everyone that they are God’s people. They will force bad spirits out of people. And they will talk in different languages that they never learned. ¹⁸ And if they pick up a cheeky snake, it will not hurt them. And if they

drink poison, it will not hurt them. And they will put their hands on sick people, and those sick people will get better.”

Jesus went up to heaven

¹⁹ After Jesus finished telling his followers all those things, God took him up to heaven. And Jesus sat down at the right-hand side of God, the place where only a really important person can sit.

²⁰ After that, his followers went everywhere and told people the good news about Jesus. And our leader, Jesus himself, worked with them. He gave them power to do great things so that everyone knew that he was with them, and that their message about him was true.

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