

Some parts of the good news about
Jesus that Luke wrote
This page tells a bit more about this
book

There were 4 men that wrote books about the things that Jesus did, and the messages he told to people, when he was here on the earth. They were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This Mini-Bible has everything that Mark wrote about Jesus. And we have translated some of what Luke wrote, but only the stories and messages that are not in the books that the other men wrote.

Most of the people that wrote the bible belonged to the tribe called the Jews, or the Jewish people. But Luke was not a Jew. He came from a different country and he spoke the Greek language.

Luke was a doctor, and later he became a good friend of Paul and some of the other followers of Jesus. He might have seen some of these things happen, that he wrote about, but if not, Jesus's followers told him about them.

Luke wrote another book that is in this Mini-Bible, called The followers of Jesus did great things.

Dear Theophilus

¹⁻² A lot of great things have happened here, and the people that saw those things happen told everyone what they saw, and a lot of people wrote on paper the stories those people told. ³ I have read those stories, and I have talked to those people, and I checked up on everything they said, right from the start. So now I am carefully writing this book for you. ⁴ You already heard some of

this, but I want you to know the true story, and I want you to be sure about it.

An old man and his wife became the father and mother of John the Baptist

⁵ At the time when Herod was big boss of Judea country there was a man there called Zechariah. He was a man that looked after the Jewish ceremonies. He belonged to a group that did the Jewish ceremonies called Abijah's mob. His wife too belonged to a family of Jewish ceremony people. Her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Those 2, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were very good people. They did everything in God's law, and God liked the way they lived. ⁷ They lived that way for a long time, but they didn't have any kids. Elizabeth just couldn't have a baby. And they got very old.

⁸ Zechariah belonged to that group that did the Jewish ceremonies, and the time came for them to do those ceremonies in God's ceremony house in Jerusalem city. ⁹ One day it was Zechariah's turn to go into the special room in that house and burn some stuff 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 beside the metal table where that stuff was burning. ¹² Zechariah saw the angel there and got a big shock. He was really frightened. ¹³ But the angel told him, "Don't be frightened, Zechariah. 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 kind of wine or grog at all. You see, the Holy Spirit will come into this kid while he is still inside

his mother, before he gets born. ¹⁶ And after he grows up he will get lots of you Israel people to turn away from bad things and turn back to God. ¹⁷ Do you remember the story about God's man called Elijah, that lived a long time ago? He had God's spirit in him and he did powerful things. Well, in the same way, John will have God's spirit and his power. He will come to this world ahead of the special man that God will send. John will get men that are fathers to love their kids. You know, there are some people now that don't want God, but John will get them to listen to the sensible words of good people. In that way he will get people ready for the special man that God will send."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "Just a minute. Is this message true? I am an old man, and my wife is old too. We are too old to have a baby. How can I be sure that this 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 Zechariah. They were thinking, "Why is he staying a long time in that room?"

²² Then Zechariah 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 After that Zechariah finished his days of work in God's ceremony house, then 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 grew inside Elizabeth for about 6 months. Then God sent one of his angel messengers, called Gabriel, to Galilee country, to a town called Nazareth. ²⁷ He went there to a young girl that was not married, called 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 called Joseph. He belonged to the family of David, the big boss of 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?”

³⁰ So Gabriel said, “Don't be frightened, Mary. God is real happy with you. ³¹ Listen. You will soon have a baby son, and you will call him Jesus. ³²⁻³³ God will make him the biggest boss of you Israel people, like David, his grandfather of 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. People will call him the Son of God.”

³⁴ Mary said, “But I'm not married. 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 real 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 one inside her. She has been carrying it for the

last 6 months, and soon she will have a baby. ³⁷ You see, God can do anything. Nothing is too hard for him.”

³⁸ Mary said, “All right then, I will do whatever God wants. I want everything to happen just like you have said.” Then Gabriel left her.

Mary visited Elizabeth

³⁹ A few days later Mary got up and quickly went south to a town in the hilly part of the country called Judea. ⁴⁰ Zechariah and Elizabeth lived in that town. Mary went to their house, and went in and said, “Hello cousin” to Elizabeth. 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, “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 one 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 that makes you very happy.”

Mary sang this song

⁴⁶ Mary said,
“God is really good and really great.
I feel that really deep inside myself, and I want to tell it to everybody.

⁴⁷ God is the one that saves me, so my spirit is really happy.

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

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 good to the people that respect him, and to their kids, and to their grand-kids, and to all their grand-kids to come.

⁵¹ He did great things with his power, to show everyone that he is really strong.

Those people that reckoned they were smart and strong, they all got frightened of him, and they ran away.

⁵² He chucked out the big bosses and took their power away.

But he got people that were not important, and he made them bosses.

⁵³ And he gave hungry people good food, and they ate till they were full.

But he didn't give anything to the rich people. They went away with nothing.

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

⁵⁵ just like he promised to our grand-father Abraham, and to our other grand-fathers of long ago.

He said he will look after us for ever."

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

John the Baptiser was born

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 heard that she had a baby, and they knew that God had been very good to her. Elizabeth was happy, and they were all happy too. ⁵⁹ When the baby was 8 days old, all those people came to Zechariah and Elizabeth's place. The baby boy had to have a young man's operation on that day, and they used to give a baby his name at that time. The people wanted to call him

Zechariah, 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 Zechariah made signs to get them to give him something to write on, then he wrote, “His name is John.” Everyone was shocked. ⁶⁴ Then, straight away, Zechariah started to talk again, and he told everyone that God is very great.

⁶⁵ Everybody there was really surprised, and 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, “What will this kid be, after he grows up?” They knew God’s power was with that boy.

Zechariah sang this song

⁶⁷ At that time, when Zechariah 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 has come now to save us, his people.

⁶⁹ He has sent us a very strong person to save us.

You know about David, the 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 promised to be good to our grand-fathers of long ago,

and he will remember to do everything that he promised.

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

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 it all our lives."

⁷⁶ Then Zechariah 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 go ahead of the one that God is sending to be our leader, and you will get everything ready for him.

⁷⁷ You will teach his people how God can say they are not guilty for the bad things they did,

and then God will save them.

⁷⁸ You see, our God is 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. And some people are about to die.

But that light will shine on everybody.

It will show us how to live in a good and quiet way."

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

2

Mary had a baby boy

¹⁻³ At that time the biggest boss of 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. (A man called Quirinius was the government boss of Syria country at that time.)

⁴ Joseph belonged to David’s family. 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 he had to get up and 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 some strips of cloth and put him down to sleep in an animal’s feed 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 heaven 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 real 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. You go there and you will find him. He is wrapped up in strips of cloth and lying in an animal’s feed box. Then you will know that this message I tell you is true. He is the one that is going to save you

people. He is the one God promised to send to be your leader.”

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

¹⁴ “God, you are real great there in heaven.

And here on the earth, your people are quiet and happy. You are real 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 got up quickly and went and found Mary and Joseph, with the baby boy in an animal’s feed box, just like the angel said.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ After that those men went back to their sheep. They told everyone what they saw, and what God’s messenger told them. Everything happened just like he said. So they praised God and said he is great. Everyone was surprised when they heard these things, and Mary remembered them all her life and thought about them a lot.

They named the baby Jesus

²¹ The law of Moses said that they had to do a young man’s operation on all baby boys as soon as they were 8 days old. So they did that to him, and they gave him his name, Jesus, at that time. That’s the name God’s 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, and kill 2 pigeons and burn them there, 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 called 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 was with him. ²⁶ Before this time the Holy Spirit told him, "You will stay alive till you see the person God will send to help the Israel people." ²⁷ On that same day, as Joseph and Mary took Jesus to 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 and quiet, just like you promised me,

³⁰⁻³¹ because now I can see the one 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 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 won't understand, and they will argue against him. ³⁵ In that way they will show everyone what they really think. And Mary, later you will be real 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 called Anna came along and saw Jesus, and she thanked God for him. She called out to all the people close by and told them about Jesus, that he was the one they were waiting for, and she said that God sent him to help the Jerusalem people.

Anna's father was Phanuel, and he belonged to the tribe called Asher. She was 84 years old. A long time before this Anna was a young married woman for 7 years, but then 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 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.

Jesus visited God's ceremony house as a boy

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 the ceremony finished they started to go north, back to their home in Nazareth. They were with a lot of other people going north, and they thought Jesus was somewhere in that mob. They thought, "He will come to our camp when we stop, at sundown." But Jesus didn't come to their camp at sundown. He was still back in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph looked for him among their relatives and all that mob camping on that road, ⁴⁵ but

they couldn'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 so many things, and he knew the answers to all their questions.

⁴⁸ His father and mother were shocked, and Mary said, "My son, why did you do this to us? Me and your father 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? Didn't you know that I have to be in my father's house?" 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 these things and thought about them.

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

(We have not yet translated Luke 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, and Matthew 3:1—5:12, 5:38-48, 7:1-5, 12, 17-20, 24-27, 8:5-13.)

4

Jesus went back to 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 telling other people about him, and they told other people, so that soon everyone there heard the news about him. ¹⁵ He went to the Jewish meeting houses ever week and taught people about God. They were all happy with him.

¹⁶ Then Jesus came to his own community, 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 Isaiah wrote. Isaiah told God's messages, long ago. Jesus opened the book to the right place and 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 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, while you are listening to me, today."

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 you know how to do it.' And you mob will say

to me, 'Show us you know how to do powerful things. Do them here, in you own home town, like you did in Capernaum.' ²⁴ Listen, this is true. If God picks a man to tell his messages, the people of his own home town don't 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 called Elijah. Our people, the Israel nation, did bad things at that time, so God punished them. He blocked the rain. No rain fell for more than 3 years, and no food plants grew in the gardens, so everybody was short of food, and they were very hungry. But God looked after Elijah, and sent him to another place called Zarephath, 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 God's man called Elisha, that lived a long time ago. At that time there was a man called Naaman, 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 these things and they got real angry. ²⁹ They got up and pushed 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 walked through the middle of that mob, and went away.

(We have not yet translated Luke 4:31—7:10. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 1:12-20, 21-34, 40-45, 2:1—3:6, and Matthew 3:18—5:12, 5:38-48, 7:1-5, 12, 17-20, 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 in that town died. He was the only son of his mother, and her husband was already dead, so she had nobody left to look after her. That mother, and a big mob of people, were taking him out of the town on a stretcher, to bury him. And at that same time, Jesus was going into the town on the 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 boy sat up and started to talk. And Jesus told him to go back to his mother.

¹⁶ Everyone that saw this was frightened. They said, “God is really great and powerful. One of his men has come to us to tell us his word and show us his power. God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷ Then went and told lots of other people what they saw, so people everywhere in Judea country heard that story.

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

A woman poured special oil on Jesus

³⁶ One of the Jewish law men asked Jesus to eat dinner with him. He belonged to the mob called Pharisees. Jesus went to his house and sat down at the table. 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 special oil and went to his house. That oil had a really good smell, and it cost a lot of money. ³⁸ Then she went inside and stood behind Jesus. 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 The Jewish law man 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 to people. He lent one man \$500, and he lent another man \$50. ⁴² But both of those men had bad luck and 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 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 special oil on my feet. It smells real good, and it cost her a lot of money. ⁴⁷ Listen, I know she did a lot of bad things, but am telling her that I will let it go and I will say she is not guilty. That is 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, "That's right. You did bad things, but I am letting it go, and I will say 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 places. In every town he told the people God's good news. He said, "God wants to have you in his family." He took his 12 close followers 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 close followers 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 made those bad spirits come out of them. One of

those women was Mary Magdalene. Jesus made 7 bad spirits come out of her. Another one was Joanna, the wife of Chuza. Chuza was the boss of all the people that worked in the house of the big boss 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 Luke 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 community in Samaria country didn't want Jesus

⁵¹ The time was soon coming for Jesus to go back to heaven, and he knew that, so he started to go to Jerusalem city. He wasn't going to let anything stop him. ⁵² He walked along the road, and he was getting close to a community in Samaria country, so he sent some messengers ahead of him to ask the people there for a place to camp that night. ⁵³ But the people in that community said, "No. He is going to Jerusalem. We don't like that Jerusalem mob, so he is not our friend. He can't camp here tonight."

⁵⁴ James and John, 2 of his close followers, heard what they said, and those 2 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 community.

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, “Wild dogs have places where they can sleep, and birds have nests to rest in. But I have no home to lie down and sleep in, even though I’m God’s special man from heaven.”

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 come and follow me.”

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. It’s like a man that is driving something, he has to look ahead, not backwards. Well, you are like that man. You have to follow me and look at me. If you look back, like you think about the things you left behind, you are not the right person to join God’s family.”

(We have not yet translated Luke 10:1-12. You can read that story and that message in Matthew 8:19-22, Mark 3:16-19 and 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 Bethsaida, you

will be really sorry. You see, I did a lot of powerful things there in your towns, but you didn't listen to me, and you kept on doing bad things. Do you remember those towns called Tyre and Sidon? Many years ago their people did bad things. At that time I didn't go and do powerful things for them, so they didn't get the chance to listen to me, so they didn't turn around and stop doing bad things. If they got that chance they would be very sorry for the bad things they did, and they would turn to God. 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 had the chance to turn around, but you didn't do it.

¹⁵ And it's the same for you mob that live in Capernaum. 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 into hell."

(We have not yet translated Luke 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 man came to Jesus and tried to get him to say something wrong, so he asked a hard question. He was a man that knew a lot about the Jewish laws. He asked Jesus, "What can I do so that I will live a good life for ever, and never die?"

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

²⁷ The man answered, "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 other people around you just as much as you love yourself.’ ”

²⁸ Jesus said, “You are right. Do what those laws say and you will live real good.”

²⁹ But the man wanted to show that he did the right thing when he asked that question, so he said, “Who are the other people around me?”

The story about the good man that came from Samaria country

³⁰ Jesus answered that question by telling this picture story. He said, “A 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 man that looked after 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 came along the road. He looked at the man lying there, then he went to the other side of the road to go past him, and he kept going down the road.

³³ Then a man from Samaria country came along the road. He was riding on a donkey. He saw the man lying there and he felt sorry for him. 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 boss of the hotel, and said, ‘This is for you to keep this man here and look after him till he gets better. If it costs more than this, I’ll fix you up for the rest of the cost 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 him like he was in his family?”

³⁷ The law man said, “I reckon it was the one that felt sorry for that man and helped him.”

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

Jesus visited Martha and Mary

³⁸ Jesus and his followers kept going along the road to Jerusalem, and they came to a community, and a woman called Martha asked him to come and have a feed, so he went with her into her house. ³⁹ Her sister, called 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 the big dinner ready, and she was upset because Mary wasn’t helping her. So she said to Jesus, “Teacher, my sister isn’t helping me with the work. She has left me to do it by myself. You don’t think that is all right, do you? Tell her to get up and help me.”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “Martha, Martha, you think about a lot of things, and you worry about them a lot. ⁴² But only one thing is really important, and Mary has found that thing, and nobody will take it away from her.”

(We have not yet translated Luke 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, ‘Hey, friend, can you give me some food? You see, my cousin has just come, and I've got no food to give him. Can you give me some bread?’

⁷ But his friend has already locked his door and gone to bed, with his wife and his kids, and he doesn't want to get up, so he says, ‘Don't humbug me now. I'm in bed. 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 on asking God for what you need, and he will give it to you. Keep on 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 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 he is always sure to give you good things. He will send the Holy Spirit to everyone that asks him.”

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

Jesus growled at the Jewish law men and law teachers

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

³⁸ The Pharisees made a rule, that whenever anyone wanted to eat a meal, 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 only cleans the outside of cups and plates. 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. 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 be 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, and we call it a tithe. 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. These are the important things that you have to do, and then you can keep on giving God a proper tithe.

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 place you want the good seats that are for important people. And whenever you walk around the shopping places you want people to say hello to you in a good way, the way they talk to important people. ⁴⁴ So God will make trouble for you mob. You are like graves that nobody marked. People walk on that ground, but they don't know that there is a dead body under their feet. You are like that. 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 teacher 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 teachers 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 a really heavy load. But 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 grand-fathers killed the men that told everyone God's messages, and they buried them. And now, you mob put pretty little stone buildings there to remember the place where they buried them. ⁴⁸ In that way you show that you agree with the bad things your grand-fathers did.

⁴⁹ Listen, God is wise, so he said, 'I will pick men to tell everyone my messages, and I will pick men to be my close followers, and I will send them to the people. But the people will kill some of them, and they will hurt some of them.' ⁵⁰ You see, that is the way it has been for a long time. People have been killing God's men ever since the world first started. But God will punish the people that are alive today for all those murders. ⁵¹ Abel was the first one to die, and Zechariah was the last one. They murdered him at God's ceremony house, near the place where they kill animals and burn them, to give them to God. Yes, God will punish the people that are alive today for all those murders.

⁵² Listen, God will make trouble for you law teacher mob, because you don't do the right thing. You know how to help people to understand more about God, but you never do it. You yourselves don't want to know God, and you block everybody else, so they can't know him either."

⁵³⁻⁵⁴ Then Jesus left that place. After that, the law teacher mob and the Pharisee mob got real angry with him, and they argued against him. 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 Luke 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 share of our father’s things.”

¹⁴ Jesus said, “It’s not my job to say which of you is right or wrong, or what 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 a long happy life from the things you own, even if you are rich.”

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them this picture story, he said, “A rich man had a garden. He planted some seeds there, and they grew into very big plants, and then those plants got lots of seed tucker on them. ¹⁷ The man looked at it all and said to himself, ‘My shed is not big enough for all this seed tucker. Where will I put it all?’ ¹⁸ He thought about it, 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 that shed 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 shed? Who will get it? Not you.’

²¹ That is a picture story to tell you people this. If you only think about keeping things for yourself, and if

you don't think about getting friendly with God, you are stupid."

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

We can work out what God is doing

⁵⁴ Then Jesus said to all the people, "Sometimes you look toward the west, and you see big clouds coming together, and you say, 'Here comes some rain.' And you are right. ⁵⁵ And sometimes the south wind blows, and you say, 'Today will be really hot.' And again, you are right. ⁵⁶ But you are fools. You look at the earth and the sky, and you know how to work out what the weather is doing, but whenever you look at the things that are happening right now, you don't know how to work out what God is doing."

(We have not yet translated Luke 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, and the big boss, called Pilate, came with his soldiers and killed those men. Their blood mixed in with the blood of the animals they killed. Then some people went and told Jesus about those men. ² Jesus said, "Do you reckon those men 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 to 18 people, and killed them. Do you think those people did more bad things than the other people in Jerusalem, so 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. He said, "A man had a garden with grape vines and fruit trees growing in it. One of those fruit trees was called a fig tree. That man often used to go to that garden, to see if there was any fruit on that tree, but he didn't ever find any fruit. ⁷ So he talked to his workman, that looked after the garden. He said, 'Look, this is no good. I have come here for 3 years looking for fruit on this tree, but I never found any. 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 worker said, 'Wait, Boss, give it one more chance. Leave it for another 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 it might get fruit on it next year. If it doesn't, then we can chop it down.'

Jesus made a sick woman better on their 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 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 said to her, "Come here, lady. You are better now. You are free from that sickness." ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and straight away she stood up straight. She said, "Oh God, you are really good."

¹⁴ But the boss of that meeting house was 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 Saturday."

¹⁵ Jesus said to him, "You mob are wrong. You say one thing, but you yourselves do something different. You work on Saturdays too. You see, you keep bullocks 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 Saturdays too. ¹⁶ Now look at this woman here. She belongs to Abraham's family. But the boss of the devils, called Satan, he made her back bad a long time ago. It's like he has kept her tied up with this problem for 18 years. So why can't I untie her, even on a Saturday?"

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

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

Jesus felt sorry for the Jerusalem people

³¹ At that time, some of the law men called Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “The big boss called Herod wants to kill you, so you have to clear out. Go 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 doing these things for a bit longer. Then I’ll finish my work. ³³ But I have to keep going now, and for a bit longer, till I get to Jerusalem city. That’s the place where they kill people that tell God’s messages.”

³⁴ Jesus talked to the people that lived in Jerusalem city. He said, “Oh, you Jerusalem mob. You never listen to the men that tell you God’s messages, but instead you kill them. Yes, you throw stones at them to kill them. Listen, I wanted to look after you mob, just like a chook looks after her 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, ‘This is God’s man coming to us, and we want God to be really good to him.’”

14

Jesus made a man better on the Jewish rest day

¹⁻² An important Jewish law man, asked Jesus to come to his house and have dinner with him, and with some of his friends. He was one of the mob called Pharisees. It was on a Saturday, and the Jewish law says that nobody can work on a Saturday.

There was a sick man there at that law man’s house. His arms and legs were swollen. Those law men watched Jesus to see if he was going to make that sick man better.

³ Jesus talked to the law teachers and the Pharisees there. He asked them, “Is it all right to make people better on our rest day, or not?”

⁴ They didn’t want to answer him, so they said nothing. Then Jesus touched the sick man, and made him better, and Jesus told him he can go away. ⁵ Then Jesus talked to the law mob there. He said, “Sometimes you work on our rest day, don’t you? If ever you have to do something straight away, like if your little kid falls into a deep hole on a Saturday, you get up quick and pull him out. Or if your cow falls into a hole, you pull it out, even on a Saturday. You do that, don’t you? So it’s all right to do a good thing on a Saturday. Isn’t 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 where the important people sit. Jesus watched them, then he told them, ⁸ “You are not doing it the right way. 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 somebody more important than you will come later, ⁹ and the boss will tell you, ‘Get up and give this person that good seat.’ Then you will feel ashamed, 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. ¹⁰ Instead of that, when you come to the dinner, go and sit at the other end of the table, 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 up 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 ashamed. But if you make yourself not important, God will get people to respect you.”

¹² Then Jesus talked to the boss of that house. He said, “Whenever you put on a lunch or a dinner, for other people to come and eat it with you, don’t ask you family, or your friends, or the rich people that live near you, to come to that meal. If you ask those people to come, later they will ask you to come to eat a meal with them. That will be the only pay you get for feeding them. 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 pay, so they are too poor to put on a meal for you. ¹⁴ There’s no way they can pay you for that feed. But God will make you real happy. On the day when God 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

¹⁵ One of the men sitting there heard the words that Jesus said, and that man said, “It will be real 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 worker out to tell them to come. He said to 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 bought 10 bullocks, 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 worker went back to his boss and told him their stories. Then his boss was very angry. He said to his worker, 'Get up quickly now and go out to every street in this town and get the poor people, and bring them here to eat this dinner. Bring those that are crippled, and the blind ones, and those that can't walk.'

²² The worker 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. ²⁴ And do you remember those other people that I asked before? Listen, I'm telling you this, none of them will eat any of this good food.' "

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

It will cost you something to follow Jesus

²⁸ Jesus said to the people, "If you want to follow me, first you have to think about what it will cost you. You know, it's the same as when you want to build a big high building. You have to think first about how much it will cost, and you find out if you have enough money to do the whole job. ²⁹ If you don't do that, you might start the 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 the boss of a country has to get his army to fight

another army, he first 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 the boss of the other army. 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 the cost. You will have to leave everything you own, and then you can follow me.”

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

15

The story about the sheep that got lost

¹ There were some men that used to get tax money from the people and give it to the Roman government, and everyone reckoned they were bad men. And there were other people too that everyone reckoned were real bad people. Those people often came to listen to Jesus. ² So the law men called Pharisees, and Jewish law teachers, 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, 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 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 all his friends. He will say, ‘Hey, I’ve found my lost sheep. We can all be happy together now.’ ⁷ Well, it is like that

in heaven, too. Whenever one bad person turns around and leaves the bad way, and lives God's way, everyone in heaven is really happy. They are 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 the house. She will even sweep all the floors, and she will keep looking for her money until she finds it. ⁹ Then, after she finds it, she will call out to all her friends, she will say, 'Hey, I've found my lost coin. We can all be happy together now.' ¹⁰ Well, it is like that in heaven, too. Whenever one bad person turns around and leaves the bad way, and lives God's way, God's angel messengers in heaven are really happy."

The story about the boy that got lost

¹¹ Jesus told the people this picture story. He said,

"There was a man who had 2 sons. ¹² One day his youngest son said to him, 'Dad, I want you to give me my share of all the things you own. I can't wait to get it after you die. 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. In that country he soon spent all his money. He just wasted it on all kinds of things that made him feel good. ¹⁴ After a while he had no money left. At that time they got short of food

in that place, and soon that boy 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 boy was so hungry he wanted to eat the garbage that the pigs ate, but nobody gave him anything to eat.

¹⁷ At last he started to think properly. He thought, 'Those men who work for my dad in his garden back home, they always get enough 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 wrong to God, and I did wrong to you. ¹⁹ So now I'm not good enough for you to call me your son, but just let me have a job in your garden. I will work for you, and you can just call me your working 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, walking up the road. His father felt real sorry for him. He got up and ran to his son and hugged him and kissed him.

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

²² But his father said to his working men 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 bullock, 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 working men 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 came 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 workers, 'What's going on?'

²⁷ The worker said, 'Your brother just came back home, and your dad is having a party for him. We just killed a young bullock 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 goat for me to 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 now he has come back, and you are good to him. You even killed a young bullock and gave him a party. That's not right.'

³¹ His father said, 'Listen, you are my own dear 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 was gone for ever, like he was dead, and now he came back. It is like he was dead, and now 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 who was running a big business, and he had another man working in his office. That man was his manager. He looked after the rich man’s money.

Somebody told the rich man, ‘Hey, 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. Now write down everything you have done with my money, and after that you can go.’

³ The manager thought to himself, ‘I will soon have no 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 I’m ashamed to ask people for money all the time.

⁴ Ah, I know what I will do. I will get some people to like me, so that when I have no 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 had not yet given anything back to him. So the manager called these people into the office. He asked one, ‘What did you borrow from my boss?’

⁶ That man answered, ‘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 answered, ‘I borrowed 100 bags of flour.’

The manager said, 'We can change that. Here is the paper, 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 smarter with the things of this world than God's people.

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 have nothing on this earth, God will say, 'Good on you. Come and live for ever here in heaven.' "

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 handle the very dear spiritual things of heaven. ¹² And if you don't handle 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 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 The Jewish law men, called Pharisees, they loved their money. They heard Jesus teach these things, and 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 other men to tell people God’s messages. And God’s people followed 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 won’t change any little bit of them. They will stay here till everything in them happens.”

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 real good clothes, and he always had plenty of good food to eat.

²⁰ And there was a very poor man, called Lazarus, that had a lot of sores on his body. He was hungry, but he had nothing to eat, so he lay down at the gate of the rich man's house. ²¹ He hoped he might get some of the rubbish food that the rich man chucked away. That rich man didn't give him any good food. The dogs there used to lick that poor man's sores.

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

Then later the rich man died, and his family buried his body. ²³ But he went to the bad place called hell. He was in a big fire in that place, and it hurt 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, 'Hey, Grandpa Abraham, this fire is hurting me a lot. Be sorry for me and send Lazarus to bring some water to me, and dip his finger in it and put it on my tongue, to cool it a little bit.'

²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Just a minute, son. Remember that when you were alive on the earth, you had everything 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, Grandpa 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 living the bad way. 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, ‘My brothers don’t take any notice of God’s book. But if a dead person will come alive again and talk to them, they will take notice of him. Then they will stop doing bad things, 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 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. ²If anyone gets a little one to do something bad, God will properly punish that person. Suppose somebody will get a big rock and tie it to that person’s neck and throw him into the sea and drown him, that will be bad for him, but not as bad as the trouble God will give him for getting that little one to go wrong. ³So be careful.”

Then Jesus said, “If another Christian does something bad to you, and then they say, ‘I’m sorry, I will not do that again,’ then you have to let it go. Don’t think about any payback. ⁴Maybe they do that a lot, like 7 times in one day, and each time they turn around and say they are sorry. If they do that, you have to let it go every time.”

⁵ The 12 close followers of Jesus 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, if you really trust me, even if it is just a little bit, you will get stronger and trust me more. Then if you say to that tree, ‘Get up out of the ground and go over there and throw yourself into the sea,’ 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 worker is digging the ground to plant seeds, or maybe he is looking after sheep. When the sun starts to go down the worker comes back to 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. After I finish eating you can get yourself a feed.’ ⁹ That boss never says thank you to his worker. You see, his worker 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 my workers. When you do what I tell you to do, just say to yourselves, ‘We are not special people. We are workers that only did what our boss told us to do.’”

10 men had a bad skin sickness, and Jesus made them better

¹¹ After that Jesus kept going along the road to the city called Jerusalem, going from Galilee country into Samaria country. ¹² He came to a community, 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 way from him and shouted to him. ¹³ They said, “Jesus, Sir, please be sorry for us.”

¹⁴ Jesus looked at them and said, “All right. Go to the leaders of our Jewish ceremonies and let them look at you skin.” So they started to go to those ceremony leaders, and while they were walking along they 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 shouted, “God is really good and really great.” ¹⁶ And he got down on his knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect, and said, “Thank you, Sir.” This man was not a Jew, like Jesus and his followers, but he came from the Samaria tribe.

¹⁷ Jesus asked the man, “I made 10 men better, didn’t I? Where are the other 9 men?” ¹⁸ Then he said, “None of the Jewish men came back to say thank you to God. Only this man from another country did that.” ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to the man, “You can stand up now and go home. You believed in me, so now you are better.”

The time when God starts his family

²⁰ At one time some of the law men called Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will God come and start his family here on the earth, and be the boss of his people?”

Jesus said, “You will not see anything different when God starts his family here. 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 family right now. His family is right here among you mob.”

²² Then Jesus said to his followers, “The time will come when you will really want to see me, God’s special man from heaven. You will want to see me again, 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 the lightning. You know the way 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 Do you remember the story about the good man called Noah? At that time, long ago, he was making a big boat. The bad people there were living the way they always lived. They ate and drank, and they promised wives to each other, and they got married. They kept on living that way right up till the time Noah and his family went up on to that big boat. Then a big flood of water came and finished all those bad people. You see, people will be the same as that just before I, God's special man, will come back from heaven.

²⁸⁻²⁹ And remember the story about the good man called Lot. He lived in a city called Sodom. A lot of bad people lived there. Those people were living the way they always lived. They ate and drank, and they bought things and sold things, and they planted seeds in their gardens, and they built houses for themselves. They kept on living that way right up till the day that Lot and his family ran out of that city. Then God sent fire and burning rocks down from the sky, and it burned all of those bad people, and finished them. ³⁰ The people will be like that. They will be living the same way as they always live, right up till the day that I come back here to show myself to everybody. I am God's special man from heaven.

³¹ On that day, 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. Do you remember what his wife did? While they were running away she stopped and looked back at the city, like she wanted to go back there, and she died right there.

³³ You see, it's like this. If you try to keep on living here on this earth, you will die. But if you follow me and don't worry about your life here on this earth, you will live in heaven 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. There will be 2 people asleep in one bed. God will take one of them and leave the other one. ³⁵ There will be 2 people working together getting food ready to cook. God will take one of them and leave the other one."

³⁷ His followers asked Jesus, "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 dead body there at that place.' Well, it will be like that."

18

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

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 couldn't care less about people, either. ³ A woman lived in that city that had nobody to look after her. Her husband was dead. But a bad man was cheating her. So she came to the judge and

said, 'Your honour, that man is cheating me. Please give me a fair go. Give me a court order to stop him.'

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 driving me mad. Even though I don't respect God, and I couldn't care less 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 notice 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 his family. So what do you think he will do if you keep calling out to him all the time? 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 get up quick and 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?"

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 law man called a Pharisee, and the other was a man that took tax money from people to give it to the government. You know, nobody likes the men that do that.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself, where everyone could see him, and 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 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, and whenever I get some money I give you some of it, like \$1 out of every \$10. So you have to say I am all right.’

¹³ But the government money man was sorry for the bad things he did. He was ashamed, 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 be sorry for me and don’t punish me.’

¹⁴ I’m telling now, God listened to that bad man that was sorry, and God said he is all right. He went home feeling good. But God didn’t say that for the Pharisee, the man that reckoned he was real good. He didn’t go home feeling good.

You see, if you reckon you are important, God will make you not important. But if you reckon you are not important, God will make you important.”

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

19

A man called Zacchaeus met Jesus

¹ Jesus came to a town called Jericho. He went into that town and started to go through it. ² A man lived there whose name was Zacchaeus. He was a very rich man. He was a government boss, and his job was to get

tax money from the people and give it to the government. Sometimes those tax men cheated people and kept some money for themselves, so nobody liked them.

³ Zacchaeus 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, as Jesus walked along the road.

⁵ When Jesus came to that tree he looked up and saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, "Hey, Zacchaeus. You come down right now, and hurry. I want to go and stay at your house today." ⁶ Then Zacchaeus was very happy, and he came down quickly, and he took Jesus to his house. ⁷ But when the other people saw this they got upset with Jesus. They said, "Look. He goes and stays with bad people. He shouldn't do that."

⁸ But later, at his house, Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus, "Look, 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 I'm also going to give 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, "God saved this man right now, today. And he saved 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 You see, I am God's special man from heaven, and I came to earth to look for people who went wrong and got lost, so that I can save them."

(We have not yet translated Luke 19:11–22:34. You can read most of those stories and messages in Matthew 25:14-30 and Mark 11:1–14:31. They tell 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 with his followers, called the Passover. While they were eating that dinner Jesus talked to them. This next passage 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 communities to tell people God’s story, and I told you not to take a bag, or money or extra shoes? Did you get the things you needed anyway, at that time? Or did you go short of something?”

They said, “No, we didn’t go short of anything.”

³⁶ Then Jesus said, “But it is different now. Listen, if you have a bag, or 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 his men to write this, ‘The people reckoned God’s man was bad, and they treated him the 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 They said, “Sir, we’ve got 2 long knives here.”

Jesus said, “That’s enough. We can’t talk about it any more.”

(We have not yet translated Luke 22:39—23:4. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 14:32—15:5 and Matthew 27. They tell about what happened after Jesus and his followers finished eating that Passover dinner, how his enemies grabbed Jesus 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, “Does he come from Galilee country?”

⁷ They said, “Yes, Jesus is from Galilee.” The big boss of Galilee was Herod, and he was visiting Jerusalem 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 leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and their law teachers stood there all the 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 kind that a 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 Luke 23:13-26. You can read those stories in Mark 15:6-15, 21. They say that Pilate told his soldiers to take Jesus away and nail him to a cross.)

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 are going to happen to everybody. The time will come when people will say, 'Those women that can't have babies, and those 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 they are hurting me. But you mob do wrong things, so they will hurt you a lot more."

(We have not yet translated Luke 23:32-38. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 15:21-32. They tell about the way they 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 God's special man, do you? 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, "Hey, Jesus, you are going to get God's people together into one family. When you do that, don't forget me. I want to be there with you too."

⁴³ Jesus said, "Yes, you will be with me today, in God's good place called Paradise. That's for sure."

(We have not yet translated Luke 23:44–24:12. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 15:33–16:20. They tell about the way Jesus died, and they buried him, but after that he came alive again.)

24

Jesus talked to 2 of his followers as they walked on the road

¹³ Later, on that same day, 2 of Jesus's followers walked from Jerusalem to a community called Emmaus. That was about 11 kilometers. 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 blocked their eyes a bit, so they couldn't see 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 say that they both stopped, and they looked very sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, called Cleopas, 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 him, "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 leaders of our ceremonies, they didn't want him. They grabbed him and gave him to the Roman soldiers, and told them to kill him, so they nailed him to a cross and he died. 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 3 days ago. ²² And

now, today, some of our women gave us a shock. They went to his grave early this morning, to look for his body, ²³ but they couldn't find it. His body wasn't in that grave. They came back and told us they saw some of God's angel messengers, and those angels said that he is alive. ²⁴ And some of our men went to that grave, and they saw that everything was just like the women said. His body was not in the grave."

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 special man God was going to send to us. They made it real clear. They said he will get this kind of trouble, and he will die, but then God will show everyone that he is really great."

²⁷ Then Jesus told them all the words in God's book that tell about him. He made it very clear to them. He started with the words that Moses wrote, and he also told them the words that God's other men wrote.

²⁸ They kept walking along as Jesus talked to them, and they came to Emmaus, the place those 2 men were going to stay. Jesus was starting to keep going on that road, ²⁹ but those 2 said, "Hey, 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 at the table to have a feed, and Jesus picked up some bread and said thank you to God for it, and he broke it into bits and gave it to them. ³¹ Then suddenly God stopped blocking their eyes so they could see properly, and they saw 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 gone. ³² They said

to each other, “Wow. That’s why we felt really good and 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 the 11 close followers of Jesus. 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 Simon.”

³⁵ Then the 2 men from Emmaus told the others their story. They told them what happened on the road, and that they suddenly saw 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 hope you feel good 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 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 shocked 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 piece of cooked fish. ⁴³ He got it and ate it there in front of them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “Remember the words I told you while I was still with you. I said that everything about me in God’s book will happen to me. You can read it

in the words that Moses wrote, and in the words God's other men wrote, and in the songs that are in God's book."⁴⁵ Then he helped them to understand the things that are in God's book, like he opened their brains, so they could think properly.⁴⁶ And he said to them, "God's book says this. The special man God will send will get a lot of trouble, and he will die, and then 3 days later he will come back to life again. That message, in God's book, is about me."⁴⁷ And it says you have to tell everyone about me. Tell them they have to turn away from the bad things they do and turn to God, so that he will say they are not guilty. You have to start telling people that message here in Jerusalem, and then go on to other countries, till 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 Listen. My Father promised to give you his Holy Spirit from heaven, so wait here in this city till I send him to you. Then you will have God's power."

Jesus went up to heaven

⁵⁰ Then Jesus took his followers to a 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."

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English Version translation
for Australian Aboriginal people who speak English as a second
language

Copyright © 2019 The Plain English Project

Language: Aboriginal English (English)

Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivatives license 4.0.

You may share and redistribute this Bible translation or extracts from it in any format, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

You do not sell this work for a profit.

You do not change any of the words or punctuation of the Scriptures.

Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

2019-08-07

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 27 Sep 2019 from source files dated 8 Aug 2019

838c6f50-4b58-56fb-846b-7becf8890f94