

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

We have translated everything that John wrote in his book about Jesus. It is important for us today because it tells us about the things Jesus did, and the messages that he brought us from God.

John was the young brother of James. Their father's name was Zebedee. They were fishermen on a lake called Lake Galilee, and it was also called Lake Tiberias. One day, Jesus walked along beside that lake, and he called to James and John, and he told them to follow him (see Mark 1:19-20).

Later, Jesus picked 12 men to be his special workers, and 2 of them were James and John (see Mark 3:13-19). Those 12 men went everywhere with Jesus for the next 3 years. So John saw and

heard most of the things that he wrote about in this book.

John wrote this book about 50 years after those things happened. That was a long time after Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote their books about Jesus.

The one called the Word gave life to everything

¹ This is the story about somebody called *the Word*. Before God made anything, the Word was with God, and he was just the same as God. You see, the Word was God.

² Yes, the Word was with God before anything happened.

³ God used the Word to make everything. God and the Word worked together, and they made everything, everywhere.

⁴ The Word had the power to give life to everything, and he showed people what is true about God. You see, the Word was a light for everyone.

⁵ That light shines out into the darkness and makes everything clear, and the darkness can't put it out.

John the Baptist told people about God's special man

⁶ One day, God sent a man called John to talk to people.*

⁷ His job was to tell everyone about the person that is that light, so everyone could hear his message and believe it.

* **1:6** Matthew 3:1; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:1-2

8-9 John was not that real light, but he came to tell people about that light. The real light was coming into the world. That light was going to shine in the darkness so that everyone could see God.

The one called the Word became a human being

¹⁰ The one called the Word came to the world. You know, God used that one called the Word to make everything in the world, but people in the world didn't know who he was.

¹¹ He came to his own countrymen, but most of them didn't want him.

¹² But some people did want him. They believed in him, so God said they can join his family, and be his own kids.

¹³ Yes, those people are in God's family, but they were not born into it the way kids are born into human families. And they did not come from what a human mother or father wanted. God himself gave them new life and made them his kids.

¹⁴ You see, the Word became a human being. He came and lived in a body, with us here on the earth. We saw that he was really powerful, just like God. Then we knew that he was God's only special son, and he showed us what his father is like. He was a really good man, and everything he said was true.

¹⁵ But before we saw the Word, this is what John told everybody about him. He said, "I am telling you about a man that will come later. He is a lot greater than I am. You see, he was alive even before I was born."

¹⁶ That man is really good. And when he came, he was really good to us. He is like that. He is good to us all the time, even when we do nothing good for him.

¹⁷ You know, God gave Moses the law a long time ago, so that our people could live God's way, but Jesus Christ gave us God's true message. He showed us that God loves us, even though we did nothing good for him.

¹⁸ Nobody has ever seen God. But the special man, the one that is God, he is always with his father. He is the one that showed us what God is like.

John the Baptist answered questions about himself

¹⁹ The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem city sent some of the bosses of their ceremonies, and other men that helped in the Jewish ceremonies, to ask John some questions. They said to him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ John told them straight. He said, "I am not the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save his people."

²¹ Those men from Jerusalem asked him again, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah, the man that told God's message a long time ago?"

John said, "No, I am not Elijah."

Again, the men asked, "What about the messenger that God promised, a long time ago. He promised to send a special man, like Moses, to tell his message. Are you that man?"

And again, John said, "No, I am not that man."

²² Then the men asked him, “Well, who are you? And why are you here? We have to tell our leaders.”

²³ John talked to them with the words that Isaiah wrote, a long time ago. Isaiah told people God’s words, and they are in God’s book. John said,

“I am a man that is out in the bush, calling out to people. I’m saying,

‘You mob get ready. Later on, God will come to this country.

It is like when a big boss comes,

you have to make a good road for him.’ ”*

²⁴⁻²⁵ Some of those men from Jerusalem were from the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the law. They said to John, “You say that you are not the special man that God promised to send, called the Christ. And you say that you are not Elijah, or the messenger that God promised. So why do you baptise people? Why do you take them through that special washing ceremony?”

²⁶⁻²⁷ John said to them, “I baptise people with water. But I am telling you, there is somebody coming after me that you don’t know yet. He is the most important one. I am not good enough to untie his shoes.”

²⁸ That all happened at a place called Bethany, on the east side of the Jordan River. John was baptising people there.

John the Baptist told people about Jesus

* **1:23** Isaiah 40:3

²⁹ The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him. John said to the people there, “Look at that man. He is the special one that God sent. You know how people kill a young sheep to pay for the bad things they did. Well, God sent this man to die, like those young sheep. He is going to let people kill him, to pay for all the bad things that everybody in the world does.

³⁰ He is the man I told you about. I said, ‘He is a lot greater than I am. You see, he was always alive, even before I was born.’

³¹⁻³⁴ At first I didn’t know that this was the special man that God promised to send. You see, God sent me to you Israel people to baptise you with water and get you ready, so that God can show that man to you.

I didn’t know which man was the right one, but God told me this, ‘You will see the Holy Spirit coming down on to one man, and the spirit will stay on that man. Then you will know that he is the special man that I sent. He is the one that will put the Holy Spirit into people, that is, he will baptise them with the Holy Spirit.’

And I saw it happen like God said. I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven. It looked like a pigeon. It came down and sat on him. So I’m telling you, this man is God’s son.”

Some men started to follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day, John was standing near the Jordan River again.

³⁶ He saw Jesus walking by, and John said to 2 of his followers, “Look at that man. He is the

special one that God sent to die for us. You know that God told people to kill young sheep, to pay for the wrong things they did. Well, this man will die for us, just like those young sheep died for people.”

³⁷ John’s 2 followers heard him say that about Jesus, so they left John and followed Jesus.

³⁸ Jesus turned around and saw them, and he asked them, “What are you looking for? Why are you following me?”

The men said, “Rabbi, where is your camp?” (In their language, that word *Rabbi* means *Teacher*.)

³⁹ Jesus said, “Come and see.” So the men followed Jesus to his camp, and they stayed with him that day. It was about 4 o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ Andrew was one of the 2 men that left John and followed Jesus. Andrew went quickly and found his brother, Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah.” (In their language that word *Messiah* means *Christ*. Both of those words mean *the special man that God promised to send*.)

⁴² So Andrew took Simon to meet Jesus.

Jesus looked at Simon and said, “You are Simon and your father’s name is John. I will call you Kefas.” (In their language, that word *Kefas* means *stone*, and *Peter* is another name that means *stone*, so we usually call him Peter.)

Jesus told Philip and Nathaniel to follow him

⁴³ The next day, Jesus wanted to go north, to Galilee country. But first he found a man called Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip was from a town called Bethsayida, the same town that Andrew and Peter were from.

⁴⁵ Philip went to his friend Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found the special man that Moses wrote about in our Jewish law books. And God's other messengers talked about this man too. His name is Jesus. He is from the town called Nazareth, and he is the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ Nathaniel didn't believe the words he heard, and he said, "No, Nazareth is a rubbish place. Nothing good ever comes from there."

But Philip said, "Come and meet him."

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to meet him. Jesus said to the other people there, "Here is a proper Israel man. He doesn't try to trick anyone."

⁴⁸ Nathaniel asked Jesus, "How do you know me?"

Jesus said, "I knew you even before Philip found you. I saw you while you were under that fruit tree."

⁴⁹ Nathaniel said, "Teacher. You are the one we have been waiting for. You are the son of God, and you will be the big boss for all of us Israel people."

⁵⁰ Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in me because I said that I saw you under a fruit tree? Well, later on, you will see me do even greater things."

⁵¹ Then Jesus said to everyone there, “Listen, I am telling you straight, one day you will see heaven open up, and you will see God’s angel messengers going up into heaven, and you will see them coming down on to me. I am God’s special man from heaven.”*

2

Jesus changed water into wine at a wedding party

¹⁻² Later on, after 2 days, Jesus went to a wedding party, where a man and a woman got married. It was in a town called Cana, in Galilee country. And Jesus’s mother and his followers went with him.

³ There was always weak wine to drink at a wedding party, but they used up all that wine. So Jesus’s mother said to him, “They have run out of wine. Can you help them?”

⁴ Jesus said to her, “Why are you asking me to do that? It is not the right time yet for me to show everyone who I am.”

⁵ But his mother went to the workers there and said, “Do whatever he tells you to do.”

⁶ In that place there were 6 stone pots for water. The Jewish people used those pots for their washing ceremonies. Each pot held about 100 litres of water.

⁷ Jesus said to the workers, “See those pots. Go and fill them up with water.” So they filled them right up to the top with water.

* **1:51** Genesis 28:12

⁸ Then Jesus told them, “Now put some of it in a cup, and give it to the boss of the party.” So they did what Jesus said.

⁹ The boss man drank some of it, but it was not water, it was very good wine. He didn’t know where that wine came from, but the workers knew.

Then the boss of the party talked to the man getting married.

¹⁰ The boss man said, “At wedding parties, the family usually gives people the best wine first. Then, after they get a bit drunk, the family gives them cheap wine. But you are different. You are giving out the best wine now, at the end of the party.”

¹¹ This was the first powerful thing Jesus did. He did it in Cana, in Galilee country. He did it to show that his power came from God, and his followers believed in him. They believed that he came from God.

¹² Then Jesus, and his mother, and his brothers, and his followers, they all left Cana and went down to a town called Capernium, and they stayed there for a few days.*

Jesus stopped people selling things in God’s ceremony house

¹³ Later on, it was nearly time for the Jewish ceremony called Passover, so Jesus and his followers went to Jerusalem city for that ceremony.*

* **2:12** Matthew 4:13 * **2:13** Exodus 12:1-27

¹⁴ God's ceremony house was in Jerusalem, and people had to kill animals there and burn them to show respect to God, and they had to pay tax money to the men that look after God's house. Jesus went into the yard of God's ceremony house, and he found men there selling cows, and bulls, and sheep, and pigeons. And there were men there that changed the money of other countries into Jewish money so that people could pay that tax. You see, those men that sold things and changed money, they did that to get some money for themselves.

¹⁵ Jesus saw them doing that. So he made a whip out of some rope, and he used it to hunt those men and animals out of the yard. He went to the men that changed the money, and he pushed their tables over. All their money went everywhere on the ground.

¹⁶ And Jesus went to the men that sold pigeons, and he shouted, "Get those birds out of here. This is my father's house. Stop turning it into a shop."

¹⁷ Jesus's followers saw him do that, and they remembered that a long time ago God told one of his men to write this in God's book,
"I really love God's house. I love it so much that
I will do anything to look after it."
Then they knew that God's man wrote that about Jesus.*

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders got angry. They said to Jesus, "Hey, you can't do that. If you think you can, then do something powerful, to show

* **2:17** Psalm 69:9

us that God told you to hunt those men out of God's ceremony house."

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "If you knock down this house of God, I will build it again in 3 days."*

²⁰ The Jewish leaders said, "What? It took a lot of people 46 years to build this ceremony house. Do you think you can build it again in 3 days?"

²¹ But Jesus wasn't talking about God's ceremony house. He was talking about his own body.

²² Later on, Jesus died, and he was dead for 2 nights, then on the 3rd day he came alive again. Then his followers remembered those words that Jesus said. And they believed his words and the messages in God's book about him.

Jesus knows what people are like

²³ While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover ceremony, the people there saw him do powerful things, and lots of them believed in him.

²⁴⁻²⁵ But Jesus knew everything about all people. He didn't need anyone to tell him what people are like. And he knew that those people only believed in him after they saw him do powerful things, and that they might stop believing in him soon. So Jesus didn't trust them.

3

Nicodemus talked with Jesus

¹⁻² One night, a man went to talk to Jesus. His name was Nicodemus. He was a leader of the Jewish people, and he was one of the mob called

* **2:19** Matthew 26:61; 27:40; Mark 14:58; 15:29

Pharisees, that were strong for the Jewish law. He said to Jesus, "Teacher, we've been watching you do powerful things, so now we know that God has sent you to teach us. Only somebody with God's power can do those things."

³ Jesus said to him, "Listen, I am telling you straight, people have to get born again, and then they can be in God's family."

⁴ Nicodemus said, "How can a big man like me get back into his mother's body and get born again?"

⁵ Jesus said, "Listen, I am telling you straight, if anyone wants to be in God's family, they have to get born again God's way. God has to make them clean, and he has to put his spirit in them."

⁶ You see, everybody is born from a human mother, that's how our bodies get life. But if people get born again from God's Holy Spirit, then the Holy Spirit gives new life to their spirits too.

⁷ I said, 'You have to get born again.' Don't get shocked by that.

⁸ You know that the wind goes wherever it wants to go. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it came from, and you don't know where it's going. Just like that, we don't know how God's spirit makes people get born again."

⁹ Nicodemus said, "What? How can somebody get born again from God's spirit?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "I am shocked. You are an important teacher here in Israel, and you don't understand what I'm saying."

¹¹ Listen, I am telling you straight, I talk about the things I know, and about the things I have seen, but you don't take any notice of what I tell you.

¹² I told you about things that happen here on earth, and you don't believe me. So if I tell you about things that happen in heaven, I reckon you will still not believe me.

¹³ I am the only person here that has been in heaven. I am the special man from God. I came down from heaven. So you have to believe what I say.

¹⁴ Think about the story about our grandfathers that lived a long time ago. They walked through the desert, and they started to complain to God, so he sent snakes to bite them and kill them. Then God told Moses to make a metal snake and put it up on a pole. Then, whenever a snake bit somebody, if that person looked at that metal snake up on the pole, they didn't die. Well, I am God's special man from heaven. Just like Moses lifted up that metal snake on a pole, people will lift me up on a cross,*

¹⁵ so that if anyone believes in me, then they will live with God for ever."

¹⁶ You see, God loved all of the people in the world. He loved everyone so much that he sent them his only son, his special son. God sent him to die instead of them, so that if anyone trusts him, God will not finish them up, but they will live with him for ever.

* **3:14** Numbers 21:9

¹⁷ You see, God sent his son into the world so that he can save the people of the world. He didn't send him to judge people and do payback to them.

¹⁸ If anyone believes in God's son, then God will not say they are guilty. But if anyone does not believe in him, God has already said they are guilty. You see, they do not believe in God's only son, his special son.

¹⁹ So God will judge them. You see, the light has come into the world, but people don't want the light. They love the darkness too much. They love doing bad things in the dark, and they want to keep on doing them.

²⁰ If anyone does bad things, they hate the light. They will not come into the light. They know that if they come into the light, then everyone will see the bad things they are doing.

²¹ But anyone that lives the right way, comes into the light, so that everyone can see them living God's way.

John the Baptist told his followers about Jesus

²² After that, Jesus went with his followers to Judea country, and he spent some time with them there. People went to Jesus there, and his followers baptised them.

²³ At that time some people kept going to John too, and he baptised them. John was at a place called Aynon, near the place called Salim. There was a lot of water there.

²⁴ John was not in jail at that time, but later the soldiers grabbed him and put him in jail.*

²⁵ At that time, the Jewish people had laws about making themselves clean for their ceremonies, and some of John's followers argued with a Jewish leader about the right way to get clean.

²⁶ Then they went to John and said, "Teacher, remember that man you talked about, the man that was with you on the other side of the Jordan River. Lots of people are going to him, and he is baptising them."

²⁷ John said, "A person can only get what God gives them. Some people come to me, and some people go to Jesus, but don't worry. Don't be jealous.

²⁸ Jesus is the special man that God sent to the world. Remember, I told you, 'I am not the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save his people. But God sent me to get people ready, so that they will listen to that special man.' You heard me say that.*

²⁹ Listen to this picture story about wedding parties. The man that marries the woman is the important man. The man's good friend waits for him, and the friend is really happy when the man comes. Well, in the same way, I am like the good friend of Jesus. He came, so I am really happy. And people are going to him, and I am happy about that too.

* **3:24** Matthew 14:3; Mark 6:17; Luke 3:19-20 * **3:28** John 1:20

³⁰ He has to get more and more important. But I am not important, and later I will be like nothing.

³¹ Yes, Jesus is the most important one, he is the man that came from heaven. But we belong to the earth, so we can only talk about things we see and hear on earth. But Jesus came from heaven, so he knows about everything.

³² He talks about the things he saw and heard in heaven. But nobody believes him.

³³ But if anyone does believe what he says, they clearly show that God's words are true.

³⁴ You see, Jesus only says God's words. God sent him and gave him the full power of his Holy Spirit.

³⁵ God, the father, loves his son very much and gave him power over everything.*

³⁶ Anyone that believes in God's son will live with him for ever. But anyone that does not do what God's son says, will not live with God, and God will be angry with that person for ever."

4

Jesus left Judea country and went to Galilee country

¹⁻³ More and more people were following Jesus, and his special workers were baptising all those people. Jesus himself didn't baptise anybody, just his special workers did that. Then Jesus's enemies, the Pharisee mob, they heard that Jesus had more followers than John had, so they

* **3:35** Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22

started to watch Jesus. Jesus heard that they were watching him, so he left Judea country, and he went north to Galilee country.

Jesus talked to a woman from the country called Samaria

⁴ On their way to Galilee country, Jesus and his followers had to go through the country called Samaria.

⁵⁻⁸ They walked a long way, then they got to a water-hole. A long time ago, their grand-father, Jacob, dug that water-hole. It was near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.* There was a little town called Sikar near that water-hole, so Jesus's followers went into the town to buy some food. But Jesus was tired, so he sat down next to that water-hole, and he waited there.

In the middle of the day, a woman came from the town and got some water from that water-hole. Jesus said to her, "Can you give me a drink?"

⁹ The woman said, "What? You are a Jew, and I belong to Samaria. So why do you ask me for a drink of water?" You see, the Jews were not friends with the Samaria people.*

¹⁰ Jesus said to her, "I asked you for a drink of water, but really, you should ask me for a drink. You don't know who I am, and you don't know about the good thing that God can give you. If you ask me, I will give you the fresh water that makes people live."

* **4:5-8** Genesis 33:19; Joshua 24:32 * **4:9** Ezra 4:1-5; Nehemiah 4:1-2

11 The woman said, "Sir, this water-hole is really deep, and you haven't got a bucket. How are you going to get that fresh water?"

12 Jacob, our grand-father that lived a long time ago, he dug this water-hole for himself, and for his sons, and for all their animals. They all drank this water. Do you think you are greater than Jacob?"

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone that drinks water from this water-hole will get thirsty again.

14 But if anyone drinks the water that I give them, they will never get thirsty again. That water will keep coming up inside them, like a spring of fresh water, and it will make them live for ever."

15 The woman said, "Sir, give me that water. I don't want to get thirsty. I don't want to have to come here all the time to get water."

16 Jesus said, "Well, go and get your husband and bring him here."

17 The woman said, "I haven't got a husband."

Jesus said to her, "That's right. You haven't got a husband now.

18 You have had 5 different husbands, and the man you live with now is only your boyfriend. You are not married to him. Yes, it's true, you haven't got a husband."

19 The woman said, "Sir, you know all about me. I reckon you are one of those men that get messages from God.

20 So tell me who is right, you Jewish people or us Samaria people? My people have always shown respect to God by doing ceremonies on

this mountain. But you Jews say that we have to go to Jerusalem to do those ceremonies and show respect to God. Who is right?"

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Believe me, a time is coming when it will not matter if you show respect to God, the father, here on this mountain, or in Jerusalem, or anywhere else.

²² You see, you people try to show respect to God, but you don't really know him. We Jewish people show respect to God, and we know more about him. And God said that he will use a Jewish person to save everybody.

²³ Yes, a time is coming when the people that belong to God will show respect to him properly. And that time is happening now. They will know the true story about God, and they will respect him with their spirits. They are the sort of people that my father is looking for, to show him respect.

²⁴ You see, God is a spirit, and the people that really respect him have to know the true story about him, and they have to respect him with their spirits."

²⁵ The woman said to Jesus, "I know that a special man is coming. He is the man that God promised to send. He is the one called the *Messiah*, or the *Christ*. After he comes, he will tell us everything we need to know."

²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am that man. Yes, that's me, the man you are talking to."

Jesus's followers came back

²⁷ Then at that time, Jesus's followers came back from the town. They saw Jesus and the

woman, and they got a shock. He was talking to a woman. They wanted to ask her, "What do you want?" And they wanted to ask Jesus, "Why are you talking to that woman?" But they didn't say anything.

²⁸ The woman left her bucket next to the water-hole and went back into the town, and she said to the people there,

²⁹ "Come and see a man that told me everything I ever did. Maybe he is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send, the one that we have been waiting for." ³⁰ The people heard what she said, and they left the town to go and see Jesus.

³¹ While the woman was in the town talking to the people there, Jesus's followers said to him, "Teacher, you have to eat something."

³² But Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

³³ So his followers said to each other, "Did somebody give him food while we were away?"

³⁴ Jesus said, "Nobody gave me any food. I do everything my father wants me to do, and that keeps me going. It is like food for me. My father sent me here to do his work, and I want to finish it.

³⁵ Listen. I will tell you this picture story about food plants. You can plant seeds, but then you have to wait about 4 months for them to grow before you can get the food from them. That's how it is with food plants. But you will not have to wait for people to be ready. A lot of people are ready right now to hear the good news and join

God's family. So there is already work for you to do. You don't have to wait, like you wait for food plants to grow.

³⁶ Think again about food plants. A worker plants the seeds, and then after they grow up to be big plants, another worker gathers the food from them. And the owner pays both the worker that plants the seeds and the worker that gathers the food. That is a picture of God's workers. One of them tells people God's message, and later on, another worker will help those people to believe that message, so that God will take those people into his family and they will live with him for ever. Both of those workers will be really happy when they see people in God's family, just like both of the workers in the picture story got paid for their work.

³⁷ Sometimes people say, 'One worker plants the seeds and another worker gathers the food.' That is true.

³⁸ And just like that, some of God's other workers have shared God's story with people, and now I'm sending you to help those people join God's family. Somebody else told them about God, and now you will see them join God's family."

Lots of Samaria people believed in Jesus

³⁹ The people in the town heard the woman say, "He told me everything I ever did," and a lot of them believed in Jesus.

⁴⁰ And so they came from the town to see Jesus, and they asked him to stay with them for a while. So he stayed there for 2 days.

⁴¹ He talked to them and told them his message, and even more people believed in him.

⁴² The town people said to the woman, “We heard what you said about this man, and we believed you. But now we listened to him ourselves, and we know for sure that he is the man that God sent into the world to save people.”

⁴³ Jesus stayed with the people there for 2 days. Then Jesus and his followers left Samaria and went north to Galilee country.

Jesus made a government boss's son better

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ Galilee is the country where Jesus grew up. Before Jesus went there, he said to his followers, “If God picks a man to tell his messages, the people of that man’s own home town don’t respect him.” But the Galilee people were in Jerusalem at the Passover time, and they saw Jesus do lots of powerful things there, so they were very happy to see him come to Galilee.*

⁴⁶ Jesus and his followers went again to Cana, the town in Galilee where he changed water into wine. In another town in Galilee, called Capernium, there was a very important man that worked for the government. But his son was very sick.*

⁴⁷ This man heard that Jesus came from Judea country to Galilee, so he went to see Jesus, and

* **4:44-45** Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4; Luke 4:24; John 2:23 * **4:46**
John 2:1-11

he asked him to come and make his son better. The boy was so sick that he was nearly dead.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to him, "If I just talk to you people, you don't believe me. You only believe me if you see me do something powerful."

⁴⁹ The man said, "Sir, please come to my house quickly before my son dies."

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "You can go home. Your son will get better."

The man believed Jesus's words, so he left to go home.

⁵¹ The next day, as he got close to his house, his workers met him and told him, "Your son is better."

⁵² The man asked his workers, "When did my son get better?"

They said, "The sickness left him yesterday, at about one o'clock in the afternoon."

⁵³ The man worked out that it was at that same time that Jesus said, "Your son will get better." So the man, and his family, and everyone that lived in his house, they all believed in Jesus.

⁵⁴ That was the 2nd time that Jesus went from Judea to Galilee and then did a powerful thing.

5

A man couldn't walk, but Jesus made him better

¹ After that, Jesus went south from Galilee country to Jerusalem city for another Jewish ceremony.

² There was a gate into the city called the Sheep Gate, and there was a pool of water near that

gate. The name of the pool was Bethesda. It had 5 shade shelters around it,

³ and a lot of sick people lay there. Some of those people were blind, and some of them were crippled, and some couldn't move at all.

⁴ You see, those sick people wanted to get better, and they believed that sometimes one of God's angel messengers came down and stirred the water in that pool. And they believed that after that, the first person to get into the water got better from any sickness they had.

⁵ Jesus came to that pool, and there was a man lying there that couldn't walk. He was crippled like that for 38 years.

⁶ Jesus saw the man lying there, and he knew that the man was crippled for a very long time. So Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get better?"

⁷ The man said, "Yes, sir, I do, but I haven't got a friend to help me get into the water after it moves. Somebody else always gets in first."

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your swag, and walk."

⁹ Straight away, the man was better. He got up, picked up his swag, and started walking around.

This happened on the Jewish rest day.

¹⁰ So the Jewish leaders said to the man that got better, "Hey, you can't carry your swag on our rest day. You are breaking the law."*

¹¹ The man said, "But the man that made me better told me to. He said, 'Pick up your swag, and walk.' So I did."

* **5:10** Nehemiah 13:19; Jeremiah 17:21

12 The Jewish leaders asked him, “Who is this man that said, ‘Pick up your swag, and walk?’ ”

13 But the man didn’t know who made him better. There were a lot of people in that place, and Jesus had already left.

14 Later on, Jesus found the man at God’s ceremony house, and he said to him, “Look, you are better now. So stop doing things that God says are wrong, or something worse might happen to you.”

15 Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus that made him better.

16 The leaders were angry with Jesus for making people better on the Jewish rest day, so they started to make trouble for him.

17 Jesus said to them, “God, my father, is always working, and I am always working too.”

18 That made the Jewish leaders more angry, and they tried to find a way to kill him. They said to themselves, “This man breaks God’s law and works on our rest day. And he calls God his father too. That means he is saying that he is the same as God. He has to die.”

19 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said to them, “Listen, I am telling you straight, God is my father, and I am his son. I can only do what my father does. I can’t do anything on my own. I do the same things that I see my father do. Whatever he does, I do the same.

20 Listen, my father loves me. I am his son, and he shows me everything that he is doing. And my father will show me even more powerful

things to do. You will see them, and you will be surprised.

²¹ You see, my father can make dead people alive again. And I am like my father, I can give life to anyone I want to.

²² My father does not judge anyone. I am his son, and he told me to be the judge of everyone.

²³ My father did that so that everyone will respect me, just like they respect him. If you don't respect me, you are not respecting my father. He is the one that sent me to you.

²⁴ Listen, I am telling you straight, God is the one that sent me. If anyone listens to what I say and trusts God, they will live with him for ever. He will say they are not guilty, and he will not punish them. You see, they were going to die, and they were going to stay dead for ever. But now it is different for them. They will live with God for ever.

²⁵ Listen, there are people that are spiritually dead, but I am God's son, and I am telling you straight, a time is coming when they will hear my voice, and if they listen to me, they will come alive spiritually. And that time is happening now.

²⁶ You see, my father has the power to make people come alive. And he has given that same power to me.

²⁷ I am God's special man from heaven, and God told me to be the judge.

²⁸ Why are you shocked? A time is coming when all the dead people will hear my voice.

²⁹ They will hear me, then they will come alive again. The people that have done good things

and lived the way God wants them to, those people will live with him for ever. But God will punish the other people, the people that went against him and did bad things.*

³⁰ You see, I can't do anything on my own. My father sent me to the world, and he tells me the way to judge. I only want to judge the way he wants me to, not my own way. And his way is the right way, so I only judge the right way.

³¹ Think about this. If I am the only one that tells you who I am, you don't have to believe me.

³² But there is somebody else that talks about me. He is God, and I know that the things he says about me are true.

³³ Remember that you sent some men to ask John about me. Well, everything that he told them was true.*

³⁴ I don't really need a human being to talk about me. But I'm telling you that the things John said about me are true. You see, I want you to believe them. Then God will save you.

³⁵ John told you about me. He was like a bright light shining in the darkness, and for a while, you were happy with the things he said.

³⁶ You see, John told you that God sent me, but the things that I do show even more clearly that God sent me. And I have to finish the job he sent me to do.

³⁷ Yes, God is my father, and he sent me. And he told people about me. But you have never seen him or heard his voice.*

* **5:29** Daniel 12:2 * **5:33** John 1:19-27; 3:27-30 * **5:37**
Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22

³⁸ You see, God sent me to you, but you don't believe me. This shows that you don't really want to hear God's message.

³⁹ I know that you read God's book all the time, and you think that if you do that you will find out how to live with God for ever. I want you to know that those words in God's book, they tell you all about me.

⁴⁰ And if people come to me, then they can live with God for ever. But you don't want to come to me.

⁴¹ I don't need people to say good things about me.

⁴² But, I know all about you. I know that you don't really love God.

⁴³ My father sent me to tell you his words, but you do not listen to me. But whenever other people come and tell you their own words, you always listen to them.

⁴⁴ And you like other people saying good things about you, but you don't try to live God's way so that he will say good things about you. He is the only God, but you just care what people think about you, not what God thinks about you. That is the reason why you don't believe in me.

⁴⁵ I will not stand in front of God and tell him about the wrong things you did. Moses will do that. You hope Moses will say, 'You followed the law that God told me to write, so you will be all right.' But he will not say that.

⁴⁶ You see, Moses wrote about me. So if you really believe the things that Moses wrote, you will believe in me.

⁴⁷ But no, you don't really believe the things that Moses wrote, so you don't believe what I say."

6

Jesus fed a big mob of people

¹ Jesus and his special workers left Jerusalem city, and they went north to Galilee country. They got into a boat and went across the lake that some people call *Lake Galilee*. Other people call it *Lake Tiberias*.

²⁻⁴ (It was nearly time for the big Jewish ceremony called Passover.) Jesus and his special workers got to the other side of the lake, then Jesus climbed up a hill and his special workers went with him, and they sat down. Before that time, a lot of people saw Jesus make sick people better, so they followed him up that hill.

⁵⁻⁶ Jesus looked around and saw the big mob of people walking towards him. He knew what he was going to do, but he wanted to test Philip, one of his special workers. So he said, "Philip, where can we get food for all these people?"

⁷ Philip said, "We haven't got much money. If we want to buy enough bread to give all these people just a little bit each, we need thousands of dollars."

⁸ One of Jesus's followers was Andrew. He was Peter's brother. He said to Jesus,

⁹ "There is a young boy here with 5 little loaves of bread and 2 fish. But we need a lot more than that to feed all these people."

¹⁰ There was a lot of grass there, so Jesus said, “Tell the people to sit down.” So they all sat down on the grass. There were about 5,000 men in that big mob of people.

¹¹ Jesus picked up the bread. He prayed and said, “Thank you God for this food.” Then he gave the bread to his followers, and they gave it out to all the people. Jesus did the same thing with the fish too. And everyone ate as much as they wanted.

¹² They ate so much that they were all full. But there was still food left over. So Jesus said to his followers, “Pick up all the left-over food. Don’t waste any of it.”

¹³ So his followers walked around and picked up the left-over bits of food. There was lots of bread left over from those 5 little loaves. Jesus’s followers filled up 12 big baskets with left-over bits of food.

¹⁴ You see, Jesus fed thousands of people with just a little bit of food. And the people saw Jesus do that really powerful thing, and they said, “He has to be the messenger that God promised to send. A long time ago, God promised to send a special man like Moses, and now he has come.”

¹⁵ Jesus knew that they wanted to force him to be their big boss, and the big boss for the whole Israel nation. He didn’t want them to do that, so he left them, and he went up the hill by himself.

Jesus walked on top of water

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ After that, the sun went down and it got dark, but Jesus didn’t come back down the hill, so

his followers said to each other, "Let's go across to the other side of the lake, to the town called Capernium." So they went down to the water, and they got into their boat. Then they started to go across that big lake.

¹⁸ As they rowed their boat, the wind got very strong, and the waves got really big.

¹⁹ They rowed their boat in the dark for about 5 kilometres, then they saw Jesus walking on top of the water. He was walking towards them, and they were really frightened.

²⁰ But he called out to them, "Don't be frightened. It's me, I'm Jesus."

²¹ As soon as they heard Jesus say that, they stopped being frightened, and they helped him get into the boat. Then straight away, the boat got to the place that they wanted to go to.

²² Earlier on that day, the people saw Jesus's followers get into a boat and go away without him. They knew that there were no other boats for Jesus to go in, so they thought that Jesus was still there.

²³⁻²⁴ The next day, some of those people were still there. They looked around for Jesus, but they couldn't find him or any of his followers. Some other boats from a town called Tiberias came to the place where Jesus thanked God for the food and fed all the people, so the people got into those boats and went over to Capernium, to look for Jesus there.

Jesus is like bread that gets people to live for ever

25 They found Jesus on the other side of the lake, and they asked him, “Teacher, when did you get here?”

26 Jesus said to them, “Listen carefully. I know why you mob are looking for me. You mob saw me do powerful things, but you didn’t understand them. You don’t want to know who I am. You just want more food, like you had yesterday.

27 Listen, that food, like you ate yesterday, it doesn’t last long. So don’t work for food like that. You have to work for food that gets you to live with God for ever. I am God’s special man from heaven, and I can give you that special food. And God, my father, told me to do that.”

28 The people asked Jesus, “What is the work that God wants us to do, so that we can live for ever?”

29 Jesus said, “This is the work that God wants you to do, he wants you to believe in the man he sent to the world.”

30-31 So the people said to him, “Then do something powerful, so that we can see it and believe what you say. A long time ago, Moses gave food from heaven to our grand-fathers. Remember that story. When they walked through the desert country, Moses gave them food called *manna*. We can read these words in God’s book, ‘He gave people bread that came from heaven.’* So what will you do for us?”

32 Then Jesus said, “Listen, this is the true story about that bread from heaven. Moses didn’t give

* **6:30-31** Exodus 16:4, 15; Psalm 78:24

your people that bread from heaven. God gave it to them. And now God gives you the proper bread from heaven.

³³ The proper bread from heaven is the man that God has sent to the world. He gives life to people, so that they will live with God for ever.”

³⁴ The people said, “Sir, give us that bread all the time.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread that gives life to people, so that they will live with God for ever. If anyone comes to me and believes in me, they will get everything they have been looking for. It’s like their spirit will never be hungry and never be thirsty again.

³⁶ But you mob don’t believe in me. Like I already said, you saw the things I did, but you still don’t believe in me.

³⁷ You see, my father gives me some people. They will all come to me, and I will look after them. I will never send them away.

³⁸ I didn’t come down from heaven just to do my own ideas. I came here to do everything my father sent me to do.

³⁹ Listen, this is what my father really wants me to do, he wants me to look after all the people that he gives me. I can’t lose any of them. You know, the world will finish up one day, and on that day my father wants me to make all those people alive again.

⁴⁰ Everyone that takes notice of me and believes in me will live with God for ever. That’s what God, my father, wants. On the day when

the world will finish up, I will make them alive again.”

⁴¹ The Jewish leaders heard Jesus say, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” And they got angry, and they complained about him.

⁴² They said to each other, “We know this man Jesus. He is Joseph’s son. We know his mother and father. Why does he say, ‘I came down from heaven?’ That can’t be right.”

⁴³ Jesus said to them, “Stop complaining to each other about me.

⁴⁴ Listen. God is my father, and he is the one that sent me here. He brings people to me, and they are the only people that can come to me. They are the people that I will make alive again on the day when the world will finish up.

⁴⁵ A long time ago, God told one of his men to write about this, and it is in God’s book. He wrote,

‘God is the one that will teach all of them.’
And that’s how it happens. The people that listen to God and learn from him, those people will come to me.*

⁴⁶ I am the only one that has seen my father. Nobody else has ever seen him. But I saw him there in heaven, and after that, I came here.”

⁴⁷ Jesus kept on talking to them. He said, “Listen, I am telling you straight, if anyone believes in me, they will live with God for ever.

⁴⁸ I am like bread that makes people live for ever.

* **6:45** Isaiah 54:13

⁴⁹ A long time ago, your grand-fathers were in the desert, and they ate the bread called manna, that came down from heaven. That bread kept them alive for years, but in the end they all died, like everyone dies.

⁵⁰ But now there is a special bread that came down from heaven, and if anyone eats it, they will live with God for ever.

⁵¹ Yes, I am the bread from heaven that gives life. Anyone that believes in me will live for ever, it's like they are eating special bread that makes people live with God for ever. My body will be that special bread. I will give my body so that people can eat it and live for ever."

⁵² The Jewish leaders heard what he said, and they started to argue with each other about what Jesus meant. They said, "He reckons he will give people his body to eat. What does he mean? We can't eat his body."

⁵³ Jesus talked to them in picture language. He said, "Listen, this message is true. I am the special man from heaven. You have to come to me and believe in me. It's like I am special bread, and you have to eat my body, and you have to drink my blood. If you don't do that, you can't live with God for ever.

⁵⁴ But if anybody eats my body, and drinks my blood, I will make them alive again on that day when the world will finish up, and they will live with God for ever.

⁵⁵ You see, my body is like the best food, and my blood is like the best drink.

⁵⁶ If anybody believes in me, they will join up with me, and I will join up with them. It's like they eat my body and drink my blood. I will live in them, and we will stay joined together.

⁵⁷ You see, my father sent me here. He is the one that gives life, and he gives me life. Well, just like that, I give life to people that believe in me. It is like I am special bread, and they are eating me.

⁵⁸ Yes, I am the bread that came down from heaven. Anyone that eats this bread will live with God for ever. I am not like the bread that your grand-fathers ate a long time ago in the desert. They ate that bread, but later they died. But anyone that eats this bread will live with God for ever."

⁵⁹ Jesus said all those things while he taught in the Jewish meeting house in Capernium.

Some of Jesus's followers didn't like what he said

⁶⁰ Jesus's followers heard him teaching those things and a lot of them said, "This message is too hard. We can't believe it."

⁶¹ Jesus knew they were not happy with his message, so he said, "Are you angry with me? Do my words shock you?"

⁶² Then what will you think if you see me going up, back to the place I came from? I am the special man that came down from heaven.

⁶³ It is God's spirit that makes people alive. People can't do that by themselves. And those words that I said to you now, they are from God's

spirit, and if people believe those words, they will live with God for ever.

⁶⁴ But I know that some of you don't believe the words I said."

Jesus always knew that there were some people that didn't believe in him, and he knew who they were. He also knew about the man that was going to turn against him and help his enemies catch him.

⁶⁵ So Jesus said to them, "Some of you don't believe me. That is the reason why I told you before that my father gets some people to come and believe in me. And they are the only people that can come to me."

⁶⁶ After Jesus's followers heard him say that, a lot of them turned away and stopped following him.

⁶⁷ Then Jesus asked his 12 special workers, "Do you want to stop following me too?"

⁶⁸ Peter said, "No, sir. Who would we go to? Your words will make us live with God for ever. Nobody else has a message like that.

⁶⁹ We believe your message, and we know that you are God's special man."*

⁷⁰ Jesus said, "Yes, but listen, I picked all of you 12 men, but one of you is working against me, like a bad spirit."

⁷¹ Jesus was talking about Judas Iscariot. He was one of Jesus's 12 special workers. But Jesus knew that later on Judas was going to turn against him. Jesus knew that Judas was going to help Jesus's enemies catch him.

* **6:69** Matthew 16:16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20

7

Jesus's brothers didn't believe in him

¹ Some time later, Jesus went around from place to place in Galilee country. He knew that the Jewish leaders in Judea country wanted to kill him, so he didn't want to go south to Judea.

² The time was coming for the Jewish people to have a week of ceremony, to remember that a long time ago their grand-fathers lived in tents in the desert. They called it the *Tents Ceremony*, and it was in Jerusalem city, in Judea country.*

³⁻⁵ Jesus's brothers didn't believe that he was the special man that God sent, so they gave him a hard time. They said to him, "You want people to think you are great, right? Well, show everyone what you can do. Don't hide what you are doing. You have to leave Galilee and come south to Jerusalem city, in Judea, so you can show your followers more of those powerful things you do."

⁶ Jesus said, "It's not yet the right time for me to go to Jerusalem. But you can go any time.

⁷ The people of this world don't hate you. But they hate me. I keep on telling them that the things they do are really bad. That is the reason why they hate me.

⁸ You can go to the ceremony, but I'm not going now. It's not yet the right time for me to go to Jerusalem."

⁹ After Jesus said that, he stayed behind in Galilee.

* **7:2** Leviticus 23:33-34

¹⁰ But his brothers went south to the ceremony in Jerusalem.

Jesus went to Jerusalem and taught people there

Then, later on, Jesus went to that Tents Ceremony in Jerusalem too. But he didn't tell anyone he was going, and he didn't let anyone see him on the road.

¹¹ At the Tents Ceremony, the Jewish leaders looked for him. They kept on asking the people there, "Where is that man?"

¹²⁻¹³ The people were all frightened of the Jewish leaders, so they didn't talk loudly about Jesus. But they talked quietly to each other, and they talked about him a lot. Some people said, "He is a good man."

But other people said, "No. He is just tricking the people."

¹⁴ Half-way through the Tents Ceremony, Jesus went to God's ceremony house in Jerusalem, and he started to teach the people there.

¹⁵ The Jewish leaders got a shock, and said to each other, "How does this man know so much? He has never been to any of our schools."

¹⁶ Jesus told them, "God sent me to you, and he told me to teach these things. They are his words, not mine.

¹⁷ If anyone really wants to live God's way, they will know that those words came from God, and that I did not make them up.

¹⁸ Think about this. If somebody wants to make themselves look important, they make up their

own stories. But sometimes a boss sends a work-man to give people a message. If that work-man wants people to respect his boss and know that his boss is important, then that work-man doesn't make up his own story or tell lies. He only tells the true message that he heard. Then the people that listen to him respect the boss that sent him.

¹⁹ Listen, Moses gave you God's law, but you mob don't follow God's law. You see, you are trying to kill me."

²⁰ The people standing there said, "What are you talking about? Nobody is trying to kill you. We reckon you've got a bad spirit in you."

²¹⁻²⁴ Jesus said to them, "You saw me do one thing, and now you think I have a bad spirit. You shouldn't look quickly at something and then make up your mind about it. You have to look at it properly and think about it the right way. I made a man better on our Jewish rest day, so you are angry with me. But you mob do young man operations on baby boys on our rest day. Moses told you to do it 8 days after the baby is born. (But it wasn't really Moses that gave you that law. It was from our grand-fathers that lived a long time before Moses.) Anyway, if a boy is 8 days old on our rest day, you do that young man operation on that day, even though it is our rest day. So why are you angry with me for making a person better on our rest day?"

People talked with each other about Jesus

²⁵ Some of the people in Jerusalem at that time said, "This is the man that our leaders were trying to kill.

²⁶ But he is teaching out in the open, and they are not trying to stop him. They are not saying anything against him. Maybe he is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us, and our leaders know that he is.

²⁷ But no, that can't be right. Think about it. Nobody will know where the Christ will come from, but we know the town that this man comes from, so he can't be the Christ."

²⁸ Jesus was still teaching in God's ceremony house, and he knew what those people were saying. So he said out loud, "You think you know me, and you think you know where I come from. But you don't really know me. Listen. It was not my idea to come here. God is the one that sent me here. He really is the one that sent me. You don't know him.

²⁹ But I do know him. You see, God sent me here. I came from him, so I know him."

³⁰ Some of the people wanted to grab Jesus straight away, and take him to court, so the judge might say he has to die. But it wasn't the right time yet for Jesus to die, so God stopped them, and they didn't touch him.

³¹ There were also a lot of people that listened to Jesus and believed in him, and they said, "This man does a lot of powerful things. Nobody will ever do more powerful things than him. So he has to be the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us."

³² The Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, and the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, they heard what the people were saying, so they told some of their work-men to go and grab Jesus. But after the work-men got there, they listened to him too.

³³ Jesus kept on teaching the people. He said, "I will only be with you for a little bit longer. Then I will go back to the one that sent me here.

³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me. And you can't come to the place that I am going to."

³⁵ The Jewish leaders asked each other, "Where will he go so that we can't find him? Will he go and live with our Jewish countrymen in the country called Greece? Maybe he will start to teach Greek people his story.

³⁶ Just now he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me.' And he said, 'You can't come to the place that I am going to.' What did he mean?"

Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit

³⁷ The last day of the Tents Ceremony was the most important day. Jesus stood up on that day and shouted, "Anyone that is thirsty can come to me and drink.*

³⁸ A long time ago, God told his men to write these words, and they are in God's book. He wrote,
'A river of water will flow out from inside a person. That water will make people really live.'

* **7:37** Leviticus 23:36

And it will happen like that to anyone that believes in me.”*

³⁹ Jesus said “a river of water,” but he was really talking about the Holy Spirit. You see, the Holy Spirit was not there yet. He came after Jesus went back to heaven. That is when God gave the Holy Spirit to everyone that believed in Jesus.

The people there argued about who Jesus is

⁴⁰ Some of the people in the crowd heard his words and said, “This is God’s messenger. He is the one that Moses said will come and tell us God’s message.”

⁴¹ Other people said, “We think he is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us. He is the one we have been waiting for.”

But other people said, “No. He can’t be. He comes from Galilee country. But the Christ will not be a Galilee man.

⁴² God’s book says that he will be from David’s family, and that he will be born in the town called Bethlehem, where David lived, in Judea country.”*

⁴³ Then the people there argued with each other about Jesus. Some people said, “He is the special man that God promised to send.”

But other people said, “No he isn’t. You’re wrong.”

⁴⁴ Some people wanted to grab Jesus and put him in jail, but nobody did.

* **7:38** Isaiah 58:11; Ezekiel 47:1; Zechariah 14:8

* **7:42** 2 Samuel 7:12; Micah 5:2

The work-men of the Jewish leaders did not want to grab Jesus

⁴⁵ Earlier, the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the Pharisee mob sent some of their work-men to grab Jesus and bring him to them. But those work-men listened to Jesus, and then they came back without him. The leaders asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him to us?”

⁴⁶ They said, “That man said really good words. We haven’t heard anyone talk like that before. We couldn’t grab him.”

⁴⁷ The Pharisee mob said, “What? Has he tricked you too?”

⁴⁸ Think about it. Have any of the Jewish leaders believed in him? No. Or have any of us Pharisee mob believed in him? No.

⁴⁹ Those people that believe in him, they are just a mob of stupid people. They don’t know God’s law. God will punish them.”

⁵⁰ One of that Pharisee mob was Nicodemus. Before this time, he was the man that talked to Jesus one night. Nicodemus said to the others,*

⁵¹ “God’s law says that we can’t say a man is guilty until we listen to him and find out more about what he’s been doing.”*

⁵² The others got angry and said, “Why are you talking like that? You are not from Galilee country, so you don’t have to be friendly with that Galilee man. Go and have a look at God’s book. It doesn’t say anything about God getting a man from Galilee to tell his message.”

⁵³ After that, they all went home.

* **7:50** John 3:1-2 * **7:51** Deuteronomy 1:16

(We are not really sure that John wrote the words in the next story. Maybe another person wrote them, and later on, they put them into John's book.)

8

The Jewish law teachers and the Pharisee mob caught a woman sleeping with a man that was not her husband

¹ Jesus went to the hill called Olive Trees Hill.

² Early in the morning, he went back to God's ceremony house in Jerusalem. All the people there went to him, so he sat down and started to teach them.

³⁻⁶ Some Jewish law teachers, and some of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they brought a woman to Jesus, and they told him that she did something really bad. She slept with a man that was not her husband, and she did with him what married people do together. Those men wanted to trick Jesus. They wanted Jesus to say something bad about their law so that they could take Jesus to court and get the judge to punish him. So they made the woman stand in front of everyone, and they asked Jesus a trick question. They said, "Teacher, we caught this woman sleeping with a man that is not her husband, and they were doing what married people do together. In our law, Moses said that we have to throw big stones at her to kill her dead. But what do you reckon we have to do to her?"

But Jesus didn't answer them. He got down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

⁷ Those men kept on asking the same question. So Jesus stood up and said to them, "Have any of you never done anything wrong? That man can go first. He can throw the first stone at her."

⁸ Then Jesus got down again and wrote on the ground.

⁹ Those men heard his words, and then the oldest man turned around and walked away. Then the next oldest man went away too, and the other men followed one by one. Soon they were all gone, and the woman was the only one standing in front of Jesus.

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to the woman, "Where are the men that blamed you? Did any of them say they have to punish you?"

¹¹ The woman said, "None of them, sir."

Jesus said, "And I will not say that anyone has to punish you either. Go home, and, from now on, stop doing bad things."

Jesus is a light for everybody

¹² Jesus talked to the people again. He said, "I am like a light for all the people in the world. Anyone that follows me will not live the wrong way, as if they are in the dark, but I will show them how to live the right way, like a light shows people the way, and they will live with God for ever."*

¹³ But the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they said to Jesus, "You are the

* **8:12** Matthew 5:14; John 9:5

only one that is telling this story about yourself. Nobody else is telling the same story, so we can't agree with you. What you say is not true.”*

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Even if I do tell this story about myself, my story is true. You see, you don't know where I came from, and you don't know where I am going. But I do know where I came from, and I know where I am going.

¹⁵ You judge people the way human beings judge people. I am not judging anyone now,

¹⁶ but if I do judge somebody, I judge them the right way. You see, I don't judge by myself. My father sent me here, and we judge people together.

¹⁷ In your Jewish law, it says that if 2 people tell the same story, then that shows that their story is true.*

¹⁸ All right, I am one person, and my father is the other one. He is the one that sent me to the world. We both tell you the same story about me. And you reckon you follow your law, so you have to believe me.”

¹⁹ So then the Pharisee mob asked Jesus, “Where is your father?”

Jesus said, “You don't know me, and you don't know my father. If somebody knows me, they will know my father too.”

²⁰ Jesus said all this while he was teaching in God's ceremony house, near the money box. The people used to put money into that box to give it to God. The Pharisee mob wanted to grab him

* **8:13** John 5:31 * **8:17** Deuteronomy 19:15

and kill him, but it was not the right time yet for him to die, so God stopped them, and nobody touched him.

Jesus told the Jewish leaders, "You can't come with me"

²¹ Jesus talked to them again. He said, "I am going away. You will look for me, but you will not find me. You can't go to the place that I am going to. And after you die, you will still be guilty of all the bad things you did, so God will punish you."

²² The Jewish leaders didn't understand what he said. They asked each other, "Why did he say that we can't go to the place where he is going? Is he going to kill himself?"

²³ So Jesus said, "You are from this world, and you belong down here. But I don't belong to this world. I came from heaven, and I belong up there."

²⁴ Listen, I am the special man that God sent. But you don't believe that, so after you die, God will punish you for all the bad things you did. I told you that already."

²⁵ So the Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "Who do you reckon you are?"

Jesus said, "I told you who I am, right from the start."

²⁶ I can say a lot about you, and I can even judge you. But I will not do that now. You see, right now I am telling people what I heard from the one that sent me to the world. And you can trust his words. They are true."

²⁷ The people listening to Jesus didn't understand that he was talking about his father in heaven.

²⁸ So he said, "I am the special man from heaven, and after you put me on a cross and lift me up, you will know who I am. And you will understand that I am not working alone. I only say what my father taught me.

²⁹ He is the one that sent me, and he is with me. He doesn't leave me, because I always do things that make him happy."

³⁰ A big mob of people were listening to Jesus at that time, and a lot of them believed in him.

Jesus can make people free

³¹ Jesus talked to the Jewish people that believed in him. He said, "If you keep on following me, and if you do the things I teach you, then you will be my proper followers,

³² and you will know the true message. And if you listen to that true message, you will be free."

³³ The Jewish leaders said to Jesus, "We belong to Abraham's family, so we are God's special people. We never had to work for somebody for no pay, like a slave. You know, slaves are workers that belong to their boss. They always have to do what their boss tells them to do, and their boss never pays them. But we are not like that. We belong to Abraham's family, so we are already free. You can't tell us that we will be free."*

* **8:33** Matthew 3:9; Luke 3:8

³⁴ Jesus said, "Listen, this is the true story. You go against God and do bad things, and everyone that does bad things is like a slave. You can't stop doing those bad things, so they are your boss.

³⁵ You know, slaves don't belong to their boss's family for ever. But the boss's son belongs to the family for ever.

³⁶ And the boss's son can let slaves go free. If he does that, they are not slaves any more. Well, God is the biggest boss, and I am his son. And I can make you properly free, so that you can stop doing bad things.

³⁷ I know that you all reckon you belong to Abraham's family. But you don't like my message, so you want to kill me.

³⁸ I am only telling you the things I saw, and the things I heard, while I was with my father. But you listen to your father, and you do anything he wants you to do."

³⁹ The Jewish leaders said to him, "Look, we belong to Abraham's family. He is our grandfather that lived a long time ago."

Jesus said, "You reckon you are in Abraham's family, but you are not. Everyone that is really in Abraham's family does good things like Abraham did.

⁴⁰ I am telling you the true message I heard from God, and you are trying to kill me. You are nothing like Abraham. He never did bad things like that.

⁴¹ Listen, you are doing the things that your father does."

But they said, "God is our father. He is the only father we have, and we are his proper kids."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "No. God is not your father. You see, God sent me here. It wasn't my idea to come here, God sent me. But you don't love me. So I know that God is not your father.

⁴³ Why don't you understand what I am saying? It is because you don't want to do what I say. That is the reason why you don't listen to me.

⁴⁴ So, really, your father is the devil, the boss over the bad spirits, and you do anything he wants you to do. He was always a murderer and a liar, and nothing he says is true. Whenever he tells lies, he is just doing what he likes to do. All lies come from him. It is like he is the father of all lies.

⁴⁵ But I am different. I tell you what is true. But you love lies, so you don't believe me.

⁴⁶ None of you can show that I did anything wrong. You see, everything I tell you is true. So why don't you believe me?

⁴⁷ The people in God's family listen properly to his words. But you are not in his family, so you don't listen to him."

⁴⁸ The Jewish leaders told him, "Hey, you are wrong. We always reckoned that you are a rubbish man from Samaria, and you've got a bad spirit inside you. And we are right."

⁴⁹ Jesus said, "No. I haven't got a bad spirit in me. I respect my father, but you don't respect me.

⁵⁰ I'm not trying to get people to say that I am great. But there is somebody else that wants

people to say that I am great, and he judges what people say too. Yes, God will show everyone that what I say is right.

⁵¹ Listen, I am telling you straight, if anyone does what I say, they will never finish up.”

⁵² Then the Jewish leaders said, “Now we know for sure that you have a bad spirit in you. Think about all of our grand-fathers that lived a long time ago. They all died. Our father Abraham died, and so did all the men that told people God’s messages. But you say, ‘If anyone does what I say, they will never finish up.’ You are wrong.

⁵³ Are you better than our grand-father Abraham? He died. And all the men that told people God’s messages, they all died too. So, who do you think you are?”

⁵⁴ Jesus said, “If I tell people that I am great, my words mean nothing. But my father is the one that tells people that I am great. And you reckon that he is your God.

⁵⁵ You mob don’t know God, but I know him. That’s right. I’m not a liar, like you, I’m telling the true story. I know him, and I do what he says.

⁵⁶ Think about your father, Abraham. He knew I was going to come into the world, and after he saw it happen, he was really happy.”

⁵⁷ The Jewish leaders said, “Stop. You are not even 50 years old. You can’t say that you saw Abraham.”

⁵⁸ Jesus said, “Listen to this, it’s true. I was alive before Abraham was born. You see, I am always alive.”

⁵⁹ The Jewish leaders didn't like Jesus saying that he is always alive. That's the same as saying he is God. So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus hid from them, and then he left God's ceremony house, and he went away.

9

Jesus made a blind man's eyes better

¹ As Jesus walked along with his followers, they saw a blind man that was blind all his life, from the time he was born.

² Jesus's followers asked him, "Teacher, why did God make this man blind from the time he was born? Did he do something bad, or did his parents?"

³ Jesus said, "No. This man didn't do anything bad to make him blind, and his parents didn't do anything bad to make him blind either. He is blind so that everyone can see God's great power. You see, I am going to make him better.

⁴⁻⁵ We have to keep on doing God's work while we can. He is the one that sent me here and gave me this special work to do. You see, my work shows God's great power, so I am like a light for all the people in the world. I have to do God's work while I am here. It is like I am working in day-light. But I will not always be here to do the work that God gave me. Then it will be like night time, and nobody can work at night time."*

* **9:4-5** Matthew 5:14; John 8:12

⁶ After he said that, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud. Then he put the mud on the blind man's eyes.

⁷ Then Jesus said to him, "Go and wash your eyes in the pool called Siloam." (That word *Siloam* means *sent*.)

So the man went and washed his eyes, and he could see. He came back,

⁸ and some of the people that lived near him, and the people that used to see him asking for money, they were there. And they asked each other, "Is he the man that sat next to the road and asked for money all the time?"

⁹ Some people said, "Yes, that's him."

But other people said, "No, he's another man. He just looks like the blind man."

But the man kept on saying, "I am the man that was blind."

¹⁰ So they asked him, "How come you can see now?"

¹¹ He said, "The man that people call Jesus, he made mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go and wash my eyes in the pool called Siloam. So I did what he said, and straight away I could see."

¹² The people asked him, "Where is that man?" And he said, "I don't know."

The Pharisee mob argued with the man that used to be blind

¹³ The people took the man that was born blind to the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law.

14 That day was the Jewish rest day, so nobody was allowed to work on that day, but Jesus made mud on that day, and he put it on the blind man's eyes, to make them better.

15 The Pharisee mob asked the man, "How come you can see?"

He said, "A man put mud on my eyes, and told me to go and wash them. So I did that, and straight away I could see."

16 Some of that Pharisee mob said, "That man did not come from God. He does not respect God's law about the rest day."

But some of them said, "But he does powerful things. A bad man can't do things like that. So we reckon God sent him here." And so that Pharisee mob did not agree with each other about Jesus.

17 Then they asked the man, "What do you say about the man that made your eyes better?"

The man said, "I think God sent him here to tell people God's messages."

18 But the Jewish leaders did not believe that the man was really born blind, and that now he can see, so they sent somebody to get his parents.

19 Then they asked them, "Is this man your son? Was he born blind? Tell us, how come he can see now?"

20-23 Before this time, the Jewish leaders agreed to punish anyone that followed Jesus. They said, "If anybody says that Jesus is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send, we will not let them come to our meeting houses and pray to God with us." So the man's parents were frightened, and they said, "We know he is our

son, and we know that he was born blind. But we don't know how his eyes are better, or who made them better. You can ask him. He is old enough to talk for himself. He is not a little boy."

²⁴ Then the Jewish leaders called the man that was born blind, and they got him to come to them again. They said to him, "We know that the man that made you see goes against God, and he does bad things. So now, show respect to God and tell us straight, what do you say about this man?"

²⁵ The man said, "I don't know anything about this man. I don't know if he goes against God and does wrong things. All I know is this, I was blind, but now I can see."

²⁶ So the Jewish leaders said, "What did he do to you? How did he make you see?"

²⁷ The man said, "I told you already, but you didn't listen to me. Why do you want to hear my story again? Do you want to be his followers too?"

²⁸ The Jewish leaders got angry with the man and said, "You are his follower, not us. We follow Moses.

²⁹ We know that Moses talked with God, but we don't think this man comes from God. We don't know where he comes from."

³⁰ The man said, "How can that be? He just made my eyes better. How come you don't know where he comes from?"

³¹ Everyone knows that God does not listen to people that go against him and do bad things. But he does listen to people that give him the right respect and do what he says.

³² From the time God made everything, nobody has ever heard of anything like this happening to a person that was born blind. Nobody ever made them see.

³³ I reckon God sent this man. If he didn't, this man couldn't do anything like this."

³⁴ The Jewish leaders got really angry and said, "Don't try to teach us. You were born blind, so we know that you always went against God and did bad things. You can't teach us anything. Get out of this meeting house, and don't come back."

The man that used to be blind believed in Jesus

³⁵ Jesus heard that the Jewish leaders told that man to get out of the meeting house. So he went and found the man, and Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the special man that God sent from heaven?"

³⁶ The man said, "Sir, tell me who he is, so that I can believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have met him, and right now you are talking to him."

³⁸ Straight away the man said, "Sir, I believe in you." And he got down on his knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect.

³⁹ Then Jesus said, "I came to the world to judge people, and to split them into 2 mobs. One mob know that they don't understand the true things about God. It's like they are blind. But they let me help them understand those things, like I make them see. The other mob think they understand all about God. It's like they think they can already see, so they don't let me help

them. But they don't really understand, so it's like they stay blind."

⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisee mob there heard him say that, and they got angry, and they said, "Are you saying that we are that blind mob?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you knew you were blind, you would let me help you, and then God would say that you are not guilty for the bad things you did. But you say you can see, and you don't let me help you, so you are still guilty."

10

The good shepherd

¹⁻⁴ Jesus talked some more and said, "Listen to this picture story about a mob of sheep and some men. This picture story's message is true.

One of the men in this story owns some sheep, and he looks after them properly. He is called their *shepherd*. He keeps those sheep in a yard with a big fence. And there is a man that looks after the gate of that yard. Whenever the shepherd goes there, that man always lets him in the gate. Then the shepherd calls each sheep's name, and they know that he is their shepherd, so they come to him. Then he takes all his sheep out of the yard to a place with grass for them to eat. Wherever he walks, they follow him, because they know his voice and they trust him.

But another man in this story doesn't own the sheep. He wants to steal them, so he doesn't go into the yard through the gate, but he climbs over the fence.

⁵ If the sheep hear that man's voice they run away. They don't know his voice, so they don't trust him. They never follow somebody they don't know."

⁶ The people listening to Jesus didn't understand this story,

⁷ so he said, "I will tell you something else. Listen to this, it's true. I am like a gate in a sheep yard.

⁸⁻¹¹ You know, the gate is the way for the sheep to go into the yard. Well, I am the way for people to come to God. If anybody comes to me, they will come into God's family, and he will save them. And you know that sheep have to use the gate to go out and get grass to eat. Well just like that, people have to come to me to get whatever they need to live for God.

And remember the shepherd in that picture story. Well, I am like that good shepherd that looks after his sheep properly. Some other men came before me, and they reckoned they were like shepherds, but they were liars. They were bad men, and my people didn't listen to them, just like sheep only listen to their shepherd. Those bad people only want to steal the sheep, and kill them, and finish them up. But I am not like that. I came here to give people real life, so they can live with God for ever. You know, a good shepherd looks after his sheep properly, even if he has to die for them. Well, I am like that, I am ready to die to save my people.

¹²⁻¹³ You know, there are also workers that don't own the sheep. The owner pays them to

look after the sheep. But they don't really care about the sheep. If they see a wild dog coming, they get frightened, and they leave the sheep there and run away. Then the wild dog chases the sheep to grab them and eat them, and the sheep run away.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ But I am not like those workers. I am like a good shepherd. I am ready to die to save my people. I know all my people, and all my people know me, just like I know God my father, and he knows me.*

¹⁶ And not all of my people are from the same mob. They are not all Jewish people. I have other people too, and I have to bring them all together, like one mob of sheep. They will hear my voice, and they will come to me. Yes, I will bring all my people together into one mob, and I will look after them all, like a good shepherd looks after his sheep.

¹⁷ I am going to die to save my people, and then I will come back to life again. That is the reason why my father loves me.

¹⁸ You see, nobody is forcing me to die, but I'm going to die for my people because I want to do it. My father gives me the power to do it, and he also gives me the power to come back to life again. And he told me to do both of those things."

¹⁹ Again, the Jewish leaders didn't agree with each other about Jesus's message.

²⁰ Lots of them said, "He's got a bad spirit in him. He is crazy. Don't listen to him."

* **10:14-15** Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22

21 But some of them said, “No, he hasn’t got a bad spirit. A man with a bad spirit doesn’t tell this sort of message, and a bad spirit can’t make blind people see again.”

The Jewish leaders argued with Jesus

22 At that time there was a ceremony in Jerusalem. You see, every year, in the cold weather time, the Jewish people had a ceremony to remember when their grand-fathers got God’s ceremony house back from their enemies.

23 So Jesus went to God’s ceremony house and walked in the part called Solomon’s veranda.

24 Some of the Jewish leaders stood around Jesus and said, “Don’t keep us waiting. Tell us straight. Are you the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us?”

25 Jesus said, “I have already told you who I am, but you don’t believe me. My father sent me to do powerful things. Those powerful things show who I am.

26 You mob don’t believe me, because you are not my sheep.

27 I know the people that are my sheep. They listen to my voice, and they believe what I say, and they follow me.

28 I will give them new life, so they will live with me for ever, and they will never finish up. Yes, I will hold them properly, so nobody can ever grab them and steal them from me.

29 My father gave them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone, so nobody can grab them and steal them from my father.

30 My father and me, we are joined together, like we are one.”

31 Again, the Jewish leaders didn’t like what Jesus said, so they picked up stones to kill him.

32 Jesus said, “Why do you want to kill me? You have seen me do a lot of good things, and they show you that my father sent me. Do you really want to kill me for doing those good things?”

33 The Jewish leaders said, “We don’t want to kill you for doing good things. But you are saying things against God. That is the reason why we have to kill you. You are just a man, but you say that you are God.”*

34 Jesus said to them, “You have God’s book, and you can read these words there, ‘God said that you are gods.’”*

35 You see, God gave some people his message, and then he called them *gods*. And remember, nobody can change anything that God says in his book.

36 So if I say I am God’s son, I am not saying anything bad against God. I am the one God picked out, and he sent me to this world to do his works.

37-38 God is my father, and I do his works. You have seen me do those powerful things, so why don’t you believe me? All right, think about those things you saw me do. They can help you understand who I am. They show that my father is joined to me, so that it’s like he’s in me. And

* **10:33** Leviticus 24:16 * **10:34** Psalm 82:6

they show that I am joined to him, so that it's like I am in him."

³⁹ Again the Jewish leaders tried to grab Jesus and put him in jail, but he got away from them.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus left Jerusalem and went across the Jordan River to the place where John used to baptise people, and Jesus stayed there for a while.*

⁴¹ Lots of people went to him there. They said to each other, "John never did powerful things, but everything that John said about this man is true."

⁴² And so a lot of those people believed in Jesus.

11

Jesus's friend Lazarus died

¹⁻² Jesus had a friend called Lazarus, and he lived in a little town in Judea country called Bethany. He lived there with his sisters, Mary and Martha. (Mary was the woman that, later on, rubbed Jesus's feet with special perfume and wiped them with her hair.*)

One day, Lazarus got very sick,

³ so Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus. They said, "Your good friend Lazarus is very sick."

⁴ When Jesus got the message, he said, "Yes, Lazarus is very sick, but that sickness will not finish him up. He is sick so that people will see that God is really powerful, and they will respect

* **10:40** John 1:28 * **11:1-2** Luke 10:38-39; John 12:3

God. And they will see that God's son is powerful too, and they will also respect him."

⁵ Jesus was really good friends with Mary, Martha and Lazarus,

⁶ but after he got the message he stayed in the town where he was for another 2 days.

⁷ Then Jesus said to his special workers, "Let's go back to Judea country."

⁸ But his followers said, "What? Teacher, are you going to go back? When we were there a little while ago, the people there wanted to throw stones at you and kill you."

⁹ Jesus said, "You know, there is day-light every day until the sun goes down. The sun is the light for the world. It lets people see where they are walking, so they will not fall down.

¹⁰ It's only at night time that people do not have that light. Then they can't see where they are walking, and they will fall down." When Jesus said that, he was telling them that, just as people can walk until the end of the day, he had to keep on working until the end of his life, and it wasn't time yet for him to die.

¹¹ Then Jesus said to them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep. I am going to wake him up."

¹² His followers said, "Sir, if Lazarus is asleep, he will soon get better."

¹³ Jesus was really saying that Lazarus was dead, but his followers didn't understand that.

¹⁴ So then Jesus told them straight, "Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵ But I am happy that I wasn't there before he died. Because now you will see what I am going

to do, and you will believe in me properly. Come on. We will go to him now.”

¹⁶ Thomas said to Jesus’s other followers, “All right, let’s all go, and we will die with Jesus.” (Thomas’s other name was *the Twin*.)

Jesus went to Lazarus’s town

¹⁷ Then Jesus and his followers went to Bethany. As they were getting near to Bethany, somebody told him that Lazarus died 4 days ago, and his family put his body in a cave, and they put a big stone there to block that cave.

¹⁸ Bethany was about 3 kilometres from Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Mary and Martha were really sad, so a lot of people from Jerusalem came and sat down with them, to be sad with them and help them feel better.

²⁰ Martha heard that Jesus was coming and that he was getting close, so she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house.

²¹ Martha said, “Sir, you were not here to stop my brother from dying.

²² But we know that God listens to you, and even now, I know that you can ask God for anything and he will give it to you.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will come back to life again.”

²⁴ Martha said, “Yes, I know he will come back to life, on the day when the world will finish up, when everyone will be alive again.”

²⁵⁻²⁶ Jesus said, “Martha, I am the one that makes dead people come alive again, and I am

the one that gives people real life. If people believe in me, I will make them come alive again after they die, then they will live for ever and never die again. Do you believe that?"

²⁷ Martha said, "Yes, sir, I believe that you are the Christ, the special man that God promised to send. You are God's son, and you came to us people in the world."

²⁸ Then she went back to the house to get Mary. She said to Mary quietly, "The teacher is here and wants to talk to you."

²⁹ As soon as Mary heard that, she got up quickly and went to Jesus.

³⁰ He was still outside the town, at the place where Martha met him.

³¹ There were other people with Mary at the house trying to help her feel better, and they saw her get up quickly and leave the house. They thought that she was going to the cave where they put Lazarus, to cry there. So they followed her.

³² But Mary didn't go to the cave, she went to see Jesus. She got down on her knees in front of him, to show him respect, and she said, "Sir, you were not here to stop my brother from dying."

³³ Jesus saw Mary and everyone else crying out loud, and he felt really upset and sad for them.

³⁴ He asked them, "Where did you put his body?"

And they said, "Sir, come and we'll show you."

³⁵ Then Jesus cried.

³⁶ The people saw Jesus crying, and some of them said, "Look at him. He really loved his friend."

³⁷ But other people there said, "He made a blind man see. Why didn't he stop this man from dying?"

Jesus made Lazarus alive again

³⁸ Again Jesus felt upset and sad. He went and stood in front of the cave.

³⁹ He said, "Move that big stone away, so that it doesn't block the cave any more."

But Martha, Lazarus's sister, said, "No, sir. Don't get them to move that stone. He has been dead for 4 days, so the body will smell really bad."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "I told you before that if you believe in me, you will see God's great power."

⁴¹ So the people moved the stone away from the cave. Then Jesus looked up to God, and said, "Father, thank you for listening to me."

⁴² I know that you always listen to me, but I say these words out loud, so that these people will believe that you sent me here."

⁴³ Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out of the cave."

⁴⁴ And Lazarus came out. There were still long bits of cloth around Lazarus's arms and legs, and some cloth over his face. You see, people used to tie long bits of cloth around dead bodies to cover them up.

Jesus said to the people there, "Take that cloth off him, so he can walk around."

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus

⁴⁵ A lot of people were with Mary and Martha that day, and they saw what happened. A lot of them believed in Jesus.

⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisee mob and told them what Jesus did. That Pharisee mob were strong for the Jewish law, so they didn't like Jesus.

⁴⁷ The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and the Pharisee mob, they called a Jewish Leaders Council meeting. They talked about Jesus at that meeting, and said, "This man is doing a lot of powerful things. What can we do to stop him?"

⁴⁸ We have to do something. If we don't stop him, all the people might believe in him, and they might make a lot of trouble. Then the Roman soldiers might come and smash God's ceremony house here, and finish up our nation."

⁴⁹ The big boss of the Jewish ceremonies that year was Cayafas. He said, "You mob don't know anything.

⁵⁰ Listen. You have to understand this. It is a lot better for you if this man dies, so that the Romans will not come and kill all of our people. Yes, Jesus has to die instead of the people."

⁵¹ Cayafas didn't think up those words by himself. He told them, "Jesus has to die instead of the people," but those were really God's words that he said. You see, he was the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies at that time, so God used him to say that Jesus was going to die for the Jewish nation.

⁵² And he was also going to die for all God's people, everywhere. He died to join all of God's people everywhere into one mob.

⁵³ From that day, the Jewish leaders talked to each other, saying, "How are we going to kill Jesus?"

⁵⁴ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he stopped going to places where there were a lot of people. He left that country and went to a town called Ephraim, that was near the desert, and Jesus and his special workers stayed there.

⁵⁵ It was nearly the time for the Jewish people to have their ceremony called Passover, to remember that a long time ago God got their grandfathers out of Egypt. A lot of Jewish people from everywhere went to Jerusalem to get ready for that ceremony, and they washed themselves in a special way.

⁵⁶⁻⁵⁷ The Jewish ceremony bosses and the Pharisee mob told everyone at that ceremony to look for Jesus. They said, "If you see Jesus, you have to tell us, so that we can grab him."

So a lot of people looked for Jesus at God's ceremony house. They asked each other, "What do you reckon? Do you think Jesus will come to this Passover ceremony?"

12

Mary washed Jesus's feet

¹ Jesus went to Bethany again 6 days before the Jewish Passover ceremony started. Bethany

was the town where he made Lazarus come alive again.

² After Jesus got to that town, the people there put on a special dinner for him. Lazarus and some other people sat at the table with Jesus, and Lazarus's sister, Martha, gave them the food.

³ Then Mary came into the room with a big bottle of special perfume, that cost a lot of money. It was made from a plant called nard. Mary put that perfume all over Jesus's feet, then she wiped his feet with her hair. The sweet smell of the perfume went right through the house.*

⁴ Judas Iscariot was there with Jesus's other followers. (He was the one that turned against Jesus later.) He said,

⁵ "Why did she waste that perfume? Why didn't she let us sell it? We can get more money than a man gets for working for a whole year, and then we can give that money to poor people."

⁶ But, you know, Judas didn't really feel sorry for poor people. He was the one that looked after the money bag, and sometimes he stole some of that money for himself.

⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She kept this oil to pour on my feet, like she knows that I am going to die soon. She is getting my body ready for people to bury me.

⁸ You will always have poor people with you, but you will not always have me with you."*

* **12:3** Luke 7:37-38 * **12:8** Deuteronomy 15:11

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus and Lazarus

⁹ The people in that country heard that Jesus was in Bethany, and a big mob went to see him. They wanted to see Lazarus too, the man that Jesus made alive again.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ And when they heard about how Jesus made him alive again, a lot of people believed in Jesus. And they stopped following the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies. Those bosses didn't like that, so they started to work out a way to kill Jesus, and to kill Lazarus too.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

¹² The next day, Jesus left Bethany and went to Jerusalem. A big mob of people were there for the Jewish Passover ceremony, and they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

¹³ So they cut some branches off palm trees, and they went out to meet him. They shouted, "God, you are really great and powerful. God, we want you to look after this man you sent.

Make him strong and happy.

God, make the true leader of Israel strong and happy."*

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, to ride it into Jerusalem. You know, a long time ago, God got one of his men to write about that. He wrote this in God's book,

"People from Jerusalem, don't be frightened.

Your leader will come to you, sitting on a young donkey."*

* **12:13** Psalm 118:25-26 * **12:14-15** Zechariah 9:9

And it happened just like that man wrote.

¹⁶ Jesus's followers didn't understand what was happening. But, later on, after he went back to heaven, they remembered the words that God's man wrote, and they understood that those words are about Jesus, and that it happened that day, while Jesus rode on that young donkey.

¹⁷ Before that day, there were a lot of people that kept on telling everyone, "We heard Jesus call to Lazarus and tell him to come out of the cave. We saw Jesus make him alive again."

¹⁸ Then the people that heard that story wanted to see Jesus, so a big mob went out to meet him that day when he was on the young donkey.

¹⁹ The Pharisee mob were there too. They didn't want Jesus because they were strong for the Jewish law. They said to each other, "Look, we still haven't stopped this man. Everyone is starting to follow him."

Jesus told his followers that he was going to die

²⁰ There were some Greek people in the mob there at Jerusalem. They came to show respect to God at the Passover ceremony.

²¹ Those Greek people went to see Philip, one of Jesus's special workers. (He was from a town called Bethsayida, in Galilee country.) They said to Philip, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."

²² Philip went and told Andrew, and then they went together and told Jesus.

²³ Jesus said to them, “It is nearly time for God to show everyone that his special man from heaven is really powerful.

²⁴ Listen carefully to this picture story. A wheat seed has to fall into the ground and die, so that it can make a big mob of new seeds. If it never dies, and if it never gets buried, it will never make new seeds. You see, I will die like the seed in that picture story.

²⁵ And it is the same for everybody. If a person loves their life a lot and only cares about their life here in this world, they will not live for ever. But if they don’t worry about their life here in this world, they will live with God for ever.*

²⁶ If anyone wants to work for me, they have to follow me. Wherever I go, my workers will go. And if anyone works for me, my father will say they are good.

²⁷ It is nearly time now for my trouble to start. I am very sad and worried. I don’t know what to say to my father. I might say, ‘Father, save me. I don’t want to go through the trouble that is coming to me.’ But I can’t say that. No. I came to the world to have this trouble.”

²⁸ Then Jesus said, “Father, show people that you are really great.”

Straight away, God talked from heaven. He said, “I already showed them that I am great, and I will show them again.”

* **12:25** Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33

²⁹ Some of the people standing there thought they heard thunder, but other people there said, “No. An angel messenger talked to him.”

³⁰ Jesus said to them, “That voice came to help you, not to help me.”

³¹⁻³³ Then Jesus told them how he was going to die. He said, “Soon my enemies are going to lift me up to die on a cross, and then I will call everyone to come to me. And when I die, God will judge everyone in the world. And you know, the boss over the bad spirits is the boss over this world too, but when I die, God will stop his power so he can’t be the boss over the world any more.”

³⁴ But the people in the crowd said, “God’s book says that the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us, he will live for ever. But you say that they will lift up the man from heaven and put him on a cross to die. Are you talking about the same man? Who is this man from heaven?”*

³⁵ Jesus said, “I am like a light shining for you. You see, I am telling you the true message. But I will only be here with you a little bit longer. So while I am here, you have to listen to my message and believe it. It’s like the light is shining and people have to walk about while there is light, because people that walk in the dark don’t know where they are going. So if you don’t listen properly to my message while I am here, then

* **12:34** Psalm 110:4; Isaiah 9:7; Ezekiel 37:25; Daniel 7:14

you will not know the right way to live, and it will be like you are always in the dark.

³⁶ You have to listen to my message while I am still here, and you have to believe it, so that you will be my followers. Then it will be like you are living in the light that I'm shining for you."

After Jesus said those things, he left that place and stayed away from those people, so they didn't know where he was.

Some people still didn't believe in Jesus

³⁷ A lot of people saw Jesus do lots of powerful things, but they still did not believe in him.

³⁸ So it happened the way God told Isaiah to write it, a long time ago. And it is in God's book. He wrote these words,
"Only a few believed your message, God,
and only a few people took notice of the powerful things you do."*

³⁹ And Isaiah told us why only a few people believed God's message.

⁴⁰ He also wrote this in God's book,
"God stopped the people from understanding his message. It's like he made their eyes blind, and like he made their minds dead. You know, if they understand God's message properly, they will turn back to God, and he will help them. But they don't want to do that."*

⁴¹ Isaiah wrote those things about Jesus, because a long time ago, God showed Isaiah that his special man is really powerful.

* **12:38** Isaiah 53:1 * **12:40** Isaiah 6:10

⁴² But lots of people did believe in Jesus. Even some of the Jewish leaders believed in him. But those leaders didn't tell anybody about it. You see, Jesus's enemies, the Pharisee mob, they said, "If anyone believes in Jesus, we will not let them come to our meeting houses and pray to God with us." So those leaders that believed in him stayed quiet.

⁴³ They just wanted people to say good things about them. They didn't worry about what God will say about them.

⁴⁴ One day, Jesus shouted out, "Anyone that believes in me, is really believing in God. He is the one that sent me here.

⁴⁵ And anyone that looks at me, can see God too.

⁴⁶ I came to the world to tell people the true message, so that they can know the true message and believe in me. It's like people were in the dark, but I came to be a light for them.

⁴⁷ If somebody hears my words and doesn't take any notice of them, I do not judge that person. I didn't come to judge the people of the world, I came to save them.

⁴⁸ But this will happen to the people that don't believe in me and don't take notice of my words. On the day when the world will finish up, they will stand in front of the judge, and the words that I said will make them guilty. You see, they didn't believe my words, so they will stay guilty for ever.

⁴⁹ You see, the words I said to you are not just mine. The father told me what to say, and he

sent me here to tell you his message.

⁵⁰ I know that his words have the power to get people to live with him for ever, so I tell you the words that he told me.”

13

Jesus washed the feet of his followers

¹⁻² It was just before the Jewish Passover ceremony, and Jesus and his followers sat down to eat together. Jesus knew that it was nearly time for him to leave this world and go back to his father. While he was in the world, he always showed his followers that he loved them. And he kept on loving them right to the end of his time on earth.

Before this time, the devil, the boss over the bad spirits, gave one of Jesus’s followers the idea of turning against Jesus. That follower’s name was Judas. He was the son of a man called Simon Iscariot.

Jesus and his followers were sitting at the table,

³ and Jesus knew that God gave him power over everything so that he can do anything. And he knew that he came from God and that he was going back to God again soon.

⁴ Then he stood up from the table, took off his coat, and tied a towel around himself.

⁵ Then he put some water in a bowl, and he started to wash the feet of his followers and dry them with the towel.

⁶ He got to Peter, and Peter said, “Sir, it’s not right for you to wash my feet.”

⁷ Jesus said, "You don't yet understand what I am doing, but one day you will."

⁸ Peter said, "No. I can never let you wash my feet."

Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you will not be in my family."

⁹ Then Peter said, "Well, sir, don't just wash my feet. Wash my hands and head too."

¹⁰ Jesus said, "After you have a bath, all of your body is clean. You might walk around and get your feet dirty again, so then you just have to wash your feet. Most of you mob are like that, you are clean, but one of you is not clean."

¹¹ You see, Jesus knew that Judas was going to turn against him, so he said, "One of you is not clean."

¹² After Jesus finished washing everyone's feet, he put on his coat and sat down again. Then he said, "Do you understand why I washed your feet?"

¹³ You all call me your teacher, and your leader, and you are right. I am both of those things for you.

¹⁴ Yes, I am your teacher and leader. I am not your worker, but I washed your feet anyway. In the same way, you have to wash each other's feet.*

¹⁵ I washed your feet to show you how you have to treat each other.

¹⁶ Listen to this, it's true. A worker is not more important than their boss, and the person that takes a message is not more important than the

* **13:14** Luke 22:27

person that sent them. Like that, you are not more important than me.*

¹⁷ And I just showed you how to treat each other. So if you do that, God will make you happy.

¹⁸ But I know that one of you will not do it. So I am not talking about all of you. You see, I picked all of you to be my followers, but I knew that one of you will turn against me. A long time ago, God got one of his men to write about this, and it is in God's book. He wrote, 'A man ate with me, but then he turned against me.'

And now that will happen, just like that man wrote.*

¹⁹ I am telling you about this now, so that after it happens you will understand that I am the special man that God sent.

²⁰ Listen to this, it's true. I am going to send you out to be my messengers. And anyone that is happy with my messengers and listens to them, that person is really listening to me and is happy with me. And anyone that is happy with me and listens to me, that person is really listening to my father and is happy with him, because he is the one that sent me here."*

Jesus's followers asked him who will turn against him

²¹ After Jesus said that, he was really upset, and he said, "Listen, I'm telling you straight, one of

* **13:16** Matthew 10:24; Luke 6:40; John 15:20 * **13:18** Psalm

41:9 * **13:20** Matthew 10:40; Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48; 10:16

you will turn against me and help my enemies to catch me.”

²² His followers looked at each other. They thought, “Who is he talking about?”

²³ There was one follower that Jesus liked a lot, and he was sitting next to Jesus.

²⁴ Peter moved his hand to make a sign to that follower, to get him to ask Jesus, “Who are you talking about?”

²⁵ That follower leaned over closer to Jesus and asked, “Sir, who are you talking about?”

²⁶ Jesus said, “I will put a bit of damper into the sauce, and then I will give it to the man that will turn against me.” Then Jesus put the damper into the sauce and gave it to Judas, the man whose father was called Simon Iscariot.

²⁷ Judas took the damper, and straight away Satan, the boss over the bad spirits, went into him. Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do what you are going to do. And do it quickly.”

²⁸ None of Jesus’s followers understood why he said that to Judas.

²⁹ Some of them thought that Jesus told Judas to go and buy more food for the ceremony, because he looked after the money bag. And some of them thought that Jesus told him to go and give money to poor people.

³⁰ As soon as Judas took the damper, he left them and went out into the night.

Jesus told Peter that he will say he doesn't know Jesus

³¹ After Judas left, Jesus said, “You know that I am God’s special man from heaven. Well, now is the time for God to show everyone that I am really great and powerful. People will see me like that, and they will see that God is really great and powerful.

³² And when they see me really great, like that, they will know that God did it, and they will say that he is really great. God is going to do that now.

³³ My friends, to me you are like my own little kids, but I will not be with you much longer. You can’t come with me to the place I am going. You will look for me, but you will not find me. I said that to the Jewish leaders, and now I’m telling you the same thing.*

³⁴ Listen, you have to love each other, just as much as I loved you. This is a new thing I’m telling you, and you have to do it.*

³⁵ People will see you loving each other, and they will know that you are my followers.”

³⁶ Peter asked Jesus, “Sir, where are you going?”

Jesus said to him, “You can’t follow me yet to the place where I am going. But you will follow me later.”

³⁷ Peter asked, “But, sir, why can’t I follow you now? I am ready to die for you.”

³⁸ Jesus said, “Are you really ready to die for me, Peter? Listen, I’m telling you straight, tonight you will tell people that you don’t know

* **13:33** John 7:34 * **13:34** John 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:23; 2 John 5

me. You will say that 3 times before a chook yells out tomorrow morning, just like it always does before the sun comes up.”

14

Only Jesus can take us to God

¹ Jesus said to his followers, “Don’t let anything upset you. You believe in God, and you have to believe in me too.

² Listen, I am going home to my father, and I am going to get a place ready for each one of you to come to. It’s like my father has a big house with a lot of room in it, and I will get a place ready for each of you. That’s what I told you before, and it is true.

³ And after everything is ready, I will come back and get you. Then you will live with me for ever.

⁴ And you know the track to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Then Thomas said, “But, sir, we don’t know where you are going, so we can’t know the track. We don’t know how to get to that place.”

⁶ Jesus said, “I am like that track for you. I can take you to my father. And I am the one that says what is true about God. And I am the one that can give people life so that they live with God for ever. I am the only one that can take people to God.

⁷ If you know me properly, you know my father too. So you do know my father now, and it’s like you have seen him too.”

⁸ Then Philip said, “Sir, show us the father, that’s all we want.”

⁹ Jesus said, “Look, Philip, I have been with you for a long time now, so you know me, right? Anyone that looks at me, can see my father. So you have seen the father. So you don’t have to ask me to show you the father.

¹⁰ Do you believe that I am joined to the father, so that it’s like I am in him? And do you believe that the father is joined to me, so that it’s like he is in me? I don’t just say whatever I want to say. The father told me what to say. You see, it’s like he lives inside me and uses me to do his work.

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am joined to the father, so that it’s like I am in him. And the father is joined to me, so that it’s like he is in me. If you don’t believe what I’m saying, look at the powerful things I do. Those things will get you to believe me.

¹² Listen to this, it’s true. I am going back to my father. So if anyone believes in me, they will do the same powerful things that I do. Yes, and they will do even greater things than I do.

¹³ You know the things that I say are good. So if you ask me to do that sort of thing, then I will do whatever you ask. I will do that to show you that my father is really great and powerful.

¹⁴ Yes, if you ask for anything like that, I will do it for you.”

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ Jesus kept on talking to them. He said, “If you love me, you will do everything I told you to do.

16 And I will ask my father to send you another helper. He will come to you and stay with you for ever.

17 He is the Holy Spirit, and what he teaches is always true. The people that belong to this world are not in God's family. They don't understand the Holy Spirit. They don't know him. So they don't want him to come to them. But you know him. He is here with you now, and later on, he will live inside you.

18 I'm going back to my father, but I will not leave you all alone, like kids without a mother or father. No. I will come back to you.

19 The people that belong to this world will not see me any more, but you will see me again soon. Yes, I will be alive, so you will live too.

20 Then you will know that I am joined to my father, so that it's like I am in him. And you will know that each one of you is joined to me in the same way, so that it's like you are in me. And I am joined to you, so that it's like I am in you.

21 The people that love me are the people that listen to me and do what I tell them to do. And my father will love anyone that loves me. Yes, and I will love them too, and I will show them what I am really like."

22 Then one of Jesus's followers talked to Jesus. His name was Judas, but he was not Judas Iscariot. He said, "Sir, why are you now saying that you will not show everyone in the world what you are like? Why are you saying that you will only show us?"

23 Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, they will do

whatever I tell them. And my father will love them, and we will come and live with them.

²⁴ But if somebody doesn't love me, they don't do what I tell them. And these things that I tell you are not my own words, but they come from my father, the one that sent me here.

²⁵ You see, I am telling you these things now, while I am still with you.

²⁶ Later the father will send the Holy Spirit to help you. He will be your teacher, in my place. He will help you remember all the things I told you, and he will teach you everything you need to know.

²⁷ When I go away, I will give you the power to always feel happy and quiet inside yourselves. You see, I have that power, and I will give you that power too. The people in the world can't give you that power, but I can. So don't let anything upset you, and don't let anything frighten you.

²⁸ Like I told you before, I am going away, but I will come back to you again. You see, I am going back to my father, and my father is much greater than I am. So if you really love me, you will be happy for me to go to my father.

²⁹ I'm telling you all about this now, so that after it happens, you will trust me.

³⁰ All right, I will not tell you much more, because the boss over the bad spirits is getting close now. He is the boss over this world, but he is not my boss, so he can't tell me what to do.

³¹ No, I do what my father tells me to do. I do that so that the people of this world can know

that I love my father.”

Then Jesus said to his followers, “Come on, get up, and let’s leave this place.”

15

Jesus is like a good grape vine

¹ Jesus told his followers a picture story about a plant that grapes grow on. It is called a *grape vine*.

Jesus said, “I am like a good grape vine, growing in a garden. And God, my father, is like the gardener.

² And people are like the branches of that grape vine. There are some people that don’t live God’s way. They are like branches on the vine that don’t grow any fruit. They are no good, so the gardener cuts them off. But some people do live God’s way. They are like branches on the vine that do grow fruit. My father keeps on working on those people, to get them to live God’s way even better. He is like the gardener that cleans up the good branches and trims them back a little bit, so that they will grow more fruit.

³ You are like those good branches. You believed my words, so you are already clean.

⁴ And, you know, a branch has to stay joined to the main trunk of the vine, so it can grow fruit. A broken branch lying on the ground can’t grow any fruit. The trunk and the branch have to stay joined together. Well, just like that, you have to stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. If you don’t stay joined to me, you can’t live God’s way.

⁵ So I tell you, I am like the main trunk of the grape vine, and you are like the branches. If you stay joined to me, I will stay joined to you, and you will keep on doing what God wants you to do. You see, if any branches don't stay joined to the trunk of the vine, they can't grow any fruit. Just like that, if you are not joined to me, you can't do anything for God.

⁶ Some people might not stay joined to me. They will be like branches that the gardener cuts off and throws away. They lie on the ground and dry up, and later on, he will pick them up and throw them into a fire, and it will burn them up.

⁷ But, if you stay joined to me, and keep on doing what I taught you, you can ask me for anything, and I will do it.

⁸ And when you live God's way, other people will see the good things that you do, and they will know that you are my followers, so they will respect my father. You will be like a branch that grows a lot of fruit.

⁹ I loved you just as much as my father loves me. So listen, you have to stay joined to me, and I will keep on loving you.

¹⁰ I always do what my father wants me to do, and he keeps on loving me. In the same way, if you keep on doing what I told you to do, I will keep on loving you.

¹¹ I told you all these things now, so that you can be properly happy. Yes, you can be as happy as me.

¹² Yes, and I am telling you this, you have to

love each other, just like I loved you.*

¹³ If somebody is ready to die to save their friends, that shows that they really love their friends a lot.

¹⁴ Well, if you do what I tell you to do, you are my friends. I love my friends a lot, and I am ready to die to save you.

¹⁵ I'm not calling you my workers any more, but I'm calling you my friends. Workers don't know what their boss is doing, but I told you everything that my father told me. So now you know what I am doing.

¹⁶ You didn't pick me, but I picked you. And I am sending you out to do my work. I want you to be like branches that grow the sort of fruit that stays good for ever. Then you can ask God for anything that I say is good, and he will give it to you.

¹⁷ Listen, I'm telling you again what you have to do, you have to love each other."

The world's people hate Jesus's followers

¹⁸ Jesus kept on talking to his followers. He said, "Listen. When the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first.

¹⁹ The people that belong to this world don't live God's way. And they only love other people that belong to this world. But you are not like them, so they don't love you. You see, I picked you out from the people of this world, and now you are different, so they hate you.

* **15:12** John 13:34; 15:17; 1 John 3:23; 2 John 5

²⁰ Remember that I told you before, 'A worker is not more important than their boss.' Well, I am your boss, and you are my workers. And people made a lot of trouble for me, so people will make a lot of trouble for you. But some people listened properly to me, so some people will listen properly to you too.*

²¹ You are my followers, that's the reason why some people will make trouble for you. You see, they don't know God. He is the one that sent me here.

²² I came and talked to them, but they didn't listen to me. So they are going against God, and he will say they are guilty. And they can't argue with him. They can't say they didn't hear my message.

²³ You see, if anyone hates me, they hate my father too.

²⁴ And that mob saw me do powerful things, but they took no notice of me, so they are guilty of going against God. I did those powerful things that nobody else ever did, and they saw what I did, but they still hate me, and they hate my father too. So they are really guilty.

²⁵ A long time ago, God told one of his men to write about this, and they have it in God's book. He wrote,

'I didn't do anything bad to them, but they hated me anyway.'*

And that mob are doing that to me now.

* **15:20** Matthew 10:24; Luke 6:40; John 13:16 * **15:25** Psalm 35:19; 69:4

²⁶ Listen, I am going back to my father, and then I will send you a helper. He is the Holy Spirit. He will come to you from the father, and everything he says is always true. He will tell you all about me.

²⁷ And you mob will talk about me too. You were with me from the time I started teaching, so you have to tell everyone about me.”

16

¹ Jesus kept on talking to his followers. He said, “I told you all this so that you will keep on trusting me.

² After I go away, the Jewish leaders will not let you into their meeting houses to pray to God with them. And a time is coming when people will kill you, and they will think that God wants them to do that.

³ They will do those bad things, because they never knew me, or my father.

⁴ I am telling you this now, so that when those bad things happen, you will remember that I told you about them. You didn’t need to know about them before, because I was with you. But now I am going away, so I have to tell you about them.”

This is what the Holy Spirit does

⁵ Jesus told his followers, “I am going to leave you and go back to my father. He is the one that sent me here. And none of you asked me, ‘Where are you going?’

⁶ I know my words made you very sad.

⁷ But listen, this is the true story. After I leave you and go to my father, I will send the Holy Spirit to you, and he will help you. You see, if I don't go, the Holy Spirit will not come to you. But I will go away, and it will be good for you, because the Holy Spirit will come to you.

⁸ After he comes, he will show people in the world that they go against God and do bad things. And he will show people that they don't live the right way. And he will show people that one day God will judge everyone.

⁹ You see, the people that belong to this world don't believe in me, so they are going against God.

¹⁰ And I am going back to the father, and you will not see me any more. I will not be here, so the Holy Spirit will show people the right way to live.

¹¹ And the Holy Spirit will show people that God will judge everyone. You see, God already judged the devil. He is the boss over the bad spirits, and he is the boss over this world too, but God said that he is guilty.

¹² I have a lot more to tell you, but it's too much for you right now.

¹³ After the Holy Spirit comes, he will tell you what is true. He will teach you everything that is true about God. He will not say his own words, but only the words he heard from God. He will also tell you about things that will happen later on.

¹⁴ He will tell you the message that I give him. When he does that, he will show you that I am great and good.

¹⁵ You see, everything my father has is mine too. So my father's true message is my message too. That is the reason why I said that I will give my message to the Holy Spirit, and he will tell it to you."

Jesus's followers were going to be sad for a while

¹⁶ Jesus said to his followers, "I will go away soon, and you will not see me. But then after a little while, you will see me again."

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Some of his followers didn't understand what Jesus was saying. They asked each other, "Why did he say, 'Soon, you will not see me. But then after a little while, you will see me again'? And why did he say, 'I am going back to the father'? What does he mean?"

¹⁹ Jesus knew they wanted to ask him what he was talking about, so he said to them, "Are you asking each other what I mean by saying, 'Soon, you will not see me. But then after a little while, you will see me again'?"

²⁰ Listen to this, it's true. Soon the people of this world will be happy about what is happening to me. But you will be very sad, and you will cry. Yes, you will be sad for a while, but later on, you will be really happy.

²¹ You know, while a baby is being born, the mother has a lot of pain. But when she holds her new baby, she forgets about that pain, because

she's so happy that a new baby was born into the world.

²² And just like that, you are really sad now, and it feels like pain to you, but later I will come back and see you again, and you will be really happy, and nobody can stop you from being happy.

²³ At that time, you will not need to ask me for anything. Listen, I'm telling you straight, you can ask the father for anything that I say is good, and he will give it to you.

²⁴ You haven't asked God for that sort of thing before, so ask him, and you will get whatever you ask for. Then you will be really happy."

Stay happy

²⁵ Then Jesus said, "I have been telling you stories that are pictures, to teach you things. But the time is coming when I will not use picture stories. I will tell you clearly about my father.

²⁶ Then you will ask the father for things that I say are good. I will not have to ask my father for you. You can ask him yourself.

²⁷ You see, he loves you too. He loves you because you love me, and because you believe that I came from him.

²⁸ Yes, I came from my father, and I came into the world. But now I am going to leave the world and go back to my father."

²⁹ Jesus's followers said to him, "Now you are telling us clearly. You are not telling us picture stories.

³⁰ Now we understand that you know everything. We don't need to ask you anything, because you already know what we want to know. So we believe that you came from God."

³¹ Jesus said, "You reckon you believe now,

³² but listen, very soon, all of you will run away and hide in your own homes. Yes, you will leave me alone, but I will not really be alone, because my father is with me.

³³ I told you all these things now, so that you can always feel happy and quiet inside yourselves. You are going to get trouble in this world, and you are going to feel sad. But don't be frightened. I am stronger than the world. I finished up the power of this world. So be strong and brave."

17

Jesus asked God to look after his followers

¹ After Jesus finished telling them all those things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come for me to finish the job you sent me to do. I want you to show people that I am really great and powerful, so that people will look at me, and they will see that you are really great and powerful too, and then they will respect both you and me.

² You gave me power over everyone, so that I can give life to the people you gave me, so they will live with you for ever.

³ Yes, if people know you, and if they know that you are the only real God, and if they know me,

and if they know that I am the Christ that you sent to them, those people will live with us for ever.

⁴ I did everything that you sent me here to do, and when people saw me do that, they saw that you are great and powerful.

⁵ And now, Father, when I come back to you, show people that I am great and powerful, just like I was when I was with you, before we made the world together.

⁶ You gave me some people from the world, and I showed them what you are like. They were your people, but you gave them to me. I taught them your word, and they did what you said.

⁷ Now they know that everything that I said came from you.

⁸ I told them the message that you told me, and they believed it. Now they know for sure that you sent me to the world.

⁹ Father, I am just asking you to look after the people you gave me. I am not talking about the people that belong to this world.

¹⁰ All my people are your people, and all your people are mine. And they show other people that I am great and powerful.

¹¹ Very soon I will leave this world and come back to you. But my people will still be in this world, so, Father in heaven, I ask you to look after them. You can use your power to do that, the same power that you gave me. Join them together, and make them one mob, just like you and me are joined together, like we are one.

12 While I was here on earth, I took care of them. I used the power you gave me to look after them, and I didn't lose any of them. The only one I lost was the one that has to die, just like your man wrote in your book, a long time ago.*

13 Father, I am coming to you soon, but I am saying these things now, while I am still here in the world, so that my followers can be properly happy inside themselves, just like I am.

14 I told them your message, and they listened to me, and they believed me. They don't belong here in this world, just like I don't belong here. So the people that belong to this world hate them.

15 I am not asking you to take my followers away from the people that belong to this world. I am asking you to keep them safe from the devil, the boss over the bad spirits.

16 They don't belong in this world, just like I don't belong in this world.

17 Make them your own special people, that only listen to your true message. Your word is that true message.

18 You sent me into the world to tell people your message, and just like that, I am sending them into the world to tell people your message.

19 And I am giving myself to you to do your work. I will do that to help my followers, so that they will give themselves to you to do your work, and only listen to your true message."

Jesus prayed for the people that will believe later on

* 17:12 Psalm 41:9; 109:6-8; John 13:18

²⁰ Jesus kept on talking to God. He said, “I am not asking that you only help these followers here with me now. Later they will tell other people about me, and some of those people will believe in me. So I am asking you to help those other people too.

²¹ Join them all together, Father, and make them one mob, just like you and me are joined together. It’s like you are in me, and I am in you. I want you to join them to us in the same way, so it’s like they are in us. Then people in the world can believe that you sent me to the world.

²² You made me special, and in the same way I made them special, so that you can join them together and make them one mob, just like you and me are joined together, like we are one.

²³ I want to be joined to them, so it’s like I am in them, just like you are joined to me, so it’s like you are in me. Then they will be one mob, joined together properly. Then the people that belong to this world will know that you sent me to the world. And they will also know that you love my followers just as much as you love me.

²⁴ Father, you gave me these people, and I want them to be with me. I want them to see that you gave me the same great power that you have. You loved me and gave me that power before we made the world.

²⁵ Father, you always do what is right. But the people that belong to this world don’t know you. But I know you, and my followers know that you sent me to the world.

²⁶ I showed my followers what you are like, and I will keep on showing them, so that they will love each other, just like you love me. And I will be joined to them, so it's like I am in them."

18

The soldiers grabbed Jesus

¹ After Jesus talked to his father, he and his special workers left the house. They went across the creek called Kidron, and they went to a garden.

² Judas wasn't with them because, before this time, he turned against Jesus, and that night he went to the Jewish leaders to help them grab him. He knew that Jesus and his special workers went to that garden lots of times.

³ So Judas went to that garden with some soldiers to show them where Jesus was. He got those soldiers from the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the Pharisee mob. And there were some Roman soldiers with him too. They had fire sticks, and spears, and long knives with them.

⁴ Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him, but he went to meet them anyway. Then Jesus said to that mob, "Who are you looking for?"

⁵⁻⁶ They said, "We are looking for Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I am Jesus." As soon as Jesus said that, all the soldiers moved backwards and fell down to the ground. And Judas, the man that turned against Jesus, was there with them.

7 Again, Jesus asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

And they said, “Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

8 And Jesus said to them, “I already told you that I am Jesus. I am the man you are looking for, so let these other men here go free.”

9 So the soldiers didn’t grab any of Jesus’s followers. You know, before that time, Jesus said to God, “I didn’t lose any of the people that you gave me.” And it happened just like Jesus said.

10 Then Peter got his long knife, and he hit one of those men with it, and he cut off that man’s ear. That man’s name was Malkus, and he worked for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies.

11 But Jesus said to Peter, “Put that knife away. My father sent me here to go through this hard time. I can’t say to him, ‘No, I will not do it.’ ”*

They took Jesus to the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies

12 Then that mob of soldiers grabbed Jesus and tied his hands together. They were the soldiers of the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers and their leader.

13 At first, they took Jesus to Annas. He was a boss of the Jewish ceremonies. His son-in-law, Cayafas, was the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies that year.

14 (Before that time, Cayafas told the Jewish Leaders Council that it is a lot better for this man to die, instead of the people.*)

* **18:11** Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42 * **18:14** John 11:49-50

Peter said that he was not Jesus's follower

15-16 When the soldiers took Jesus there, Peter and another follower of Jesus followed along behind them. Then they all got to the house that belonged to Annas. He was a boss of the Jewish ceremonies. That other follower went into the yard of that house with the rest of the mob. You see, that other follower knew that ceremony boss, so the girl that looked after the gate let him go in, but Peter had to wait outside. Then that other follower went back to the gate, and he talked to the girl, so she let Peter go in too.

17 Then that girl said to Peter, "Wait, are you also a follower of that man Jesus?"

Peter said, "No, I am not."

18 It was a cold night, and the soldiers and workers stood around a fire to keep warm. So Peter went and stood with them.

Annas asked Jesus a lot of questions

19 Inside the house, the boss of the Jewish ceremonies asked Jesus a lot of questions about his followers, and about the things he taught people.

20 Jesus said, "I always talked to people in places where everybody can hear me. I talked in our meeting houses, and in God's ceremony house in Jerusalem, the places where all of us Jewish people meet. I didn't keep my message secret.

21 So why are you asking me all these questions? You should ask the people that listened to me. They know the things I said."

²² Then one of the soldiers hit Jesus and said, "You can't talk to the boss of our ceremonies like that."

²³ Jesus said, "Tell me if I said something wrong. But if I told the true story, why did you hit me?"

²⁴ Then Annas sent him to Cayafas, the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. Jesus still had his hands tied up.

Peter kept on saying that he was not Jesus's follower

²⁵ Outside, in the yard, Peter stood next to the fire to keep warm. And somebody said to him, "Are you one of Jesus's followers too?"

Peter said, "No, I am not."

²⁶ One of the other people near the fire was a work-man for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies, and he was a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off. He looked at Peter and said, "Hey, you are one of Jesus's followers. I saw you in the garden with him, right?"

²⁷ Again, Peter said, "No, that wasn't me. I am not his follower." Then straight away, a chook yelled out.

They took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman boss

²⁸ It was early in the morning, and they took Jesus from Cayafas's house to the house of the government boss in Jerusalem. His name was Pilate.

It was the time of the Passover ceremony, so the Jewish leaders wouldn't go into that house. You see, in their Jewish culture, if they went into a house that belonged to somebody that wasn't

Jewish, it was like they became dirty, and then they couldn't eat the Passover food.

²⁹ So the Jewish leaders stayed outside, and Pilate went out to talk to them. He said, "Why did you bring this man here? What bad thing did he do?"

³⁰ The Jewish leaders said, "He did really bad things. That's the reason why we brought him to you."

³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him away and judge him by your own laws."

The Jewish leaders said, "Your Roman laws will not let us kill anyone to punish them."

³² You see, they had to say that because Jesus said that he was going to die on a cross, and that's how the Romans punished people.*

³³ Pilate went back into his house, and he called Jesus to come to him. Then he asked Jesus, "Are you the big boss over the Jewish nation?"

³⁴ Jesus said, "Did you think of that question yourself, or did somebody else tell you about me?"

³⁵ Pilate said, "I am not a Jew, so I don't know anything about you mob. But your own people, and the bosses of your ceremonies, they brought you here. What did you do?"

³⁶ Jesus said, "I am a big boss, but I am not the big boss over a nation here in this world. That is the reason why my followers didn't fight to stop the Jewish leaders from grabbing me."

³⁷ Then Pilate said, "So it is true that you are a big boss?"

* **18:32** John 3:14; 12:32

Jesus said, “Yes, you said that I am a big boss, and you are right. And I was born into this world so that I can tell everyone God’s true message. If anyone really wants to know the true message, they take notice of the things I say.”

³⁸ Pilate said, “Do you think you know the true message? Nobody knows that.”

Then Pilate went outside again, to talk to the Jewish leaders. He said, “I asked this man a lot of questions, and I don’t think he did anything wrong.

³⁹ You know, every year at your Passover time, I let one prisoner go free for you Jewish people. Do you want me to let this man, your big boss, go free?”

⁴⁰ All the Jewish leaders shouted back, “No, not him. Let Barabbas go free.” Barabbas was a man that was in jail because he used to fight against the Romans.

19

Pilate tried to let Jesus go free

¹ Pilate told the soldiers to take Jesus away and hit him a lot with whips.

² The soldiers also made some prickly branches into a headband that looked like a crown, like a big boss wears. And they put it on his head. They also put a long purple coat on him, the sort of coat that a big boss wears, ³ and they walked around him and made fun of him. They kept on saying, “Hey, you reckon that you are great. And you reckon that you are the big boss over the

Jewish people. But you are not.” And they kept on hitting him.

⁴ After that, Pilate went out of his house and said to the Jewish leaders, “Look, I’m bringing Jesus out to you now, and I say he is not guilty. He has done nothing wrong.”

⁵ Then the soldiers brought Jesus out. He was wearing the prickly headband and the long purple coat. And Pilate said, “Look, here he is.”

⁶ The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and their soldiers saw Jesus, and they shouted, “Kill him. Kill him. Nail him to a cross and let him die there.”

But Pilate said, “No. You take him and kill him on a cross yourselves. I reckon he is not guilty.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders said, “But this man said that he is God’s son. Our law says that if somebody says that, they have to die.”

⁸ Pilate heard them say that, and he was even more frightened.

⁹ He went back inside and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus didn’t answer him.

¹⁰ Pilate asked Jesus, “Why don’t you answer me? I have the power to let you go free, and I have the power to kill you.”

¹¹ Jesus said, “Yes, but you only have power over me because God gave it to you. So the man that sent me here is more guilty than you are.”

¹² After Pilate heard this, he tried again to let Jesus go free, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “But he is trying to be our big boss. And anyone that tries to be the big boss over a nation is going

against Caesar, the big boss in Rome. So if you let this man go free, you are not Caesar's friend."

¹³ When they said that, Pilate went into his house and got Jesus, and he took him to the place outside called the Stone Floor. (In the Jewish language it was called *Gabbatha*.) And Pilate sat down there on the judge's seat.

¹⁴ It was the time of the Passover ceremony, and it was the day when Jewish people got ready for their rest day, and it was about the middle of the day. Then Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, "Look, here is your big boss."

¹⁵ They shouted, "Kill him. Kill him. Take him away and nail him to a cross."

Pilate asked, "Do you really want me to kill your big boss?"

The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies shouted back, "He is not our big boss. Caesar is our only big boss."

¹⁶ Then Pilate did what they wanted, and he told the soldiers to take Jesus away and nail him to a cross to kill him.

They put Jesus on a cross to kill him

¹⁷ Then the soldiers got a big wooden cross, and they forced Jesus to carry it out of the city to a place called *Skull Place*. In the Jewish language, the name of that place is *Golgotha*.

¹⁸ Then the soldiers nailed Jesus's hands and feet to the cross, and they stood the cross up so that Jesus was high up off the ground. And they also did that to 2 other men. They put one of them on each side of Jesus.

19 Pilate told one of his men to write some words on a flat bit of wood, to say why they were killing Jesus, and to nail it to the cross. He told that man to write, "Jesus, from Nazareth, the big boss over the Jews."

20 Pilate wanted everyone there to understand it, so he told that man to write it in the languages of the Jewish people, the Roman people, and the Greek people. And those crosses were near the Jewish city called Jerusalem, so a lot of Jewish people read that sign.

21 The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies told Pilate to change the sign. They said, "Don't write, 'The big boss over the Jews.' You have to write, 'This man said that he is the big boss over the Jews.' "

22 But Pilate said, "No, I will not change what I wrote."

23 After the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, they split up his clothes into 4 parts, and each soldier got one part. There was also a long shirt that didn't have any joins in it,

24 and they said, "If we cut this up into bits, then it will be no good any more." So they didn't cut it up, but they gambled for it. A long time ago, one of God's men wrote about this, and it is in God's book. He wrote,

"They split my clothes up among each other, and they gambled for my shirt."

When the soldiers did that, it happened just like that man wrote in God's book.*

* **19:24** Psalm 22:18

²⁵ There were 4 women standing near Jesus's cross. They were his mother, and her sister, and Mary Magdalene, and another Mary that was the wife of Clopas.

²⁶ Jesus saw his mother standing there, and also the follower that he liked a lot. So he said to his mother, "Look at that man near you. He is your son now."

²⁷ And he said to his follower, "Look at that woman near you. She is your mother now." So that follower took Jesus's mother back to his house, and from that time he looked after her, like she was his own mother.

Jesus died

²⁸⁻²⁹ After that, Jesus knew that he finished everything that his father asked him to do. Then he said, "I'm thirsty." So one of the soldiers got a long stick, and he tied a sponge to it. He put it into a pot of sour wine, and then he lifted it up to Jesus's mouth, for him to drink. When that happened, they did what God's men wrote in God's book a long time ago.*

³⁰ Jesus tasted the sour wine, then he said, "I've finished my work here on earth." Then he put his head down, and he let his spirit go, and he died.

³¹ All this happened on the day before the Jewish people's rest day. And it was going to be a really special rest day, because it was the time of the Passover ceremony. The Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to be on those crosses on

* **19:28-29** Psalm 22:15; 69:21

their rest day, and in their culture a new day started when the sun went down. It was already afternoon, so they asked Pilate to get the soldiers to break the legs of the men on the crosses, so those men can die more quickly, and then they can take their bodies down before the sun went down.

³² Pilate agreed, and he told the soldiers to break the men's legs. They broke the legs of the men on each side of Jesus.

³³ Then they came to Jesus, and they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs.

³⁴ But one of the soldiers poked a spear into Jesus's side, to make sure that he was dead, and straight away blood and water came out.

³⁵ There was a man there that saw all this happen, and he told everyone about it. He knows what really happened, and what he says is true. He tells everyone about it so that you can believe in Jesus too.

³⁶⁻³⁷ And, you know, a long time ago, one of God's men wrote in God's book about what those soldiers were going to do to Jesus. He wrote,

"They will not break any of his bones."*

And another one of God's men wrote,

"They will look at the man they stabbed with a spear."*

And those things happened when Jesus died.

They put Jesus's body into a cave

* **19:36-37** Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20

* **19:36-37** Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7

³⁸ There was a man there that was called Joseph. He was from a place called Arimathia. He believed in Jesus, but he didn't want the Jewish leaders to give him any trouble, so he didn't tell anyone about it. When Jesus died, Joseph went to see Pilate and asked him, "Can I get Jesus's body to take care of it our way?"

Pilate said, "All right." So Joseph went and got Jesus's body.

³⁹ Nicodemus was with Joseph too. He was the man that visited Jesus one night a long time before.* He got about 30 kilograms of special cream to put on Jesus's body. It was made from plants called myrrh and aloes, and it smelled really good.

⁴⁰ Together Joseph and Nicodemus put that cream all over Jesus's body, then they wrapped it in long bits of cloth. That's how the Jews buried their dead people.

⁴¹ There was a garden near the place where Jesus died, and in that garden there was a special cave to put dead bodies. It was a big hole, like a little room that somebody cut in the rock. It was a new cave, so there were no bodies in it yet. ⁴² Joseph and Nicodemus put Jesus's body in that cave, and they blocked that cave with a big stone. You see, the sun was starting to go down, and soon the Jewish rest day was going to start, so they had to be quick, and that cave was close to the place where Jesus died.

* **19:39** John 3:1-2

20

Jesus came alive again

¹ After the Jewish rest day finished, Mary Magdalene went to the cave where the men put Jesus's body. It was early on Sunday morning, and it was still dark. She got a shock when she saw the cave. It was open. The stone didn't block that cave any more.

² So she ran to Peter, and the follower that Jesus liked a lot, to tell them what she saw in the cave. She told them, "Somebody took our leader's body out of the cave, and we don't know where they put him."

³⁻⁴ So Peter and the other follower ran to the cave. The other follower ran faster than Peter, and he got there first.

⁵ He bent down and looked into the cave, but he didn't go inside. He only saw the long bits of cloth that Joseph and Nicodemus put around Jesus's body.

⁶ Then Peter got there, and he went inside the cave, and he also saw the bits of cloth.

⁷ The cloth that covered Jesus's head was folded up in a place by itself.

⁸ Then the other follower, that got to the cave first, he went inside too, and he saw the bits of cloth there, but no body, and so he believed that Jesus was alive again.

⁹ You see, a long time ago, God's men wrote about this in God's book. They said that Jesus had to come alive again. But those 2 followers of Jesus didn't understand it yet.

¹⁰ So they came out of the cave, and they went back to their homes.

Jesus talked to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood outside the cave, and she was crying. Then she bent down and looked into it,

¹² and she saw 2 angel messengers with white clothes sitting at the place where Jesus's body used to be. One angel sat in the place where the head used to be, and the other angel sat at the other end.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

Mary said, "Somebody took my leader's body away, and I don't know where they put it."

¹⁴ After she said that, she turned around and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but she didn't know it was him.

¹⁵ Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought he was the gardener, so she asked him, "Sir, did you take his body away? If you did, please show me where you put it, so that I can get it and take care of it."

¹⁶ Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary turned around, and straight away she knew that he was Jesus, and she said in her language, "*Rabboni.*" (That word means *teacher.*)

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Don't hold on to me. I haven't gone up to my father yet. I want you to go to my followers and tell them that I am going back up to my father, and he is the father of all of you too. He is my God, and he is your God too."

18 Then Mary went to Jesus's followers and told them, "I saw our leader Jesus." Then she told them everything he said.

Jesus showed himself to his followers

19 It was Sunday, and that night Jesus's followers were inside a house. They were frightened. They didn't know what the Jewish leaders might do to them, so they locked the doors. Suddenly Jesus came and stood in the middle of the group. He said, "Hello. I want you to feel happy and quiet inside yourselves."

20 Then he showed them the holes in his hands and his side. His followers saw that he really was their leader Jesus, and they were very happy.

21 Jesus said to them, "I want you to feel happy and quiet inside yourselves. And, you know, my father sent me here to the world to give people his message. Well, just like that, I'm sending you out to the people in the world, to give them that same message."

22 Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Take the Holy Spirit that I'm giving to you.

23 When you tell people my message, some people will listen properly, and God will say that they are not guilty for the bad things they did, and he will not do payback to them. So you can also say that they are not guilty. But some people will not listen to that message, and then God will say that they are guilty of the bad things they did. So you can also say that they are guilty."*

* **20:23** Matthew 16:19; 18:18

Jesus showed himself to Thomas

²⁴ Thomas, whose other name was *the Twin*, was one of Jesus's special workers, but he wasn't there at that time when Jesus came to them.

²⁵ The other followers told him, "We saw our leader Jesus."

But Thomas didn't believe them. He said, "I will never believe that Jesus is alive, unless I see the nail holes in his hands, so I can put my finger in them, and unless I can put my hand into the hole in his side."

²⁶ One week later, Thomas and Jesus's other followers were inside a house, and again they locked all the doors. But Jesus came and stood in the middle of them. He said, "Hello. I want you to feel happy and quiet inside yourselves."

²⁷ Then he said, "Thomas, look at the holes in my hands, and put your finger in them. And put your hand into the hole in my side. Believe that I am alive. Stop saying that you can't believe it."

²⁸ Straight away, Thomas believed that Jesus was alive, and he said, "You are my leader, and you are my God."

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Now you believe that I am alive, because you can see me. Listen. There are people that will not see me, but they will believe in me, and God will make them really happy."

John wrote this book so that we can believe in Jesus

³⁰ You know, Jesus did a lot of other powerful things, and his followers saw him do them, but I didn't write about all of those things in this book.

³¹ But I wrote about some of the things he did so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us, and so that you can believe that he is God's son. And if you believe in him, you will live with God for ever.

21

Jesus's followers saw him at the lake

¹ Later on, Jesus showed himself to his followers at Lake Tiberias. And this is what happened.

² Some of Jesus's followers were together. They were Peter, and Thomas (whose other name was *the Twin*), and Nathaniel (a man from Cana in Galilee), and James and John (the 2 sons of Zebedee), and 2 other followers.

³ And Peter said to the others, "I'm going to go fishing."

And they said, "We'll come with you." So they went down to the water with their net, and they went out on a boat to catch some fish. They worked all night, but they didn't catch anything.*

⁴ Early in the morning, just before the sun came up, they saw a man standing on the land. It was Jesus, but they didn't know that it was him.

⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, have you got any fish?"

They said, "No. Nothing."

⁶ Jesus said, "Throw your net over the other side of the boat, the right-hand side. You will get fish there."

* **21:3** Luke 5:5

So they did what he said. They threw their net over the right-hand side of the boat, and it caught lots of fish. They tried to pull the net back into the boat, but they couldn't do it, because all the fish in it made it too heavy.* ⁷ Then the follower that Jesus liked a lot, said to Peter, "That man on the land is our leader Jesus."

As soon as Peter heard that the man was Jesus, he put his coat back on. (You see, he took it off before, so that he could work better.) Then he jumped into the water to go to Jesus.

⁸ The boat wasn't far from the land, only about 100 metres, so the other followers stayed in the boat, and took it to the land. They dragged the net full of fish behind them.

⁹ After they got out of the boat, they saw a fire with fish cooking in the coals. And there was bread too.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of those fish that you just caught."

¹¹ So Peter went back to the boat, and he pulled the net full of fish up to the land. There were 153 big fish in the net, but it didn't break.

¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

They all knew that he was their leader Jesus, but none of them were brave enough to ask, "Are you really Jesus?"

¹³ Then Jesus picked up some bread and gave it to them to eat. And he gave them some fish too.

* **21:6** Luke 5:6

14 This was the 3rd time, after Jesus came alive again, that he showed himself to his followers.

Jesus told Peter to look after his people

15 After they finished eating, Jesus talked to Peter, whose other name was Simon. He said, "Simon, son of John, do you love me, more than these other followers love me?"

Peter said, "Yes, sir, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "All right, you have to take care of my people properly, just like a shepherd takes his young sheep to good grass for them to eat."

16 Then Jesus asked him again, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter said, "Yes, sir, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "All right, you have to take care of my people properly, just like a shepherd looks after his sheep."

17 After that, Jesus asked him again, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Then Peter got a bit upset because Jesus asked him 3 times, "Do you love me?" So Peter said, "Sir, you know everything, and you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "All right, you have to look after my people properly, just like a shepherd takes his sheep to good grass for them to eat."

18 Listen Peter, I'm telling you straight. When you were a young man, you tied your own rope belt around you, and you went wherever you wanted to go. But after you get old, you will hold out your hands, and somebody else will tie a

rope around you, and he will take you to a place where you don't want to go."

¹⁹ Jesus said that to tell Peter how Peter will die, and when Peter dies like that, he will show that God is really great.

Then Jesus told Peter, "Keep on following me."

²⁰ Then Peter turned around and saw the follower that Jesus liked a lot. He was walking behind them at the lake. (Remember, at their last dinner together before Jesus died, this man leaned close to Jesus, and asked him, "Who is going to turn against you?")*

²¹ At the lake, Peter looked at that follower, then he asked Jesus, "Sir, what about this man?"

²² Jesus said, "Don't worry about him. Maybe I want him to stay alive until I come back again, but you don't have to worry about that. You just follow me."

²³ When Jesus's followers heard what Jesus said, they thought that he said that this man was not going to die. But Jesus didn't say that he wouldn't die. He said, "Maybe I want him to stay alive until I come back again, but you don't have to worry about that."

The last words of this book

²⁴ That follower, the one Jesus was talking about, he is the one that wrote this book. He saw all those things happen, and we know that he wrote the true story about Jesus.

²⁵ Jesus did a lot of other things too, but I can't put them all in this book. You know, if somebody

* **21:20** John 13:25

tried to write about all those things, the world is not big enough to hold all the books that they would make.

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