

**Some important parts of the
good news about Jesus that
Luke wrote
(From the book in the Holy Bible
called Luke)
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.

In each of those 4 books we can read about some of the things that Jesus did and said. This Bible has everything that Mark and John wrote about Jesus in their books, but we have not yet translated everything that Matthew and Luke wrote. We have only translated the stories and messages that Mark and John didn't write about, but that Matthew and Luke did write about.

This book has those stories and messages that Luke wrote. They are important for us today because they tell us about the good things that Jesus did, and they tell us God's messages that Jesus taught to people.

Luke was a doctor, and later he became a good friend of Paul and some of Jesus's other followers. Maybe some of the things he wrote about are things he saw happen, but if not, Paul and other followers of Jesus told him about them.

Luke wrote another book that is in the Holy Bible, called *Acts*. In this Bible we call it *The followers of Jesus did great things*.

¹⁻³ I'm writing this for you, my good friend Thiofilus.

A lot of great things happened here, and the people that saw those things happen told everyone what they saw, and a lot of people wrote down those stories that they heard. After that, I read those stories, and I talked to the people that saw those things, and I checked up on everything they said, right from the start. So now I am carefully sorting out those stories, and I am writing them in this book for you.

⁴ You already heard some of this, but I want you to know the right story, and I want you to be sure about it.

An angel messenger told an old man and his wife that they were going to have a baby

⁵ When Herod was the big boss over Judea country, there was a man there that was called Zekariah. He was one of the men that looked after the Jewish ceremonies. There were different groups that did the Jewish ceremonies for the people at different times. He was in the group called the Abijah mob. His wife belonged to a

family of Jewish ceremony people too. Her name was Elizabeth.*

⁶ Those 2 people, Zekariah and Elizabeth, they were very good people. They did everything in God's law, and God liked the way they lived.

⁷ They got very old, but they didn't have any kids. You see, Elizabeth just couldn't have a baby.

⁸ The time came for Zekariah's mob to do the ceremonies in God's ceremony house, in Jerusalem city.

⁹ One day, it was Zekariah's turn to go into the special room in that house and burn some special perfume to make a good smell.

¹⁰ While he was doing that, a big mob of people were outside, and they were praying.

¹¹ Then God sent one of his angel messengers to that room, and he stood on the right-hand side of the metal table where that special perfume was burning.

¹² Zekariah saw the angel there and got a big shock. He was really frightened.

¹³ But the angel told him, "Don't be frightened, Zekariah. God has heard what you have been asking him, and he will give you what you want. Your wife, Elizabeth, will have a baby boy, and you will name him *John*."

¹⁴ You will be really happy, and a lot of other people will be happy with you.

¹⁵ God will say that this kid is important, so you have to make sure he never drinks any sort of wine or grog at all. You see, the Holy Spirit will

* **1:5** 1 Chronicles 24:10

come into this kid before he gets born, while he is still inside his mother.*

¹⁶ And then, after he grows up, he will get lots of you Israel people to turn away from bad things and turn back to God.

¹⁷ Remember Elijah, God's man that lived a long time ago. He had God's spirit in him, and he did powerful things. Well, in the same way, your son John will have God's spirit in him, and he will do powerful things. He will get people ready for God. John will get people to turn around and live the right way. He will get the men that are fathers to love their kids properly. And he will get people to listen properly to the sensible words of good people. Even those people that don't listen to God now, he will get them to listen to good people.”*

¹⁸ Zekariah said to the angel, “But that's hard for me to believe. I am an old man, and my wife is old too. We are too old now to have a baby. How can I be sure that your message is true?”

¹⁹ The angel said, “Look, I am Gabriel. I am always close to God, and I do special jobs for him. And he sent me to tell you this good message.*

²⁰ And everything I said will happen at the right time. But you didn't believe me, so now God will shut you up. You will not be able to talk until this kid gets born.”

²¹ While they were talking in that room, the people outside were waiting for Zekariah. They

* **1:15** Numbers 6:3 * **1:17** Malachi 4:5-6 * **1:19** Daniel 8:16; 9:21

were thinking, “Why is he staying a long time in that room?”

²² Then Zekariah came out, and he tried to talk to them, but he couldn’t say anything. He had to make signs with his hands, and at last they understood that he saw something powerful in that room.

²³ Then Zekariah finished his days of work in God’s ceremony house, and he went home.

²⁴ Soon after that, his wife, Elizabeth, found out she was going to have a baby. She stayed inside her house for 5 months.

²⁵ She said, “Wow. God is properly good to me. He will let me have a baby, and nobody will rubbish me any more.”

The story about the mother of Jesus

²⁶ That baby kept on growing inside Elizabeth. After about 6 months, God sent Gabriel, that same angel messenger, to Galilee country, to a town called Nazareth.

²⁷ He went there to a young girl that was not married. Her name was Mary. Before that time, Mary didn’t ever sleep with any man, like a woman does with her husband. She was promised to a man that was called Joseph. He belonged to the family of David, the man that was the big boss a long time ago.*

²⁸ Gabriel came to Mary and said, “Hello, Mary. God loves you and is good to you. He is here with you now, and he will do something good for you.”

²⁹ This worried Mary. She thought, “What’s he talking about?”

* **1:27** Matthew 1:18

³⁰ Gabriel said, “Don’t be frightened, Mary. God is really happy with you.

³¹ Listen. You will soon have a baby boy, and you will call him Jesus.*

³²⁻³³ God will make him the biggest boss over you Israel people, like David, his grand-father that lived a long time ago. He will be very important, and he will be the biggest boss for ever. He will never stop being the biggest boss over the Israel people. And people will call him the son of God.”*

³⁴ Mary said, “But I’m not married. I’ve never slept with a man, like a wife sleeps with her husband. How will I get a baby?”

³⁵ Gabriel said, “The Holy Spirit will come to you, and God’s power will come over you and give you a baby. Your baby will be really special, and people will say he is God’s son.

³⁶ And you know your cousin Elizabeth? Everyone reckoned she is too old to have a baby, but now she is carrying a baby inside her. She has been carrying that baby for the last 6 months, and soon she will have a son.

³⁷ You see, God can do anything. Nothing is too hard for him.”*

³⁸ Mary said, “All right, I will do whatever God wants. I want everything to happen just like you said.”

Then Gabriel left her.

Mary visited Elizabeth

* **1:31** Matthew 1:21 * **1:32-33** 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16; Isaiah 9:7

* **1:37** Genesis 18:14

³⁹ Soon after that, Mary got ready, and she went south quickly to a town in the hilly part of the country called Judea.

⁴⁰ Zekariah and Elizabeth lived in that town. Mary went to their house, and she went in and said to Elizabeth, "Hello cousin."

⁴¹ As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary say those words, she felt her baby jump inside her. And the Holy Spirit came into her,

⁴² and she talked really loud. She said to Mary, "God is really good to you, and he is making you happy. He is being more good to you than to any other woman. And he is being really good to your baby too.

⁴³ I'm not important, but you are the mother of my leader, the man from God. It is really good of you to visit me.

⁴⁴ You see, as soon as I heard you say 'hello,' my baby inside me was so happy he jumped.

⁴⁵ Yes, you believed that God will do everything he told you, and so God makes you very happy."

Mary sang this song

⁴⁶ Mary said,*

"God is really good and really great, and I want to tell everybody about him.

⁴⁷ My spirit is really happy with God. I know he will save me.

⁴⁸ God knew that I was not important, but he picked me, and now everyone will say that God was good to me.*

* **1:46** 1 Samuel 2:1-10 * **1:48** 1 Samuel 1:11

49 Yes, he is the really strong one, and he did great things for me.

God is properly good, better than anyone else.

50 He is always good to all the people that respect him. He was good to people that respected him before, and he is good to people that respect him now, and he will be good to people that respect him later on.

51 He does great things with his power, and he shows everyone that he is really strong.

Some people reckon they are smart and strong, but God makes them nothing. They are like soldiers that get frightened of the enemy and run away.

52 He chucks out the big bosses and takes their power away.

But he gets people that are not important, and he makes them bosses.*

53 And he gives hungry people good food, and they eat until they are full.

But he doesn't give anything to the rich people. They go away with nothing.

54 He feels sorry for his own people, us Israel mob, and he helps us,

55 just like he promised to Abraham, and our other grand-fathers that lived a long time ago.

He said that he will look after us for ever.”*

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about 3 months, then she went back to her own home.

John the Baptist was born

* 1:52 Job 5:11; 12:19 * 1:55 Genesis 17:7

⁵⁷ Then the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she had a son.

⁵⁸ All her family, and the people that lived near her, they all heard that she had a baby, and they knew that God felt sorry for Elizabeth, and that he was very good to her. Elizabeth was happy, and they were all happy too.

⁵⁹ When the baby was 8 days old, all those people went to Zekariah and Elizabeth's place. The baby boy had to have a young man operation on that day, and they used to give a baby his name at that time. The people wanted to call him Zekariah, the same name that his father had.*

⁶⁰ But Elizabeth said, "No. His name is John."

⁶¹ They said, "What? Nobody in your family has that name."

⁶² So they made signs with their hands to his father, to ask him what name he wanted to give to the boy.

⁶³ Zekariah got them to give him something to write on, and he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was shocked.

⁶⁴ Then, straight away, Zekariah started to talk again, and he told everyone that God is very great.

⁶⁵ The people there never saw God do things like that before. They were really surprised. They told other people about everything that happened, and soon a lot of people in the hilly part of Judea country were talking about it.

⁶⁶ Everyone that heard the news thought about it, and they said, "After this kid grows up, what

* **1:59** Leviticus 12:3

will he be?" They knew God was powerfully looking after that boy.

Zekariah sang this song

⁶⁷ At that time, when Zekariah started talking again, the Holy Spirit came into him, and he told everyone a message from God. He said,

⁶⁸ "The God of us Israel mob, he is a great God. He came now to save us, his people.

⁶⁹ He sent us a very strong person, to save us. You know about David, the big boss that worked for God a long time ago.

Well, this person is in David's family.

⁷⁰ God promised this to us a long time ago, and he got his men to tell us this message.

⁷¹ God promised to save us from our enemies, and from everyone that hates us.

⁷² He did that because he felt sorry for our grand-fathers that lived a long time ago, and wanted to be good to them, and do everything that he promised.

⁷³ Yes, God will remember the things he promised to our grand-father Abraham.

⁷⁴ He promised to save us from our enemies, so we can work for him without being frightened.

⁷⁵ We can live God's way and work for him in the right way, and we can do that all our lives."

⁷⁶ Then Zekariah talked to his baby boy. He said, "This word is for you, my son.

Everyone will know that you tell people messages from God.

You will get things ready for God.*

⁷⁷ You will teach his people how God can say they are not guilty of the bad things they did, and then God will save them.

⁷⁸ You see, our God feels sorry for us, so he will do that for us.

It will be like the sun coming up, bringing light from God.

⁷⁹ That light will shine for everybody.

Some people are like they are in the dark. They think they will die soon.

But that light will shine on everybody.

It will show us how to live in a happy and quiet way.”*

⁸⁰ After that, baby John grew up to be a man, and God made his spirit strong. He went and lived out in the bush for years, until he started to tell the Israel people God’s messages.

2

Mary had a baby boy

¹⁻³ About the time that John was born, the biggest boss over all those countries was called Augustus. He sent a message to everyone in every country. He said, “The government bosses in every town have to write down everyone’s name on a big list, and make them pay tax money.” So everyone had to go back to their home town and put their names on the list there.

* **1:76** Malachi 3:1 * **1:79** Isaiah 9:2

(At that time a man called Quirinius was the government boss over Syria country.)

⁴ Joseph belonged to the family of David, the man that was Israel's big boss a long time ago. David grew up in the town called Bethlehem, in Judea country, but Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth, in Galilee country. So Joseph had to go south to Bethlehem, to put his name on the right list.

⁵ Joseph took Mary with him. She was his promised wife, and she was carrying a baby inside her at that time.

⁶⁻⁷ At Bethlehem they couldn't find any room to stay in, so they had to sleep in the place where the animals ate their food. Then the time came for Mary to have her baby. She had her baby right there, and she wrapped him up in bits of cloth, just like mothers always did. And she put him down to sleep in an animal's food box.

Men that looked after sheep saw baby Jesus

⁸ Not far away, on that same night, some men were out in the grass lands looking after their sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel messenger from God stood there with them, and bright light from God was shining all around them, and they were very frightened.

¹⁰ But the angel said, "Don't be frightened. I've got really good news for you, and good news for everyone in the world too.

¹¹⁻¹² Today a young woman had a baby boy over there in Bethlehem, in the place where David grew up. Go there, and you will find him. He is wrapped up in cloth, and lying in an

animal's feed box. Then you will know that this message is true. He is the one that is going to save you people. He is the Christ, the man that God promised to send to you, to be your leader."

¹³ Then suddenly a big mob of other angel messengers came from heaven, and they all praised God. They said,

¹⁴ "God, you are really great there in heaven.

And here on the earth, your people are quiet and happy.

You are really good to your people."

¹⁵ Then the angels went back to heaven, and the men said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this baby that God just told us about."

¹⁶ Then they went quickly, and they found Mary and Joseph, with the baby boy in an animal's feed box, just like the angel said.

¹⁷ After those men saw the baby, they talked to people about him, and they told them the message that God's angel gave them.

¹⁸ Everyone was surprised when they heard what those men said.

¹⁹ And Mary remembered their words, and she thought about them a lot.

²⁰ As those men walked back to their sheep, they talked about how everything happened, just like God's angel said. They said to God, "You are really great." And they told everybody that God is great.

They named the baby Jesus

²¹ You know, the law of Moses said that they had to do a young man operation on all baby boys as soon as they were 8 days old. So Mary's baby had that operation, and they gave him his name, *Jesus*, at that time. That's the name that God's angel messenger told Mary to call him, before she started to carry that baby inside her.*

Simeon and Anna met Jesus

²²⁻²⁴ The Jewish law is like this, a woman's first baby boy belongs to God. And after a baby boy is born, the mother can't go into God's ceremony house or do any of their ceremonies for the next 40 days. It is like she is not clean. Then, after 40 days, she has to go to God's ceremony house in Jerusalem. She has to get a leader of the Jewish ceremonies there to kill 2 pigeons and burn them, and let the smoke go up to God. This will make her clean again for Jewish ceremonies. So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem at the right time to follow that law. They took baby Jesus with them.*

²⁵ There was an old man in Jerusalem at that time. His name was Simeon. He was a good man that lived God's way, and he was waiting for God to make the Israel people happy again. And the Holy Spirit used to tell him things.

²⁶ Before that time, the Holy Spirit told him, "You will stay alive until you see the special man that God will send to save his people. He is called the Christ."

* **2:21** Leviticus 12:3; Luke 1:31 * **2:22-24** Exodus 13:2, 12, 15; Leviticus 12:6-8

²⁷ Then on the day that Joseph and Mary took Jesus into God's ceremony house, the Holy Spirit told Simeon to go there too, so he was there when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus in.

²⁸ And Simeon took Jesus from them, and held him in his arms, and he thanked God, and said,

²⁹ "Now, God, I can die happy, just like you promised me,

³⁰⁻³¹ because now I can see the one that you promised to send.

People in every tribe will see him, and he will save them.

³² He will shine like a light for people that are not Jews,

showing them new things about you, God.

And he will get everyone to respect your people, the Israel nation."^{*}

³³ Joseph and Mary heard the things that Simeon said about Jesus, and they were surprised.

³⁴ Then Simeon asked God to be good to them, and he said to Mary, "This kid is going to ruin a lot of people in Israel, but he will help a lot of others. He will point people to God, but they will not understand, and they will argue against him.

³⁵ When they do that, they will show everyone what they really think. And Mary, later you will be really sad. It will hurt, like somebody is stabbing you with a big knife."

³⁶⁻³⁸ While Joseph and Mary were talking to Simeon, a very old woman came along. Her name was Anna. She saw Jesus, and she thanked

^{*} **2:32** Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 52:10

God for him. Some of the people there were waiting for God to send somebody to help the Jewish people. Anna told them about Jesus, that he is that special person.

Anna's father was Fanuel, and he belonged to the tribe called Asher. She was 84 years old. A long time before this, Anna was a young woman and she got married. But then after 7 years her husband died. After that, she stayed in God's ceremony house all the time, telling the people God's words. She prayed all the time, in the day time and at night, and often she didn't eat any food because she was praying.

³⁹ After that, Joseph and Mary finished doing everything that their law said they had to do. Then they went back home, to Nazareth, in Galilee country.*

⁴⁰ And the baby started to grow big and strong, and he got wise too. And God was good to him.

When Jesus was a boy, he visited God's ceremony house

⁴¹ The Jewish people have a ceremony every year called Passover. Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for that ceremony.*

⁴² When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to Jerusalem, like they always did, and they took Jesus with them.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ After that ceremony finished, they started to go north, back to their home in Nazareth. They were with a lot of other people going north, and

* **2:39** Matthew 2:23 * **2:41** Exodus 12:1-27; Deuteronomy 16:1-8

they thought Jesus was somewhere in that mob. They thought, "He will come to us when we stop to camp tonight." But Jesus didn't come to them when they stopped to camp. You see, he was still back in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph looked for him among their relatives and all that mob that was camping on that road,

⁴⁵ but they didn't find him. So they went back to Jerusalem and looked for him there.

⁴⁶ They looked for him for 3 days, then they found him in God's ceremony house. He was sitting with the teachers there. He was listening to what they were saying, and he was asking them questions.

⁴⁷ The people there listened to Jesus too, and they were very surprised at the things he said. He understood lots of things, and he knew the answers to all of their questions.

⁴⁸ His mother and father were shocked, and Mary said, "My son, why did you do this to us? Your father and me, we have been worried about you. We have been looking everywhere for you, for 3 days."

⁴⁹ Jesus said, "Why did you look everywhere for me? I had to be in my father's special house. You should know that."

⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what he meant by those words.

⁵¹ Then Jesus went with them back to Nazareth, and he always did what his mother and father told him to do. And his mother always remembered all those things that happened, and she always thought about them.

⁵² Jesus grew up to be a man, and as he got bigger, he became very wise too. God was really happy with him, and so was everyone that knew him.*

(We have not yet translated 3:1—4:13. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 1:1-34, 40-45; 2:1—3:6; 3:13-19; Matthew 3:1—5:12; 5:38-48; 7:1-5, 12, 17-20, 24-27; 8:5-13. They are about some things that happened before Jesus started going around telling people God's good news.)

4

Jesus talked to the people in his home town, called Nazareth

¹⁴ The Holy Spirit made Jesus very powerful, and he went back to Galilee country. The people that saw him kept on telling other people about him, and those people told more people, so that soon everyone there heard the news about him.

¹⁵ He went to the Jewish meeting houses every week, and he taught everyone about God. And they were all really happy with him.

¹⁶ Then Jesus went to his own town, called Nazareth. That was the town he grew up in. He went to the Jewish meeting house there on Saturday, like he always did, and he stood up to read to the people from God's book.

¹⁷ A helper there gave him the part that Isaiah wrote. Isaiah was a man that told everyone God's messages, a long time ago. Jesus opened

* **2:52** 1 Samuel 2:26; Proverbs 3:4

the book to the right place, and he read these words.

18 “God’s spirit came into me.

He picked me to tell good news to poor people.

He sent me to tell prisoners, ‘You will go free.’

And he sent me to tell blind people, ‘You will see.’

And he sent me to people that are in big trouble, to take their trouble away.

19 He sent me to tell everybody, ‘This is the time now for God to be good to you.’ ”*

20 Then Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the helper there, and sat down. Everybody kept looking straight at Jesus.

21 And then he started to teach them. He said, “You just heard me read that message that Isaiah wrote, a long time ago. Well, those things are happening right now, today, while you are listening to me.”

22 All those people started talking together. They said good things about Jesus, and they said, “Wow. He talked real good. But we know this man, he is Joseph’s son.”

23 So Jesus said, “I know what you are going to say next. You are going to use the picture talk that some people use. They say, ‘Doctor, make yourself better, to show us that you know how to make people better.’ And you mob will say to me, ‘Show us that you know how to do powerful things. Do them here, in your own home town, like you did in Capernium.’

24 Listen, whenever God picks a man to tell his messages, the people of his own home town don’t

* 4:19 Isaiah 61:1-2

want him. They reckon they know him, so they will not listen to him.*

²⁵⁻²⁶ Think about these 2 stories in God's book. Remember the story about God's man, Elijah, that lived a long time ago. Our people, the Israel nation, did bad things at that time, so God punished them. He stopped the rain. No rain fell for 3½ years, and no food plants grew in the gardens, so nobody had enough food, and they were very hungry. But God looked after Elijah, and sent him to another place called Zarefath, in Sidon country. God got a widow there to look after Elijah, and God gave that widow enough food for herself, and her son, and Elijah too. Listen, there were a lot of widows in Israel at that time, but God did not save a widow that belonged to Israel, he saved a widow that belonged to Sidon country, not one of us Israel people.*

²⁷ And remember the story about Elisha, another one of God's men that lived a long time ago. At that time, there was a man called Nayman, that belonged to Syria country. He had a bad skin sickness. But Elisha used God's power to make him better. Listen, there were a lot of people in Israel that had a bad skin sickness at that time, but God made a Syrian man better, not one of us Israel people.”*

²⁸ Those people in the meeting house heard Jesus say those things. They got really angry because they thought they were better than people from other places.

* **4:24** John 4:44 * **4:25-26** 1 Kings 17:1, 8-16 * **4:27** 2 Kings 5:1-14

²⁹ They got up and forced him out of the town. That town is on a big hill, and that mob chased Jesus up that hill. They were going to throw him off the top of the cliff there, to kill him.

³⁰ But Jesus turned around, and he just went through the middle of that mob and went away.

(We have not yet translated 4:31—6:42. You can read most of those stories and messages in Mark 1:14-45; 2:1—3:19; Matthew 4:18-22; 5:3-12; 5:38-48; 7:1-5, 12.)

6

The things people do show what sort of people they are

⁴³ Jesus was talking to his followers, and he told them a picture story. He said, “Think about different sorts of trees that give us fruit to eat. Good trees don’t give us rubbish fruit. And rubbish trees don’t give us good fruit.

⁴⁴ Whenever we look at the fruit of a tree, we know what sort of tree it comes from. Think about it. We don’t get bananas or grapes from a rubbish prickly plant.

⁴⁵ And it’s like that with people too. Good people think about good things, so they do good things. But bad people think about bad things, so they do bad things, and they say bad things. You see, the things people say, show what they think about.”

(We have not yet translated 6:46—7:10. You can read those stories and messages in Matthew 7:24-27; 8:5-13.)

7

Jesus made a dead man become alive again

¹¹ Jesus and his followers went to a town called Nain. A big mob of other people went with him.

¹² Just before that, a young man died in that town. He was the only son of his mother, and her husband was already dead, so she had nobody left to look after her. A big mob of people were with that mother, and they had the young man's body on a stretcher. They were taking it along the road out of the town, to bury it. And at that same time, Jesus was going into that town on that same road.

¹³ Jesus saw the mother, and he felt very sorry for her. He told her, "Don't cry."

¹⁴ Then he walked over to the stretcher and touched it, and the men that were carrying it stopped. Jesus said, "Young man, listen to me. Get up."

¹⁵ Then the dead man sat up and started to talk. And Jesus told him to go back to his mother.

¹⁶ Everyone that saw that was frightened. They said, "God is really great and powerful. God sent this man to us, to tell us his word and show us his power. God has come to help his people."

¹⁷ Then they went and told lots of other people what they saw. So people in the towns near there, and people everywhere in Judea country, they heard that story.

(We have not yet translated 7:18-35. You can read those stories and messages in Matthew 11:1-19.)

A woman poured special oil on Jesus

³⁶ There was a man that was called Simon, and he was one of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law. He asked Jesus to eat dinner with him. So Jesus went to his house and sat down at the table with him and some other people.

³⁷ There was a woman in that town that used to do bad things. She heard that Jesus was eating dinner with that man, so she got a pretty jar of oil that had perfume in it and took it to his house. It smelled really good, and it cost a lot of money.

³⁸ Then she went inside and was just behind Jesus, near his feet. She was crying, and her tears fell on his feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair, and she kissed them, then she poured all that special oil on to his feet.*

³⁹ Simon, the Pharisee man, he saw her do that, and he said to himself, "I knew it. This man is not one of God's men. He is letting a bad woman touch him. I reckon he doesn't know she did a lot of bad things, so I reckon he doesn't have God's power."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to him, "Simon, I want to tell you something."

Simon said, "All right, teacher, tell me."

⁴¹ Then Jesus told him a picture story. He said, "There was a rich man that used to lend money

* **7:38** Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3; John 12:3

to people. One man borrowed \$500 from him, and another man borrowed \$50.

⁴² But both of those men lost all their money. They couldn't pay that money back to the rich man. But the rich man was good to both of them and told them, 'Don't worry, I'll let it go. You don't have to pay me back that money.'

Well, Simon, what do you reckon? Which one of those men will love that rich man the most?"

⁴³ Simon said, "I reckon it is the man that owed him the most money and didn't have to pay it back."

Jesus said, "You are right."

⁴⁴ Then he turned towards the woman and said, "Simon, look at this woman. When I came into your house, you didn't give me water to wash my feet, but she washed my feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair.

⁴⁵ You didn't kiss me on the cheek to make me feel good, but this woman keeps on kissing my feet.

⁴⁶ You didn't put any olive oil on my head, like people do for their friends, but she put oil on my feet that has perfume in it, and it cost a lot of money.

⁴⁷ Listen, I know she did a lot of bad things, but I'm telling you, I will say that she is not guilty of all those bad things. I will let it all go, and God will not punish her. That is the reason why she loves me a lot. But if somebody only did a few bad things, and I let it go, they will only love me a little bit."

48 Then Jesus said to the woman, “You did bad things, but I am letting it go, and I will say that you are not guilty.”

49 The other people there said to each other, “Who does this man think he is? He reckons he can say that somebody is not guilty, and then God will not punish them for the bad things they did.”

50 But Jesus said to the woman, “You trusted me, so you will not get trouble for the bad things you did. Don’t worry, you can go away happy and quiet now.”

8

The women that helped Jesus

1 After that, Jesus went around to a lot of different towns. In each town he told the people God’s good news. He said, “God wants to have you in his family.” He took his 12 special workers with him.

2-3 There were some women too, that went around with them. They used their own money to buy the things that Jesus and his special workers needed. Before that time, some of those women were sick, but Jesus made them better. And some of them had bad spirits in them, but Jesus forced those bad spirits out of them. One of those women was Mary Magdalene. Jesus forced 7 bad spirits out of her. Another one was Joanna, the wife of Chuza. Chuza was the boss over all the people that worked in the house of the big boss, that was called Herod. Another one of those women was Susanna. And there were lots

of other women that went around with Jesus and his followers.*

(We have not yet translated 8:4—9:50. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 3:31-35; 4:1-25, 35-41; 5:1-43; 6:7-44; 8:27—9:8; 9:14-27, 30-40.)

9

A town in Samaria country didn't want Jesus

⁵¹ The time was soon coming for Jesus to go back to heaven, so he started to go to Jerusalem city. He wasn't going to let anything stop him.

⁵² So he walked along the road, and soon he was getting close to a town in Samaria country, so he sent some messengers ahead of him to ask the people there for a place to stay that night.

⁵³ But the people in that town said, "No. He is going to Jerusalem. We don't like that Jerusalem mob, so he is not our friend. He can't stay here tonight."

⁵⁴ James and John, 2 of Jesus's special workers, heard what they said, then those 2 men said to Jesus, "Can we ask God to send fire down from the sky and kill all those people? Do you want us to do that?"*

⁵⁵ Jesus turned around and said, "No. That is very wrong. Don't do it."

⁵⁶ Then they all went on to another town.

* **8:2-3** Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 23:49 * **9:54** 2 Kings 1:9-16

We have to follow Jesus, even if it is hard for us

⁵⁷ As they walked along the road, a man said to Jesus, "I want to be one of your followers. I will go everywhere with you."

⁵⁸ Jesus said to him, "All right, but your life will not be easy. You see, wild dogs have places where they go to sleep, and birds have nests to rest in. But I haven't got a home to lie down and sleep in, even though I'm God's special man from heaven. So if you follow me, you too might not have a home."

⁵⁹ And Jesus said to another man, "Come and follow me."

That man said, "All right, I will come with you. But my father has died, so let me go home to bury him. After that, I will come with you."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Some people don't want me. It is like they are dead to me. So those people can bury the dead bodies of their own people. But you have to go and tell people that God wants them in his family."

⁶¹ Another man said to Jesus, "Yes, sir, I will follow you, but first I want to go back home and say *goodbye* to all my family."*

⁶² Jesus said, "Don't think about going back. I'll use the picture of a man that is driving something. He has to look at what is ahead of him, not look back at what is behind him. Well, it is the same for you. You have to look at me, and think about me. If you think about the people and the things that you left behind, it is like

* **9:61** 1 Kings 19:20

you are looking back, and you are not the right person to join God's family."

(We have not yet translated 10:1-12. You can read that message and a story like that in Matthew 9:37-38; Mark 6:7-13.)

10

The people in some towns didn't want Jesus

¹³ Jesus talked to the people that lived in some towns. He said, "You mob that live in Korazin and Bethsayida, you will be really sorry. You know, I did a lot of powerful things there in your towns, but you didn't listen to me, and you keep on doing bad things. Think about those towns called Tyre and Sidon. A long time ago their people did bad things. At that time, I didn't go to them and do powerful things for them, like I did for you. They didn't get to listen to me, so they couldn't turn around and stop doing bad things. If they got to listen to me, they would be very sorry for the bad things they did, and they would turn to God real quick. But that didn't happen.*

¹⁴ You know, one day God will judge everybody, and he will punish those people for the bad things they did, but he will punish you mob a lot more than he will punish that mob. You mob heard my words, but you didn't take any notice, and you didn't turn to God.

* **10:13** Isaiah 23:1-18; Ezekiel 26:1—28:26; Joel 3:4-8; Amos 1:9-10; Zechariah 9:2-4

15 And it's the same for you mob that live in Capernium. You reckon you are good, so you reckon God will take you up into heaven. But you are wrong. He knows you are no good, and he will chuck you down into the bad place called hell.”*

(We have not yet translated 10:16-24. You can read some of those stories and messages in Matthew 11:25-27.)

God's most important laws

25 One day, a Jewish law man went to Jesus. He wanted to test Jesus, to see if he can answer a hard question. So he asked Jesus, “Teacher, what can I do so that I will live with God for ever?”*

26 Jesus said, “You know God's laws, and you read them all the time. What do you reckon they say?”

27 The man said, “One law says this, ‘You have to love God properly, not just a little bit.

You have to love God from right inside yourself. You have to love God in the way you feel, and in the way you think.

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

And another law says this,

‘You have to love the people around you just as much as you love yourself.’ ”*

* **10:15** Isaiah 14:13-15 * **10:25** Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34 * **10:27** Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 6:5

28 Jesus said, “You are right. Do what those laws say, and you will live with God for ever.”*

29 But the man wanted to show that he asked an important question, so he said, “What does it mean by *the people around me*? Who are they?”

The story about the good man that was from Samaria country

30 Jesus answered that question by telling this picture story. He said, “A Jewish man was going down the road from Jerusalem city to the town called Jericho. About half-way along that road some bad men grabbed him. They beat him up, and they took everything he had, even his clothes, and then they ran away. They left him lying there, half dead.

31 After that, a leader of the Jewish ceremonies was walking down that road. He saw that man lying there, but he didn’t do anything to help him. He went over to the other side of the road to go past him, and he kept going down the road.

32 After that, a man that helped in the Jewish ceremonies went along that road. He looked at the man lying there, then he went to the other side of the road and went past him, and he kept going down the road.

33 Then a man from Samaria country went along that road. He was riding on a donkey. You know, Samaria people and Jewish people don’t like each other, but when that Samaria man saw that Jewish man lying there, he felt sorry for him.

* **10:28** Leviticus 18:5

³⁴ He went to that man and helped him. He treated the places where he was bleeding. He put wine and oil on them, and bandaged them, to help them get better. Then he lifted him up and put him on his donkey and took him to a hotel, and they both stayed there that night.*

³⁵ The next day, he paid a lot of money to the hotel boss, and said, 'This is for you to keep this man here and look after him until he gets better. If it costs more than this, I'll pay you the rest next time I come here.' "

³⁶ Then Jesus said to the law man, "There were 3 people that saw that man on the road. Which one of them treated that man like he was one of the people around them?"

³⁷ The law man said, "I reckon it was the person that felt sorry for that man and helped him."

Jesus said, "You are right. So you always have to do that same sort of thing for other people."

Jesus visited Martha and Mary

³⁸ Jesus and his followers kept going along the road to Jerusalem, and they went into a town. A woman called Martha lived in that town, and she asked him to come to her house, so they went with her.

³⁹ Then her sister, Mary, sat down near Jesus. He was teaching the people about God, and Mary just sat there listening to everything he said.*

⁴⁰ Martha was busy getting a big dinner ready, and she got upset because Mary wasn't helping

* **10:34** 2 Chronicles 28:15 * **10:39** John 11:1

her. So she said to Jesus, “Sir, my sister isn’t helping me with the work. She has left me to do it by myself. Do you think that is all right? Tell her to get up and help me.”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “Martha, Martha, you worry about a lot of things.

⁴² But only one thing is really important, and Mary is doing that. She is listening to me, and nobody can stop her.”

(We have not yet translated 11:1-4. You can read that story and that message in Matthew 6:9-13.)

11

Keep asking God, don't give up

⁵⁻⁶ Jesus told his followers a picture story, to teach them how to pray. He said, “Think about this. A man is going on a long trip, and at night he comes to the house where his cousin lives, so he visits him to stay the night with him. But his cousin hasn’t got any food to give him. So his cousin goes out in the middle of the night to his friend’s house, and he knocks on the door and he calls out, ‘My friend, can you give me some food? You see, my cousin has just come, and I haven’t got any food to give him. Can you give me some bread?’

⁷ But his friend says, ‘Don’t humbug me now. I’m in bed, and my kids are in bed with me. I already locked the door. I can’t get up and give you anything.’

⁸ But if that man keeps on knocking and asking for bread, after a while his friend will get up and give him everything he asks for. He will not do it because they are friends. He will do it because that man keeps on asking him.

⁹ So I'm telling you this. Keep asking God for what you need, and he will give it to you. Keep looking for what you need, and God will help you find it. Or if something is stopping you, like there is a door that is shut and you can't get in, keep on knocking at that door, and God will open it for you.

¹⁰ You see, everyone that asks God for something will get it. Everyone that looks for something will find it. God will open the door for everyone that knocks on it.

¹¹ Some of you are fathers. If your kid asks you for a fish to eat, will you give him a cheeky snake instead? No, of course not.

¹² Or if your kid asks you for an egg, will you give him a cheeky scorpion instead? No, of course not.

¹³ You see, you might be bad, but you always give good things to your kids. Well, your father in heaven is a lot better than you, so you can be sure that he will always give you good things. He will send the Holy Spirit to everyone that asks him."

(We have not yet translated 11:14-36. You can read about that teaching in Mark 3:20-27; 8:12; Matthew 5:15; 6:22-23; 12:41-45.)

Jesus told the Pharisee mob and law men that they were wrong

³⁷ Jesus was talking to the people, and a man that belonged to the Pharisee mob asked him to come to his place for dinner. The Pharisee mob were very strong for the Jewish law.

³⁸ They made a rule, that whenever anyone wanted to eat some food, they first had to wash their hands. But Jesus didn't follow that rule. He didn't wash his hands. The Pharisee man was shocked.

³⁹ So Jesus said to him, "You Pharisee mob are like somebody that cleans the outside of cups and plates, but doesn't clean the inside. You see, you only do good things if people can see you, like you are good on the outside. But you are really dirty on the inside. Yes, inside yourselves you are greedy, and you are always thinking in your heads about doing very bad things.

⁴⁰ Look, you are really stupid. You forget that God made the inside of you as well as the outside. He can see everything that is inside your heads.

⁴¹ The right way is like this. You have to think in your heads about poor people, and you have to feel sorry for them, and you have to give them the things they need. Then God will say that you are clean, on the inside as well as on the outside.

⁴² You mob follow God's law that says you have to give him a little bit of everything you get. That little bit is one part out of every 10 parts. You do that for everything you get, even the little plants that grow in your garden. But you don't do the important things that God wants everyone to do.

So God will make trouble for you Pharisee mob. You see, you have to be fair to other people, and you have to love God. Those are the important things that you have to do, and you have to do the other things too.*

⁴³ Yes, God will make trouble for you Pharisee mob. You try to get people to think you are important. Whenever you go to a meeting house, you want the good seats that are for important people. And whenever you walk around the shopping places, you want people to respect you and say *hello* to you in a good way.

⁴⁴ But God will make trouble for you mob. You are like ground that has dead bodies in it that people don't know about. People walk on that ground, and they think it is good. You are like that ground. You get people to think you are good, and they don't know that you are bad on the inside."

⁴⁵ Then a Jewish law man said to Jesus, "Hey, teacher, you are saying bad things about us too."

⁴⁶ Jesus said, "That's right, you mob are just as bad, and God will make trouble for you law men too. You make a lot of hard rules, and you make people follow all those rules. You are too hard on people. It is like you are making them carry lots of heavy things, and you don't help them at all. You don't even move one of your fingers to help them.

⁴⁷ Yes, God will make trouble for you law teacher mob. A long time ago, your grandfathers killed the men that told everyone God's

* **11:42** Leviticus 27:30

messages, and they buried them. And now, you mob put pretty little stone buildings there to remember the place where they buried them.

⁴⁸ When you do that, you show that you agree with the bad things your grand-fathers did. They killed those good men, and now you make those buildings for them.

⁴⁹ Listen, God is wise, and he said,

‘I will pick men to tell everyone my messages, and I will pick men to be my special workers, and I will send them to the people. But you will kill some of them, and you will hurt some of them.’

⁵⁰ Yes, you people that are alive today will hurt and kill God’s people. And it has been like that for a long time. Your grand-fathers have been killing God’s men ever since the world first started. And you agree with those bad things that they did too, so God will punish you too, for all those bad things that they did.

⁵¹ Abel was the first one of God’s men to die. And Zekariah was the last one to die. They killed him at God’s ceremony house, near the place where they kill animals and burn them, to give them to God. Yes, they killed those men, but God will punish you people that are alive today too.*

⁵² Listen, God will make trouble for you law men, because you don’t do the right thing. You know how to help people understand more about God, but you never do it. You yourselves don’t

* **11:51** Genesis 4:8; 2 Chronicles 24:20-21

want to know God, and you stop everybody else, so they can't know him either."

⁵³⁻⁵⁴ Then Jesus got up to go to another place, but the Jewish law teacher mob and the Pharisee mob started to get really angry with him, and they argued against him a lot. They tried to make him say something bad, so they could blame him. So they asked him a lot of hard questions. But he didn't say anything bad.

(We have not yet translated 12:1-12. You can read those messages in Matthew 10:26-33; Mark 3:28-29; 13:11.)

12

The story about a man that was rich, but he was stupid

¹³ A man in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, my brother is cheating me. Our father died, and he left his things for my brother and me. But my brother took all those things, and he is keeping them for himself. Please tell my brother to be fair to me and give me my part of our father's things."

¹⁴ Jesus said, "It's not my job to say which one of you is right and which one is wrong, or what part of your father's things each of you can have."

¹⁵ Then he said to the people, "Think carefully about this. Don't be greedy. Don't try to get more things than you need. You can't get real life from the things you own, even if you are rich."

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a picture story. He said, “A rich man had a big garden. He planted lots of seeds there, and they grew into very big plants, and then those plants grew lots of seed food on them.

¹⁷ The man looked at it all and said to himself, ‘My sheds are not big enough for all this seed food. Where will I put it all?’ ¹⁸ He thought about it, and then he said, ‘I know what to do. I will pull down my little sheds and build big sheds, and I will keep it all in those big sheds. And I will keep all my other things in those big sheds too.

¹⁹ Then I will say, “Ah. I’ve got lots of stuff now. I’ve got enough in those sheds to last me for a long time. I don’t have to do any work. I can just sit down and eat, and drink, and be happy.” ’

²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You are stupid. You are going to die tonight. Then what will happen to all this stuff in your sheds? Who will get it? Not you.’

²¹ That is a picture story to tell you people this. If you keep money and things just for yourself, and if you don’t use them the way God wants you to, you are stupid.”

(We have not yet translated 12:22-53. You can read those stories and messages in Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34; 10:34-36; 24:45-51.)

We can work out what God is doing

⁵⁴ Then Jesus said to all the people, “Sometimes you look at the sky, and you see big clouds

coming together, and you say, 'Here comes some rain.' And you are right.

⁵⁵ And sometimes the north wind blows, and you say, 'Today will be really hot.' And again, you are right.

⁵⁶ But really, you are fools. Yes, you know how to look at the earth and the sky, and work out what the weather is doing. But you don't know how to look at the things that are happening right now, and work out what God is doing."

(We have not yet translated 12:57-59. You can read that message in Matthew 5:25-26.)

13

If you don't turn to God, you will die

¹ About that time, some men from Galilee country were killing some animals to give them to God, but then Pilate, the big boss, went with his soldiers and killed those men. Then some people went and told Jesus what happened.

² Jesus said, "Do you reckon those men that died did more bad things than all the other men from Galilee? Is that why God let Pilate kill them?"

³ No. That is not right. Listen, all of you mob do bad things. You have to stop doing bad things and turn to God. If you don't turn to God, you will die, just like those men died.

⁴ And you know about the high building in Jerusalem city, at the place called Siloam. It fell down on top of 18 people and killed them. Do you think those people did more bad things than

the other people in Jerusalem, and that is the reason why God let them die like that?

⁵ No. That is not right. Listen, all of you mob do bad things. You have to stop doing bad things and turn to God. If you don't turn to God, you will die, just like those people died."

The story about a fruit tree that didn't have any fruit on it

⁶ Then Jesus told them this picture story to show them that they have to turn to God soon. He said, "A man had a garden with grape vines growing in it. There was a fruit tree there too, called a fig tree. That man used to go to that garden, to see if there was any fruit on that tree, but he never found any fruit.

⁷ So he talked to his work-man that looked after the garden. He said, 'Look, this tree is no good. I came here looking for fruit on this tree. I did that for the last 3 years, but I never found any fruit. So chop it down and get rid of it. We can't let it go on like this. It is using up the ground and giving back nothing to us.'

⁸ But his work-man said, 'Wait, boss. Leave it for one more year, and I will look after it properly. I'll dig around it and put some fertilizer stuff on it to help it grow.

⁹ And maybe next year it will get fruit on it. If it doesn't get any fruit next year, then we can chop it down.' "

Jesus made a sick woman better on the Jewish rest day

¹⁰ One Saturday, Jesus was teaching people in a Jewish meeting house. Their Jewish law said that nobody can work on a Saturday. It was their rest day.

¹¹ There was a woman there with a bad spirit inside her. A long time before that, the bad spirit went into that woman and made her back crooked. That bad spirit lived in her for 18 years, and all that time her back was bent over. She couldn't stand up straight.

¹² Jesus saw her in that meeting house, and he called out to her to come to him. And he said to her, "Friend, you are better now. You are free from that sickness."

¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and she stood up straight, right then. And she told everybody that God is really good.

¹⁴ But the boss of that meeting house got angry, because Jesus made a sick woman better on their rest day. So he told the people, "Listen, you mob. There are 6 days for work each week, so come on any one of those days and get him to make you better. But Saturday is our rest day. Don't come on a Saturday."*

¹⁵ Jesus said to him, "You and your mob are wrong. You say one thing, but you do something different. You work for yourselves on our rest day, right? You know, you keep cows and donkeys tied up in your yards, and every day you untie them and take them out to a water-hole, to let them drink. You do that on our rest day too.

* **13:14** Exodus 20:9-10; Deuteronomy 5:13-14

16 Now look at this woman here. She belongs to Abraham's family. But 18 years ago, Satan, the boss over the bad spirits, he made her back crooked. It's like he has kept her tied up with this problem for 18 years. So why can't I untie her, even on our rest day?"

17 When Jesus said those words, the bosses of that meeting house felt shame, but all the people were happy, because Jesus was doing a lot of really good things there.

(We have not yet translated 13:18-30. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 4:30-32; Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23.)

Jesus felt sorry for the Jerusalem people

31 At that time, some of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they went to Jesus and said, "Herod, that big boss, he wants to kill you, so you have to run away. Get right away from here."

32 Jesus said, "Herod is a bad man, and he is tricky, like a wild dog. Tell him that I'm forcing bad spirits out of people, and I'm making sick people better, and I'll keep on doing these things for a bit longer. Then I'll finish my work.

33 But I have to keep going now, and I'll keep going for a bit longer, until I get to Jerusalem city. I will not die before I get there. You see, the Jerusalem mob are the worst. They kill the people that tell God's messages."

34 Then Jesus gave a message for the people that lived in Jerusalem city. He said, "You

Jerusalem mob. You never listen to the men that tell you God's messages, but instead you kill them. Yes, you throw big stones at them to kill them. Listen, I wanted to look after you mob, just like a chook looks after her young chicks and covers them with her wings, so that nothing can hurt them. I often wanted to look after you like that, but you never let me.

³⁵ So now God is leaving you. He will not look after you, or your city, or his ceremony house there. You mob will not see me again until the day comes when you will say, 'God, we want you to look after this man you sent. Make him strong and happy.' ”*

14

Jesus made a man better on the Jewish rest day

¹⁻² One day, a man asked Jesus to come to his house to have dinner with him, and with some of his friends. He was a leader of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law. That day was a Saturday, and the Jewish law says that Saturday is their rest day. Nobody can work on the rest day.

There was a sick man there at that Pharisee man's house. His arms and legs were swollen. That Pharisee mob and the Jewish law men there, they watched Jesus to see if he was going to make that sick man better.

³ Jesus asked them, "Is it all right to make people better on our rest day, or not?"

* **13:35** Psalm 118:26; Jeremiah 22:5

⁴ They didn't want to answer him, so they said nothing. Then Jesus touched the sick man and made him better, and then Jesus said that he can go home.

⁵ And Jesus talked to the Pharisee mob and the law men. He said, "Sometimes you work on our rest day, right? If you ever have to do something straight away, like if your little kid falls into a deep hole on our rest day, you get up quick and pull your kid out. Or if your cow falls into a hole, you pull it out, even on our rest day. You do that, right? So it's all right to do a good thing on our rest day. Is that right?"*

⁶ That mob didn't answer Jesus. They couldn't say that he was wrong.

Don't try to make yourself important

⁷ There were a lot of people at that dinner, and they all wanted to sit in the seats up near the boss. That's the place where the important people sit. Jesus watched them, and he told them,

⁸ "You are not doing the right thing. You see, if somebody asks you to come to a big dinner, don't go quickly to the best seat and sit down there. Maybe later on, somebody more important than you will come,

⁹ and the boss will tell you, 'Get up and give this person that good seat.' Then you will feel shame, and you will have to find yourself an empty seat, and it will be down at the other end of the table, at the place for people that are not important.

* [14:5 Matthew 12:11](#)

10 Instead of that, when you come to the dinner, go and sit at the place for people that are not important. Then later, the boss will see you there, and he will say, 'My friend, you can have a better seat than that.' And he will take you to a good seat, and everybody there will see him do that, and they will respect you.*

11 You see, if you try to make yourself important, God will make you like nothing. But if you make yourself like nothing, God will make you important.”*

12 Then Jesus talked to the boss of that house. He said, “Whenever you put on a dinner for other people to come and eat with you, don't ask your family, or your friends, or the rich people that live near you, to come and eat that food. If you ask those people to come, later they will ask you to come and eat some food with them. That will be the only pay you get for giving them food.

13 Instead of that, ask poor people to come and eat with you. Maybe they are crippled, or blind, or they can't walk, so they can't get jobs to get some money, so they are too poor to put on a dinner for you.

14 There's no way they can pay you for that food. But God will make you really happy on the day when he will make everyone alive again. At that time, he will pay you properly for that good thing you did for those poor people.”

Jesus told a picture story about a big dinner

* 14:10 Proverbs 25:6-7 * 14:11 Matthew 23:12; Luke 18:14

15 One of the men sitting there heard the words that Jesus said, and that man said, "It will be really good to be at the dinner that God will put on for all his family."

16 Jesus told him this picture story. He said, "An important man put on a big dinner. He asked a lot of people to come to eat that dinner with him.

17 When all the food was ready, he sent his work-man out to tell them to come. That work-man told each one of them, 'You can come now, the dinner is ready for you.'

18 But each one told him they couldn't come to that dinner. One of them said, 'I have bought a garden, so I have to go and look at it. Please tell your boss I'm sorry, but I can't come to his dinner.'

19 The next man said, 'I have just bought 10 cows, and I have to see if they work well together. Please tell your boss I'm sorry, but I can't come to his dinner.'

20 Another man said, 'I just got married, so I can't come to that dinner.'

21 The work-man went back to his boss and told him their stories. Then his boss was very angry. He said to his work-man, 'Go quickly now to every street in this town, and get the poor people, and bring them here to eat this dinner. Bring the people that are crippled, and the people that are blind, and the people that can't walk.'

22 So the work-man went out and got those people. Then he told his boss, 'Those people are here now, but there are still some empty seats at the table.'

²³ So the boss said, 'Go out to the roads in the bush. Look for people that are out there. Tell them all to come here, so that my house will be full. They can eat this good food.

²⁴ But those other people that I asked before, and they said they couldn't come, I'm telling you this, none of them will eat any of this good food.' "

(We have not yet translated 14:25-27. You can read those messages in Matthew 10:37; Mark 8:34.)

Before you follow Jesus, you have to think about it

²⁸ Jesus said to the people, "If you want to follow me, first you have to think about it. Your life will be hard, so ask yourself, 'Can I really do it?' You know, it's the same as when you want to build a big high building. At first you have to think about how much it will cost, and you have to find out if you have enough money to do that job, and to finish it.

²⁹ If you don't do that, you might start that job, then you might run out of money, and never finish that building. Then other people will laugh at you

³⁰ and say, 'You stupid fool. You started to build that thing, but you couldn't finish it. Now it is no good for anything, so you wasted your money.' "

³¹ Then Jesus told them another picture story. He said, "If a country's big boss has to get his army to fight the army of another country, at first he thinks about it, to see if he will win. If the

other army has a lot more soldiers, he might say, 'No. My army is too little. We can't win.'

³² Then he will send a message real quick to that other army's big boss. He will say to him, 'Let's not fight each other. Let's talk about the problem and sort it out, without fighting.' "

³³ Then Jesus said, "It is the same for you. If you want to be one of my followers, you have to think about it. You see, your life will be hard. You will have to leave everything you own, and then you can follow me."

(We have not yet translated 14:34-35. You can read those messages in Mark 9:50; Matthew 5:13.)

15

The story about the sheep that got lost

¹ There were some people that everyone reckoned did really bad things. Some of them used to get tax money from the people and give it to the Roman government. Everyone reckoned those tax men were bad men. Lots of those bad people often went up to Jesus and listened to him.

² That upset the Jewish law teachers and the Pharisee mob, the men that were strong for the Jewish law, so they complained about Jesus. They said, "He is a friend of bad people. He even eats food with them."*

³ So Jesus told the people this picture story. He said,

* **15:2** Luke 5:29-30

⁴ “Suppose there is a man that has 100 sheep, but one of them wanders away and gets lost. What do you think that man will do? He will leave all the other sheep and go out into the bush and look for the one that got lost. He will keep on looking for it until he finds it.

⁵ Then, after he finds it, he will pick it up and carry it back home on his shoulders. He will be really happy. ⁶ After he gets home, he will call out to his family, and to his friends. He will say, ‘Look, I’ve found my lost sheep. We can all be happy together now.’

⁷ Well, just like that, whenever somebody turns back to God, everyone in heaven is really happy too. Whenever one bad person stops doing bad things, and lives God’s way, everyone in heaven is really happy. They are even more happy about that person, than they are about the big mob of other people that never went wrong.”

The story about the coin that got lost

⁸ Jesus told them another picture story. He said, “Suppose a woman has 10 coins, but then she loses one of them in her house. What do you think she will do? She will get a torch and look carefully everywhere in that house. She will even sweep all the floors, and she will keep on looking for her money until she finds it.

⁹ Then, after she finds it, she will be happy, and she will call out to her family, and to her friends. She will say, ‘Look, I’ve found my lost coin. We can all be happy together now.’ ¹⁰ Well, just like that, whenever somebody turns back

to God, God's angel messengers in heaven are really happy too. Whenever one bad person stops doing bad things, and lives God's way, God's angel messengers in heaven are really happy."

The story about the young man that got lost

¹¹ Then Jesus told the people another picture story. He said, "There was a man that had 2 sons.

¹² One day, his youngest son said to him, 'Dad, I want you to give me my part of all the things you own. I can't wait until after you die to get it. No, I want it all now.' So his father split up everything he had and gave one part to his youngest son, and he kept the other part for his oldest son.

¹³ A few days later, that youngest son sold all those things that his father gave him, then he took the money and went away to another country, far away. In that country he soon spent all that money. He just wasted it on all sorts of things that made him feel good. ¹⁴ After a while, he had no money left. At that same time, that country had no rain, so all the food plants died. And soon that young man had nothing to eat.

¹⁵ So he got a job with a man in that place. He had to look after that man's pigs.

¹⁶ That young man was so hungry he wanted to eat the rubbish food that the pigs ate, but nobody gave him anything to eat.

¹⁷ At last he started to think properly. He thought, 'Those men that work for my dad in his garden back home, they always get enough food

to eat. But I am getting so hungry that I reckon I will die in this place.

¹⁸ So I will get up now and go back home to my dad, and I will say to him, "Dad, I'm sorry, I went wrong. I did the wrong thing to God, and I did the wrong thing to you.

¹⁹ So now I'm not good enough for you to call me your son, so just let me have a job in your garden. I will work for you, and you can just call me your work-man." '

²⁰ So he got up and started to go back to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming along the road. His father felt really sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged him and kissed him.

²¹ Then his son said, 'Dad, I'm sorry, I went wrong. I did the wrong thing to God, and I did the wrong thing to you. So now I'm not good enough for you to call me your son.'

²² But his father said to his workers there, 'Go and get some really good clothes and put them on him. And be quick. And get him a ring for his finger, and get some shoes for his feet.

²³ And get a fat young cow, and kill it, and cook the meat, so we can all have a big party.

²⁴ You see, my son got himself lost, but now I have found him. I thought he was gone for ever, like he was dead, but now he came back to me, and it is like he came alive again.'

So those workers did what he told them to do, and they had a big party.

²⁵ While all that was happening, the oldest son was working out in the garden, and he didn't

know what was going on. Then later, he knocked off work, and he started walking home. He got near to the house, and then he heard a lot of music, and he heard people dancing and having a good time.

²⁶ So he asked one of the work-men, 'What's going on?'

²⁷ The work-man said, 'Your brother just came back home, and your dad is having a party for him. We just killed a young cow and cooked its meat. Your brother is alive and well, so your dad is really happy.'

²⁸ Then the oldest son got angry, and he said, 'I'm not happy. I'm not going into the house to join in that party. No way.'

So his father came out and said, 'Don't be angry. Come on in, and have a good time with us.' And the father kept on asking him to come in.

²⁹ But the oldest son said, 'No. It's not fair. Look, I worked for you for years and years, and I always did everything you told me to do. But you never gave me a party. You didn't even give me a young goat for me to kill and cook its meat, and have a good time with my friends.

³⁰ But this other son of yours, he took your money away, and he wasted it. He even paid women to sleep with him, like a woman does with her husband. And then he came back here, and now you are good to him. You even killed a young cow and gave him a party. That's not right.'

³¹ His father said, 'Listen, you are my son. You have always stayed with me, and now you own everything that I have. After I die, you will get all of it.

³² But your brother got himself lost, and now I have found him. I thought he was gone for ever, like he was dead, but he came back to me, and now it is like he came alive again. So we have to have a party and be happy together.' "

16

The story about the manager that cheated

¹ Then Jesus told his followers another picture story. He said, "There was a rich man that had a big business, and he had another man working in his office. That other man was his manager. He looked after the rich man's money.

Somebody told the rich man, 'Look, your manager is wasting your money.'

² So that boss said to his manager, 'They tell me you are not doing your job properly. So I'm going to sack you, and you will not have a job any more. Now write down everything you have done with my money, and after that, you have to go.'

³ The manager thought to himself, 'Soon I will not have a job. What will I do to get money for my food? I'm not strong enough to do hard work, like digging the ground. And if I ask people for money all the time, I will feel shame.

⁴ What can I do? I know what to do. I will do something to get people to like me, so that after

I lose my job, they will look after me, and they will let me live in their homes.’

⁵ There were some people that borrowed things from that rich man, and they didn’t give anything back to him yet. So the manager called those people into the office. He asked one man, ‘What did you borrow from my boss?’

⁶ That man said, ‘I borrowed 100 drums of oil.’

The manager said, ‘We can change that. Here is the paper that has the numbers on it. I’ll let you change it right now. Make it 50 drums of oil.’

⁷ Then the manager asked the next man, ‘What did you borrow from my boss?’

That man said, ‘I borrowed 100 bags of flour.’

The manager said, ‘We can change that. Here is the paper that has the numbers on it. I’ll let you change it right now. Make it 80 bags of flour.’

⁸ That manager was cheating his boss, but his boss thought, ‘This man is a liar and a cheat, but he is smart too. He has done something that will help him get his food later.’ ”

Then Jesus said, “You know, the people that don’t care about God, but only care about the things in this world, they are smart with the things of this world. God’s people are not so smart with the things of this world.

⁹ This is what you can learn from that story. Use your money now to help people that need money, and then later, after you die, and you haven’t got any money, God will say, ‘Good on you. Come and live with me for ever.’ ”

Jesus talked about money

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, “If people can trust you with little things, they can trust you with big things too. If you cheat with little things, you will cheat with big things too.

¹¹ So if you cheat when you handle money and other things of this world, God will not trust you to look after his very special things.

¹² And if you don’t look after other people’s things properly, God will not give you things for yourself.

¹³ You see, you can’t work for 2 bosses at the same time. If you try to do that, you will like one boss and work properly for him, and you will not like the other boss, and you will not work properly for him. You see, you can’t have God as your boss, and money as your boss, both at the same time.”*

God knows more than people know, and his word is strong

¹⁴ Some of the Pharisee mob were there. They were strong for the Jewish law. And they loved money a lot too, so when they heard Jesus teach those things, they laughed at him.

¹⁵ Then Jesus told them, “You mob want everyone to think you are good, but God knows what you are really like, and he knows what you think inside your heads. You see, there are things that people reckon are important, but God thinks those things are rubbish.

¹⁶ You know, God gave Moses the law for people to follow, and he sent his other men to tell

* **16:13** Matthew 6:24

people God's messages. And God's people had to follow those words, from the time of Moses until the time that John the Baptist came. Then John told people about the new way. And I'm telling people about that new way too. I'm telling them how to join God's family too, and now lots of people are trying hard to get into God's family.

¹⁷ But the laws from Moses will not go away. You know, the sky and the earth will stay here for a long time, and while they stay here, God's words will stay here too. God will not change any little bit of them.”*

Don't split up your marriage

¹⁸ Then Jesus said, “Some of those words from God are about people that want to break up their marriage. It is wrong. If a man divorces his wife and marries another woman, he is sleeping with the wrong woman. She is not his proper wife. And if another man marries the divorced woman, that man is sleeping with the wrong woman too.”*

The story about a rich man and a poor man

¹⁹ Jesus told them another picture story. He said, “There was a rich man that always wore really good clothes, and he always had plenty of good food to eat.

²⁰ And there was a very poor man. His name was Lazarus. He had a lot of sores on his body, and he was hungry, but he had nothing to eat. So

* **16:17** Matthew 5:18 * **16:18** 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

he used to lie down at the gate of the rich man's house.

²¹ He wanted to get some of the rubbish food that the rich man chucked away. But that rich man didn't give him anything. And that poor man couldn't stop the dogs there from licking his sores.

²² Then one day, the poor man died, and God sent his angel messengers to get him and take him to be with Abraham, our grand-father that died a long time ago.

Then later the rich man died, and his family buried his body.

²³ He went to a place where dead people go. A big fire there was hurting him a lot. Then he looked up, and he saw Abraham, a long way off, and he saw Lazarus there with Abraham.

²⁴ So he yelled out loud. He said, 'Grand-father Abraham, this fire is hurting me a lot. Feel sorry for me, and send Lazarus to bring some water to me, and put his finger in it and then put it on my tongue, to cool it a little bit.'

²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that when you were alive on the earth, you had everything that you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here, and we are making him feel good, but you are there in that fire.'

²⁶ And anyway, he can't go to you. There is a really big gully in between this place and that place where you are. Nobody can cross over from here to that place, and nobody can come from that place to here.'

²⁷ Then the rich man said, ‘Then how about this, Grand-father Abraham. Send Lazarus back to the earth, to my family.

²⁸ I’ve got 5 brothers there. Get Lazarus to tell them about this bad place, so they will stop doing bad things. If they turn around and live God’s way, they will not end up in this bad place.’

²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘God told his message to Moses, and to his other men too. They wrote God’s word in his book. Your brothers can read that book at any time, and if they do what God says, they will not end up in that bad place.’

³⁰ The rich man said, ‘But Grand-father Abraham, my brothers don’t take any notice of God’s book. But if a dead man will come alive again and talk to them, they will take notice of him. Then they will stop doing bad things, and turn around, and do good things.’

³¹ But Abraham said, ‘Look, if they take no notice of Moses, and if they take no notice of the things that God’s men wrote in his book, they will not take any notice of anyone, not even a dead person that comes alive again.’ ”

17

Jesus talked about people that go wrong

¹ Jesus said to his followers, “You know, there will always be somebody that will try to make you go wrong and do bad things, but God will punish the person that does that.

² If anyone gets a little kid to do something bad, God will properly punish that person. Suppose somebody gets a big stone and ties it to that

person's neck and throws them into the sea and drowns them, that will be bad for them, but not as bad as the trouble God will give them for getting that little kid to go wrong.

³ So be careful."

Jesus talked to his followers. He said, "If one of my followers does something bad to you, tell them that it is wrong. If they change their way and say they are sorry, then let it go. Don't think about any payback.*

⁴ Maybe they do that a lot, like 7 times in one day, and then each time they turn around and say, 'I'm sorry.' If they do that, you have to let it go every time."

Jesus talked about how to trust him and work for God

⁵ Jesus's 12 special workers said to him, "Show us how to trust you properly."

⁶ Jesus said, "You know that plant called mustard? It has very little seeds, but they grow into a big plant. Well, like that, if you trust me properly, even if it is just a little bit, you will get stronger and trust me more. Then you will do powerful things, like if you say to a tree, 'Get up and throw yourself into the sea,' then that tree will do what you tell it to do."

⁷ And Jesus said to his followers, "You know about bosses and their workers. Maybe a work-man digs the ground to plant seeds one day, or maybe he looks after sheep. When the sun starts to go down, the work-man comes back to

* 17:3 Matthew 18:15

the house of his boss. That boss doesn't say, 'Sit down with me, and we will have dinner together.'

⁸ No. The boss says, 'Get my dinner ready for me. Then put on clean clothes and bring me my dinner. Then, after I finish eating, you can get yourself some food to eat.'

⁹ That boss never says *thank you* to his work-man. You see, his work-man just did what the boss told him to do. He didn't do anything more.

¹⁰ Well, it is the same with you. You are God's workers. When you do what God tells you to do, just say to yourselves, 'We are not special people. We are just workers, and we only did what our boss told us to do.' "

Jesus made 10 men better

¹¹ After that, Jesus kept going along the road to the city called Jerusalem, and he went from Galilee country into Samaria country.

¹² He got to a town, and he started to go into it, but 10 men met him there. They all had a bad skin sickness, so they didn't come close to Jesus, but they stood a little bit away from him and shouted to him.

¹³ They said, "Jesus, sir, please feel sorry for us, and help us."

¹⁴ Jesus looked at them and said, "All right. Go to the leaders of our Jewish ceremonies and let them look at your skin." So they started to go to those ceremony leaders, and while they were

walking along, they all got better. Their skin was good again.*

¹⁵ One of them looked at his skin and saw that it was good again, so he turned around and came back to Jesus. He kept talking really loud, saying, "God is really good and really great."

¹⁶ And he got down on his knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect. And he said to Jesus, "Thank you, sir." That man was not Jewish, like the 9 other men, and like Jesus and his followers, but he was from the Samaria nation.

¹⁷ Jesus asked the man, "I made 10 men better, right? Where are the other 9 men?"

¹⁸ None of the Jewish men came back to say *thank you* to God. Only you came back, and you are not Jewish, you belong to another nation."

¹⁹ Then Jesus said to the man, "You can stand up now and go home. You believed in me, so now you are better."

God is getting people into his family

²⁰ At one time, some of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they asked Jesus, "When will God come and bring his people together, and be their boss here on earth?"

Jesus said, "You will not see anything different when God starts to bring his people together and be their boss. People can't see it happen.

²¹ Nobody will say, 'Look everyone, God is the boss here,' or, 'Look over there, and you will see that God is the boss there.' No, it is not like that. You see, God is already getting people into his

* **17:14** Leviticus 14:1-32

family, and he is their boss right now. His family is right here among you mob.”

Jesus talked about the time when he will come back

²² Then Jesus said to his followers, “You know, I am God’s special man from heaven, and the time will come when you will really want to see me come back, but you will not see me at that time.

²³ People will say to you, ‘Look, there he is, over there,’ or they might say, ‘Here he is, over here.’ But don’t take any notice of them. Don’t try to find me.

²⁴ You see, I am God’s special man from heaven, and when I come back, I will be like lightning. You know how it flashes really bright, and everyone can see it. Well, I will be like that. Everyone will see me.

²⁵ But first, before that happens, the people that are alive today will reckon they don’t want me to be their boss, and they will hurt me a lot.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Think about the story about Noah, the good man that lived a long time ago. He made a big boat. While he was doing that, the bad people there kept on living the way they always lived. They had parties, with plenty to eat and drink, and they promised wives to each other, and they got married. They kept on living like that right up until the time Noah and his family got into that big boat. Then a big flood of water came and finished up all those bad people. You see, I am God’s special man from heaven, and when I come back here, the people will be living the

way they always live, just like they were when that big flood of water came.*

28-29 And remember the story about Lot, the good man that lived in a town called Sodom. A lot of bad people lived there. Those people were living the way they always lived. They had parties, with plenty to eat and drink, and they bought things and sold things, and they planted seeds in their gardens, and they built houses for themselves. They kept on living like that right up until the day that Lot and his family ran out of that town. Then God sent fire and burning stones down from the sky, and it burned up all of those bad people, and finished them up.*

30 You know, before I come back from heaven, the people will be just like that. They will be living the same way as they always live.

Yes, I am God's special man from heaven, and one day, I will show myself to everybody.

31 On that day, it will be like this. It will be hard for you. You will have to run away. If you are outside your house, don't go in and pack up your things to take with you. No. Just run away. If you are out in the bush, don't go back to your house to get anything. No. Just run away.*

32 Think again about that story about Lot and his family. Remember what his wife did. While they were running away, she stopped and looked

* **17:26-27** Genesis 6:5-8; 7:6-24 * **17:28-29** Genesis 18:20—19:25 * **17:31** Matthew 24:17-18; Mark 13:15-16

back at that town, like she wanted to go back. But she died right there.*

³³ You see, it's like this. If you only want to look after your own life here on earth, you will lose it. You will not live with me for ever. But if you are ready to give up your life here, then you will find real life, and you will live with me for ever.*

³⁴ Listen, I'll tell you more about the time when I will come back. God will take his people away from the other people. It will be like this. There will be 2 people asleep in one bed. God will take one of them and leave the other one.

³⁵⁻³⁶ There will be 2 women working together getting food ready to cook. God will take one of them and leave the other one."

³⁷ Jesus's followers asked him, "Where will all this happen, sir?"

Jesus said, "You know what people say, 'If you see a lot of crows in one place, you know that there is a dead body there at that place.' Well, like that, when you see all those things happening, those things that I told you about, you will know that the world will soon finish up."*

18

The story about the woman that kept on asking for a fair go

* **17:32** Genesis 19:26
Luke 9:24; John 12:25

* **17:33** Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35;
* **17:37** Matthew 24:28

¹ Jesus told his followers a picture story to teach them to keep on praying to God, and never give up.

² He said, “There was a judge in a city, and he was a hard man. He didn’t respect God, and he didn’t care about people either.

³ A woman lived in that city. Her husband was dead, and she had nobody to look after her. Then a bad man tricked that woman and took her money. So she went to the judge and said, ‘Your honour, that man tricked me. Please give me a fair go. Make him give me back my money.’

⁴⁻⁵ The judge didn’t answer her. He took no notice of her, and he wouldn’t listen to her. But she kept on asking him, and for a while he kept on taking no notice of her. But after a while he said to himself, ‘This woman is making me go crazy. Even though I don’t respect God, and I don’t care about people, I will make sure she gets a fair go. I will give her what she wants. If I don’t do that, she will keep on asking me, and I’m getting sick of it.’ ”

⁶ Then Jesus said, “That judge was a bad man, but think about what he said to himself. That woman kept on asking him, and in the end, he did the right thing.

⁷ Well, God is a lot better than that judge, and God picked you to be in his family. So if you keep on calling out to him for help all the time, what do you think he will do? Will he wait a while before he does anything?

⁸ No. I’m telling you this for sure. God will listen to you, and he will help you quickly. He

will make sure you get a fair go.”

Then Jesus said, “But when I, God’s special man, come back again from heaven to this earth, will I find people trusting me, or not? Maybe only a few people will be trusting me at that time.”

The story about 2 men that prayed to God in 2 different ways

⁹ Some people there thought that they were really good, and they rubbished everyone else. They reckoned, “We are so good that God will always say we are all right.”

So Jesus told them this picture story. He said,
¹⁰ “I will tell you about 2 men that went to God’s ceremony house to pray to him. One of them was a Pharisee man, so he was strong for the law. The other one was a man that got tax money from people and gave it to the Roman government. You know, nobody likes those tax men.

¹¹ The Pharisee man stood in a place where everyone could see him, and he didn’t say he was sorry for anything. He just talked about himself. He said, ‘Thank you, God, that I am different from everyone else. You see, God, I don’t cheat anyone, and I don’t do anything bad. I don’t sleep with anyone that is not my wife. I’m not a bad man, like that man over there. He takes tax money from people to give it to the government.

¹² But I am good. On 2 days every week I don’t eat any food to show that I respect you. And whenever I get some money, I give you some of

it, like \$1 out of every \$10. I do all those things, so you have to say I am all right.'

¹³ But the tax man was sorry for the bad things he did. He felt shame, so he did not stand close to the other people. He looked down at the ground, and he hit himself on his chest. He said, 'I'm sorry, God. I know I did bad things. Please feel sorry for me and don't punish me.' "

¹⁴ Jesus said, "I'm telling you now, God listened to that bad man because he was sorry for the bad things he did, so God says that he is all right, and he will not punish that man. But God doesn't say that about the other man that already reckoned he was good.

You see, if you try to make yourself important, God will make you like nothing. But if you make yourself like nothing, God will make you important."*

(We have not yet translated 18:15-43. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 10:13-34, 46-52.)

19

Zakias met Jesus

¹ Jesus went to a town called Jericho. He went into that town and started to go through it.

² A very rich man lived there. His name was Zakias. His job was to get tax money from the people and give it to the government, and he was the boss over some other tax men too.

* **18:14** Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11

Sometimes tax men cheated people and kept some money for themselves, so nobody liked them.

³ Zakias wanted to see Jesus, but he was a short man, and there were a lot of people around Jesus, and they got in his way and blocked him, so he couldn't see Jesus.

⁴ So he ran up the road ahead of Jesus and climbed up into a tree, and he saw Jesus from up high in that tree.

⁵ When Jesus got to that tree, he looked up and saw Zakias, and he said to him, "Zakias. Come down here. And hurry. I want to go and stay at your house today."

⁶ Then Zakias was very happy, and he came down quickly, and he took Jesus to his house.

⁷ But when the other people saw this, they were angry with Jesus. They said, "Look. He has gone to stay with a bad man. He shouldn't do that."

⁸ But later, at his house, Zakias stood up and said to Jesus, "Listen, sir, this is what I am going to do now. I am going to split up all the things I own into 2 heaps, and I will give one heap away to poor people. And as well as that, I'm going to give money back to those people that I cheated. I am going to give them back 4 times as much as I took from them."

⁹ Then Jesus told everybody there, "Listen. Today, right now, God saved this man, and everybody at his place too. You see, this man is one of God's people now, just like Abraham,

because he believes in me just like Abraham believed in God.

¹⁰ I am God's special man from heaven, and I came to earth to look for people that went wrong and got lost, so that I can save them."

The story about a boss that left some money with his work-men

¹¹ The people there kept on listening to Jesus, and he kept on teaching them. You see, those people reckoned that when Jesus got to Jerusalem, God was going to make him the biggest boss in the world. And Jesus was close to Jerusalem, so they reckoned that soon God was going to make him that biggest boss. So Jesus told them this picture story to help them understand what was really going to happen.

¹² He said, "There was an important man in a country, and one day, he got a message from the biggest boss over all those countries. That biggest boss wanted that man to come and see him, so that he could make him the new boss over his own country.

¹³ But before that man went away, he got 10 of his work-men to come and talk to him. He gave each work-man \$1,000 to look after for him. He told them it was not their own money, but they had to use that money to get more money for him. Then that man went away to meet with that biggest boss.

¹⁴ But some of the people in that man's country hated him, so they sent a messenger to tell the biggest boss that they didn't want that man to become their boss.

15 But the biggest boss didn't listen to them. He made that man the new boss over the country where that man lived.

Some time later, that man went back to his home. Then he got his work-men to come to him, and he asked each one of them about the money that he left with them. He wanted to know how much more money they got for him.

16 The first work-man said, 'I used your money to get a lot more money for you. I now have 10 times as much as you left with me.'

17 His boss said, 'Good. You did well. You are a good work-man. I only left a little bit of my money with you, but you used it the way I wanted you to. So now I will give you a really good job. I will make you the boss over 10 cities in this country.'

18 The next work-man said, 'I used your money to get a lot more money for you. I now have 5 times as much as you left with me.'

19 His boss said, 'Good. You did well too. So now I will give you a good job. I will make you the boss over 5 cities in this country.'

20 But another work-man didn't get any more money for his boss. He just had the same money that his boss left with him, and no more. He said, 'Boss, I wrapped your money in a towel to hide it, and I kept it safe for you. Here it is.'

21 You see, I know that you are a hard man. I know that you grab things that don't belong to you, so I was frightened of you.'

22 His boss got angry and yelled at him, 'You are a bad work-man. Just now you reckoned that

I am a hard man, and you reckoned that I grab things that don't belong to me. That is not true. But if you reckon that I am a hard man, I will be a hard judge for you.

²³ Listen, you didn't even put my money in the bank. The bank keeps money for me, and when they give it back to me, they give me a bit more money with it.'

²⁴ Then the boss said to some of his other workers, 'Take that money from this man, and give it to the man that got 10 times as much as I left with him.'

²⁵ They said, 'But, boss, that work-man already has a lot of money.'

²⁶ Their boss said, 'Yes, that's right. You see, if I give people something, and they use it well, then I will give them more. But if they don't do anything with it, I will take away from them that little bit they have.'

²⁷ Then the boss talked about his enemies. He said, 'Grab my enemies, you know, those people that hated me and didn't want me to become their boss. Bring those people to me, and kill them, right here in front of me.' "

(We have not yet translated 19:28—22:34. You can read most of those stories and messages in Mark 11:1—14:31. Some of them are about the time that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the other things that happened at that time. And they say that he started to eat a special dinner, called the Passover, with his followers. While they were eating that dinner, Jesus talked

to them. This next story here is some of what Jesus said at that time.)

22

Jesus told his followers to do something different

³⁵ Jesus said to his followers, “Remember that time I told you to go to other towns and tell people God’s story, and I told you not to take a bag, or money, or extra shoes? Did you go short of anything at that time, or did you get everything you needed anyway?”

They said, “We got everything we needed.”*

³⁶ Then Jesus said, “But it is different now. Listen, you are going to get a lot of trouble. So if you have a bag, take it with you. And if you have some money, take it with you. And you will need a long knife to fight with too, so if you haven’t got one, sell your coat to get some money and buy one.

³⁷ You see, something is going to happen now that is in God’s book. A long time ago, God got one of his men to write this,
 ‘The people reckoned God’s man was bad, and they treated him the same way they treat bad criminals.’

Listen, I’m telling you, they are going to do that now. They are going to do it to me.”*

³⁸ His followers said, “Sir, we’ve got 2 long knives here.”

* **22:35** Matthew 10:9-10; Mark 6:8-9; Luke 9:3; 10:4 * **22:37**
 Isaiah 53:12

Jesus said, “We don’t need to talk about that any more.”

(We have not yet translated 22:39—23:4. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 14:32—15:5. They are about what happened after Jesus and his followers finished eating that Passover dinner. They are about how Jesus’s enemies grabbed him and took him to court. The name of the judge was Pilate.)

23

Pilate sent Jesus to the big boss called Herod

⁵ The Jewish leaders kept on blaming Jesus. They told Pilate, “He gets people everywhere to go wild. He started to do that in Galilee country, then in Judea country, and now he is doing it here in Jerusalem.”

⁶ When Pilate heard them say that, he asked them, “Is he from Galilee country?”

⁷ They said, “Yes, he is from Galilee.”

The big boss over Galilee was called Herod, and he was visiting Jerusalem right at that time. So Pilate sent Jesus to him, to let Herod be his judge.

⁸ Herod was very happy to see Jesus. You see, a long time before that day, Herod heard about Jesus, so he always wanted to meet him. He wanted to see Jesus do something powerful.

⁹ So Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus didn’t answer any of them.

¹⁰ The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the Jewish law teachers, they stood there all that time, shouting out and blaming Jesus.

¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers started laughing at Jesus and rubbing him. They put a pretty coat on him, the sort that a big boss wears. Then they sent him back to Pilate.

¹² You know, before that day Herod and Pilate didn't like each other, but on that day they became friends.

(We have not yet translated 23:13-26. You can read those stories in Mark 15:6-15, 21. They say that Pilate told his soldiers to nail Jesus to a cross to kill him, and those soldiers started to take Jesus to the place to do that.)

Jesus told the Jerusalem women that something bad will happen

²⁷ A big mob of people followed Jesus. There were a lot of women among them. They were really sad. They were crying really loud, and they were hitting themselves.

²⁸ So Jesus turned around and said to them, "You women that live here in Jerusalem, don't cry for me, but cry for yourselves, and for your kids.

²⁹ Listen, soon bad things will happen to everybody. The time will come when people will say, "Those women that can't have babies, and those women that don't have to feed babies, they are the lucky ones."

³⁰ Things will be so bad that people will want to die, so they will ask the mountains to fall on

top of them and kill them. And they will ask the hills to bury them.*

³¹ You see, I didn't do anything wrong and people are hurting me. But you mob do bad things, so people will hurt you a lot more."

(We have not yet translated 23:32-38. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 15:21-32. They are about how soldiers nailed Jesus and 2 criminals to crosses.)

One criminal believed in Jesus

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging on a cross beside Jesus was rubbishing him, and said, "You reckon you are the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us. All right, if you are God's man, then save yourself, and save us too. But I reckon you can't do it."

⁴⁰ But the other criminal hanging on a cross said, "Don't talk like that. Have a bit of respect for God. Listen, they are killing the 3 of us together.

⁴¹ They are killing you and me because we did really bad things, but this man, Jesus, he didn't do anything wrong."

⁴² Then that criminal talked to Jesus. He said, "Jesus, you are going to get God's people together into one family, and you will be their leader. When you do that, don't forget me. I want to be there with you too."

* **23:30** Hosea 10:8; Revelation 6:16

⁴³ Jesus said, “All right. Listen, you will be with me today, in God’s good place called Paradise. That’s for sure.”

(We have not yet translated 23:44—24:12. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 15:33—16:20. They are about how Jesus died, and then people buried him, but after that, he came alive again.)

24

2 of Jesus’s followers walked to a place called Emayus

¹³ Later, on that same day, 2 of Jesus’s followers walked from Jerusalem city to a town called Emayus. It was about 11 kilometres away.

¹⁴ As they walked along the road, they talked about everything that happened.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Then suddenly Jesus came and joined up with them, but they didn’t know it was Jesus. God stopped them from seeing who he was. Jesus walked along with them and listened to what they said to each other.

¹⁷ Then he asked them, “What is this thing you are talking about so much, as you walk along the road?”

When they heard him ask that, they were shocked, and they both stopped walking and stood still. They looked very sad.

¹⁸ One of them was Cliopas. He said, “I reckon you are the only visitor to Jerusalem that hasn’t heard about the things that happened here in the last few days.”

19 Jesus asked them, “What things?”

They said, “The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth. God gave him the power to tell his messages, and to teach people his words, and to do powerful things. All the people reckoned he was great.

20 But our bosses, and the bosses of our ceremonies, they grabbed him and gave him to the Roman soldiers, and told them to kill him. So those soldiers nailed him to a cross, and he died. Then some men put his body in a big hole in the rock, called a *cave*.

21 But, you know, we were hoping he will save us Israel people, but he can't do that now. And all of that happened 2 days ago, and now it is the 3rd day since he died.

22 And today, some of our women gave us a shock. They got up early this morning and went to that cave,

23 but his body was not there. And they came back and told us that they saw some of God's angel messengers there, and those angels said that he is alive.

24 Then some of our men went to that cave, and they saw that everything was just like the women said. His body was not in the cave.”

25 Then Jesus said to them, “You 2 are a bit stupid. You don't properly believe the messages that God's men told us a long time ago.

26 You see, they told us about the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save his people. They said that he will get this sort of

trouble, and he will die, but then God will show everyone that he is really great.”

²⁷ Then Jesus told them what God said about him in his book. He made it very clear to them. He started with the words that Moses wrote, and he also talked about the words that God’s other men wrote, and he told them what those words mean.

²⁸ They kept walking along as Jesus talked to them, and they got to Emayus, the place where those 2 men were going to stay. Jesus was starting to keep going on that road,

²⁹ but those 2 men said, “You can’t keep going to another place. It’s too late. The sun is going down. Please stay here with us tonight.” So he went with them to their house.

³⁰ The 3 of them sat down to eat at the table, and Jesus picked up some bread and said *thank you* to God for it, and then he broke it into bits and gave it to them.

³¹ Then suddenly, God let them see that it was Jesus talking to them. Then, as soon as they knew who he was, they couldn’t see him any more. He was not there any more. He was gone.

³² They said to each other, “Wow. That’s the reason why we felt really happy inside this afternoon. We felt really excited when he talked to us on the road, and he made God’s book really clear for us.”

³³ Then they got up straight away, and they went back to Jerusalem. They went to see Jesus’s 11 special workers. There were other followers of Jesus at that place too.

³⁴ They were all talking together and saying, “Yes, Jesus really is alive again. He showed himself to Peter.”

³⁵ Then the 2 men that came back from Emayus told the other followers their story. They told them what happened on the road, and that they suddenly saw that it was Jesus while he was breaking the bread.

Jesus showed himself to his followers

³⁶ While they were still telling their story, suddenly Jesus was standing right there in the middle of the group. He said to them, “Hello. I want you to feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.”

³⁷ They were all shocked and frightened. They thought they were looking at a spirit.

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “Why are you frightened? Why do you think, ‘This can’t be Jesus’? Look, it is me.

³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. See the holes made by the nails. Touch me, to make sure that I’m not a spirit. Spirits haven’t got bodies with bones in them, like I have.”

⁴⁰ After he said that, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ They were so surprised that they could hardly believe it really was Jesus, but they were really happy too.

Then Jesus asked them, “Have you got anything here for me to eat?”

⁴² So they gave him a bit of cooked fish.

⁴³ And he ate it there in front of them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “Remember the words that I told you while I was still with you. I told

you that everything that God says about me in his book had to happen. You can read about those things in the words that Moses wrote, and in the words that God's other men wrote, and in the songs that are in God's book."

⁴⁵ Then he helped them to understand the words that are in God's book, like he opened their brains, so they could think properly.

⁴⁶ And he said to them, "God says this in his book,

'The Christ, the special man that God will send, will get a lot of trouble, and he will die. He will be dead for 2 nights, then on the 3rd day, he will come alive again.'

That message, in God's book, is about me.

⁴⁷ And God says you have to tell everyone about me. Tell them that they have to turn away from the bad things they do and turn to God, so that he will say they are not guilty of the bad things they did. You have to start telling people that message here in Jerusalem, and then go on to other countries, until you tell it to the people in every country.

⁴⁸ You see, you mob saw everything that happened, and you heard what I taught people, so now you have to tell it to everybody.

⁴⁹ But listen. My father promised to give you his Holy Spirit from heaven, so wait here in this city until I send him to you. Then you will have God's power."*

Jesus went up to heaven

* **24:49** Acts 1:4

⁵⁰ Then Jesus took his followers just outside the city, to the town called Bethany. When they got there, he lifted up his hands and asked God to be good to them, and to make them strong.

⁵¹ While he was still talking, God lifted him up and took him away from them, up into heaven.

⁵² Then his followers showed strong respect for Jesus. They were very happy, and they went back to Jerusalem.

⁵³ Every day, they went to God's ceremony house, and they said, "Thank you God. You are really good."

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who speak English as a second language

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