

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

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

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

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

Matthew had another name. He was sometimes called *Levi*. At first, he was a tax man. He

took money from the Jewish people and gave it to the Roman government. But one day, Jesus told him, "Follow me," and Matthew left his money job and followed Jesus (see Mark 2:13-14). Later, Jesus picked Matthew to be one of his 12 special workers (see Mark 3:13-19). Those 12 men went everywhere with Jesus. So Matthew saw and heard most of the things that he wrote about in this book.

The family line of Jesus

¹ A long time ago, God promised to send somebody to save us. Jesus is that person. These names are the fathers and grand-fathers of Jesus, that lived a long time before he was born. This list shows that Jesus was from the family of David. David was the big boss over the Israel people. It also shows that David was from the family of Abraham.

² This list starts with Abraham, a really long time ago. He was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Their mother's name was Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz. His mother's name was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed. His mother's name was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

⁶ Jesse was the father of David. He was the big boss over all that mob, the Israel nation.

So in that family there were 14 fathers from Abraham to David.

David was the father of Solomon. At first Solomon's mother was the wife of another man called Uriah.

⁷ Solomon was the father of Riaboam.

Riaboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.

⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshafat.

Jehoshafat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah.

¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers. At that time, the soldiers from Babylon came and fought the Jewish people. The Babylon mob won, and they took the Jewish people as prisoners to their country.*

So in that family there were 14 fathers from David until the time they all had to go to Babylon.

¹² Jeconiah was the father of Shiyaltiel.

Shiyaltiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud.

Abihud was the father of Eliakim.

* **1:11** 2 Kings 24:14-15; 2 Chronicles 36:10; Jeremiah 27:20

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, the man that God promised to send to save us.

¹⁷ So in that family there were 14 fathers from Abraham to David, and there were 14 fathers from David until the time they all had to go to Babylon, and there were 14 fathers from that Babylon time until the time God sent Jesus to the world.

Joseph had a dream

¹⁸ This is the story about how Jesus was born. He is the man that God talked about a long time ago. God promised to send him to us.*

Mary was promised to a man called Joseph, but they hadn't slept together yet, like married people do. Then the Holy Spirit made a baby grow inside Mary.

¹⁹ Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, and he was not happy. He knew that the baby wasn't his, so he wanted to leave Mary. But he was a good man, and he didn't want to shame her. So he thought, "I will just leave her quietly, without any argument."

* **1:18** Luke 1:27

20 While Joseph thought about that, he went to sleep and had a dream. He saw an angel messenger from God. The angel said, "Joseph, you are from the family of David. Look, you can go ahead and marry Mary. Don't be too frightened to do that. You see, her baby is from the Holy Spirit, not from another man.

21 She will have a baby boy, and you will name him *Jesus*. (That name *Jesus* means *God saves*.) You see, he will save his people, so that God will not punish them for the bad things they do."*

22 That all happened just like God told one of his men to write in God's book, a long time ago. He wrote,

23 "There will be a young woman that has never slept with a man, like a woman does with her husband, but she will have a baby boy. That boy will have a special name, *Immanuel*. That name means *God is with us*."*

24 Joseph woke up and did what God's angel told him to do. He married Mary.

25 But he did not sleep with her, like a man does with his wife, until after her son was born. And he named the baby *Jesus*.*

2

Some wise men came to Jesus

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea country. At that time, the big boss over that country was called Herod.

* 1:21 Luke 1:31 * 1:23 Isaiah 7:14; 8:8, 10 * 1:25 Luke 2:21

There were some wise men in a country to the east of Judea. They always looked at the stars, and one night they saw a special star in the sky. So they went west to Jerusalem, the city in Judea country.

² They asked the Jerusalem people, “Where was that baby born that is going to be the big boss over you Jewish people? You see, back in our country, we saw his special star. We saw it come up into the sky, so we came here, to show respect to him. Where will we find him?”

³ Herod was the big boss over that country, and somebody told him that these wise men were talking about another big boss. Herod got very worried. He thought this other person might fight against him and take over his job. A lot of other people in Jerusalem were worried about it too.

⁴ So Herod had a meeting with the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the Jewish law teachers, and he asked them, “Where will that baby be born? You know, the Christ, the man that God promised to send?”

⁵ They said, “He will be born in Bethlehem, in Judea country. You see, a long time ago, God told one of his men to write about it. He wrote this in God’s book,

⁶ ‘Bethlehem is a little town in Judea country, but it is a very important town, because a big boss will be born there. He will really look after God’s people, the Israel nation.’ ”*

* 2:6 Micah 5:2

That's what those Jewish leaders told Herod.

⁷ So Herod sent for those wise men to come and meet him, but he didn't tell anyone else about the meeting. He asked them, "When did you first see that star?"

⁸ So they told him when they first saw it.

Then he said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and look carefully for that boy. After you find him, come and tell me the place where he's living, so that I can go there too and show respect to him."

⁹⁻¹⁰ The wise men listened to Herod, then they started to go to Bethlehem. Then they saw that same star that they saw before, and they were very happy. That star moved through the sky, and they followed it until it stopped right above the house that Joseph and Mary were living in.

¹¹ The wise men went into that house. They saw Jesus with his mother Mary, and they got down on their knees, to show him respect. Then they opened their bags and gave him some presents. They gave him some gold. And they gave him some powder called *frankincense*, to burn to make a good smell. And they gave him some rubbing medicine called *myrrh*, that smells good, like perfume.

¹² After that, the wise men had a dream. In that dream God told them not to go back to Herod, so they went back to their own country along a different road.

The big boss tried to kill Jesus

¹³ After those wise men went away, Joseph had a dream. He heard God's angel messenger say, "Herod will try to kill the boy, so get up and take

Jesus and Mary to Egypt country, and stay there until I tell you to come back.”

¹⁴ So Joseph got up right then, in the middle of the night, and he got Mary and Jesus, and they left to go to Egypt.

¹⁵ They lived in Egypt until Herod died, and then they came out of Egypt and went back to Israel country. So it happened just like God told one of his men to write in God’s book, a long time ago. He wrote,

“God called his son to come out of Egypt.”*

¹⁶ At the time when Joseph, Mary and Jesus were going to Egypt, Herod waited for those wise men to come back, but they tricked him. They didn’t come back to him. Then he got really angry. He remembered their story about when they first saw the star, so he sent his soldiers to Bethlehem, and he told them to kill all the little boys up to 2 years old. So they killed all the little boys around Bethlehem. Herod wanted to make sure that Jesus was dead.

¹⁷ That all happened the way God’s man, Jeremiah, wrote in God’s book, a long time ago. This is what he wrote,

¹⁸ “In the town called Ramah, a lot of women are really sad, and they are crying out loud.

They are the grand-daughters of Rachel.

They are crying for their babies.

Nobody can cheer them up,

because their babies are dead.”*

* **2:15** Hosea 11:1 * **2:18** Genesis 35:16-19; Jeremiah 31:15

¹⁹ Some time later, Herod died. Then, in Egypt, Joseph had another dream. He heard God's angel messenger say,

²⁰ "Get up and take Mary and Jesus back to Israel country. The people that wanted to kill him are dead now."

²¹ So Joseph did what God's angel messenger told him. He got up, and he got Mary and Jesus, and they started to go back to Israel country.

²² But then somebody told him that Herod's son Arkelayus was the new big boss over the part of Israel called Judea, and Joseph was too frightened to go there.

Then he had another dream. God told him, "Go to Galilee country."

²³ So he took his family up north to Galilee. He got to the town called Nazareth, and he stayed there. A long time before that, one of God's men wrote about this, and it is in God's book. He wrote,

"People will say that God's special man is from Nazareth."*

And that happened after Joseph took his family to live at Nazareth.

3

John the Baptist got the people ready

¹ Many years later, while Jesus was still in Nazareth, John the Baptist started his work. He went to the bush in Judea country, and he started to tell everybody his message.

* **2:23** Mark 1:24; Luke 2:39; John 1:45

² He said, "Listen. God is going to show everyone how they can be in his family. So you have to stop doing bad things. You have to turn around and live God's way."*

³ John was the man that Isaiah wrote about, a long time ago. Isaiah was one of God's men, and God got him to write this in God's book, "A man will be out in the bush, and he will call out to people. He will say, 'You mob get ready. God is coming to this country, so you have to get ready for him. It is like when a big boss comes, and you have to make a good road for him.' "*

⁴ John wore rough clothes, made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt. He ate grasshoppers and bush honey.*

⁵ A lot of people went out to see John, and to listen to him. They went out from Jerusalem city, and from all of Judea country, and from all the country around the Jordan River.

⁶ And, after those people said they were sorry for the bad things they did, John took them through a special washing ceremony, that is, he baptised them in the Jordan River.

⁷ Some men came to that place to watch John baptise people. Some of them were from the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, and some of them were from the mob called Sadducees. John saw them and said, "You mob

* **3:2** Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15 * **3:3** Isaiah 40:3 * **3:4** 2 Kings 1:8

are bad, and you are tricky. You are just like a mob of cheeky snakes. Did somebody tell you that God is really angry with you, so you want to do something to stop him from punishing you?*

⁸ If you really are sorry for the bad things you did, and if you are turning around properly to live God's way, show us. If we see you doing good things, then we will know it is true.

⁹ But don't just say to yourselves, 'We are in Abraham's family, so we'll be all right.' Listen, God can turn these stones here into Abraham's family.*

¹⁰ So you look out. God is going to punish you. He is like a man lifting up an axe to cut the roots of a tree. You are like trees that haven't got good fruit, so men chop them down and throw them into a fire. God will punish you like that. He will throw you into a fire."*

¹¹ John kept on talking to the people. He said, "If you say you are sorry for the bad things you did, and if you turn to God, then I will baptise you with water. But somebody is coming soon, and he is more important than me. I'm not even good enough to carry his shoes. I'm just nothing. He will put the Holy Spirit in you, that is, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.

¹² You know the way a farmer gets all the seeds from the plants he grows. He hits the seed heads with a stick and throws them in the air, so that the seeds fall off the plants. Then he gathers all the seeds and puts them in his shed. But he burns

* **3:7** Matthew 12:34; 23:33 * **3:9** John 8:33 * **3:10** Matthew 7:19

all the rest. It is rubbish, and he burns it in a fire. Well, God is like that farmer. He's got that stick in his hand right now. If you turn around and live God's way, he will look after you. But if you don't, he will throw you in the fire that never goes out."

John baptised Jesus

¹³ At that time, Jesus left his home in Galilee country, and he went south to the Jordan River. Jesus wanted John to baptise him.

¹⁴ But John didn't agree with him. He said, "No. Don't come to me. I can't baptise you. You are better than me, so really, you have to baptise me."

¹⁵ But Jesus said, "We have to do it the way God wants. So now, while you are baptising people, you can baptise me too." Then John agreed with him.

¹⁶ So John baptised Jesus. And as Jesus came up out of the water, the sky opened up, and Jesus saw the spirit of God coming down like a pigeon, and landing on him.

¹⁷ And God talked from heaven. He said, "This is my son. I love him very much, and I'm very happy with him."*

4

The devil tried to trick Jesus

* **3:17** Genesis 22:2; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 12:18; 17:5; Luke 9:35

¹ Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the bush, and the devil, the boss over the bad spirits, tested him there, trying to trick him.*

² Jesus was there for 40 days, and he didn't eat anything, so he got very hungry.

³ At that time the devil came to him and said, "If you are the son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves of bread."

⁴ But Jesus told him, "No. I will not do that. You know what God says. These words are in his book,

'People don't live just by eating bread, but they live by every word that God says.' ""*

⁵ Then the devil took Jesus to God's special city, called Jerusalem, and he took him up to the top of the big ceremony house there.

⁶ The devil said, "If you are the son of God, jump off. You know, these words are in God's book too,

'God will tell his angel messengers to look after you, and they will hold you up with their hands,

so you will not even hurt your foot on a stone.' ""*

⁷ Jesus said, "No. I will not do that. You see, God says this too. These words are in his book, 'Don't do something stupid just to test God.' ""*

⁸ Then the devil took Jesus up to the top of a very high mountain. From there the devil showed him all the people of the world, in all their countries, with all their great things.

* **4:1** Hebrews 2:18; 4:15 * **4:4** Deuteronomy 8:3 * **4:6** Psalm 91:11-12 * **4:7** Deuteronomy 6:16

9 And the devil said, “If you will get down on your knees and show respect to me, then I will give you all of this, all of these people and all of these things.”

10 Jesus said to the devil, “No. I will not do that either. Satan, you go away from me now. This is what God says in his book, ‘You have to show respect to God.

He is the only God, so just do what he says.’ ”*

11 Then the devil went away, and God’s angel messengers came and took care of Jesus.

Jesus started his work

12 After that, Jesus heard that some soldiers grabbed John and put him in jail. So Jesus left Judea country and went back to Galilee country.*

13 He went to the town called Nazareth, and then he left that town and went to live in the town called Capernium. It was beside the big lake called Lake Galilee. It was in the country where the Zebulun tribe and the Naphtali tribe used to live.*

14 All that happened just like God says in his book. Isaiah was a man that told everyone God’s words, and a long time ago, he wrote this in God’s book,

15 “It will happen in the country that belongs to the Zebulun tribe and the Naphtali tribe. It is beside the sea, past the Jordan River, in Galilee country, where there are a lot of people that are not Jews.

* **4:10** Deuteronomy 6:13 * **4:12** Matthew 14:3; Mark 6:17;

Luke 3:19-20 * **4:13** John 2:12

16 The people there don't know much about God. It is like they are in the dark, but they will see a big bright light. They thought they were going to die, but a light will start to shine for them.”*

17 Then Jesus started to tell everybody, “Listen. God is going to show everyone how they can be in his family. So you have to stop doing bad things. You have to turn around and live God's way.”*

The first followers of Jesus

18 One day, Jesus walked along next to Lake Galilee, and he saw 2 men throwing a net into the water to catch fish. That was their job. One man was called Simon. He was also called Peter. And the other man was his brother Andrew.

19 Jesus said, “I want you 2 to come and follow me. I want you to stop catching fish. I'll give you another job. You will catch people for me.”

20 And straight away, they left their nets and followed him.

21 Then Jesus kept walking along next to the water, and he saw an old man called Zebedee and his 2 sons, James and John. They were getting their nets ready to catch fish. Like before, Jesus called out to James and John to stop their work and follow him.

22 They got up straight away. They left their father, and the boat, and they followed Jesus.

A lot of people followed Jesus

* 4:16 Isaiah 9:1-2 * 4:17 Matthew 3:2

²³ After that, Jesus went through all of Galilee country. He taught people in the Jewish meeting houses, and he told them the good news about God's family. And he made a lot of sick people better. They had all sorts of sickness.*

²⁴ Then people started to tell other people about Jesus, so that people as far away as Syria country heard about the things he did, and they all started to bring lots of sick people to Jesus. And Jesus made them all better, no matter what sort of sickness they had. Some of them used to fall down and shake a lot, and some of them couldn't move their arms or legs, and some of them had bad spirits in them. But Jesus made them all better.

²⁵ A big mob of people followed him everywhere he went. These people were from Galilee country, and from the country called *Ten Towns*, and from Jerusalem city, and from all over Judea country, and from the country east of the Jordan River.

5

If you do what God wants, you will be really happy later

¹ Jesus saw big mobs of people coming to him. So he went up a big hill, and he sat down there to teach them. His followers, the people that wanted to learn about God, they all went close to him, to listen to him.

² Then he started to teach them.

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

³ Jesus said, “Some people know that they need God very much. All right, God will take those people into his family, and they will be really happy.

⁴ Some people are very sad now, and they cry, but God will make them feel better, and they will be really happy.*

⁵ Some people know that they are weak, and they don’t try to be important. But later God will give them everything in the world, and they will be really happy.

⁶ Some people really want to live the right way, and they want other people to live the right way too. They think about that more than anything else, like they are really hungry and thirsty for it to happen. All right, God will give them what they want, and they will be really happy.

⁷ Some people feel sorry for other people, and they don’t do payback for the bad things those other people did. All right, God will do the same. He will feel sorry for those people that feel sorry for other people. He will not do payback to them for the bad things they did, and they will be really happy.

⁸ Some people never want to do bad things. These people will see God, and they will be really happy.*

⁹ Some people help other people to settle down, stop arguing, and agree with each other. God will tell those people, ‘You are my own kids.’ And they will be really happy.

* **5:4** Isaiah 61:2 * **5:8** Psalm 24:3-4

¹⁰ Some people do what is right, but some other people don't like it, and they make trouble for those good people. But God takes those good people into his family, and they will be really happy.

¹¹ And you too. Some people will not like you following me, and they will say bad things about you, and they will make trouble for you. Sometimes people will tell lies about you. But don't worry. Be really happy when they do that.*

¹² You see, if they do these bad things to you now, God will give you lots of good things later, in heaven. So you can be really happy, no matter what they do. Remember the stories from a long time ago, about the men that told everyone God's message. Some people did bad things to those men too.”*

Christians are like salt

¹³ Jesus said, “You people that follow me are like salt for everybody on the earth. You know, salt helps food taste good and stops it from rotting. Well, if you follow me properly, you will live in a way that helps people to be good. Yes, salt is good, but if it stops tasting like salt, then it is no good any more. Nobody can use it for anything. They chuck it away, and everyone walks on it. So don't be like that sort of salt. Don't stop following me.”

Christians have to be like a light for people

* 5:11 1 Peter 4:14 * 5:12 2 Chronicles 36:16; Acts 7:52

14 And Jesus said, “You people that follow me have to live the right way and show people the way to God. It is like you are a light for everybody in the world. You know, if people build houses up on a hill, then everyone can see them clearly. You are like those houses on a hill. Everyone can see you clearly. They can know if you are good, or if you are bad.*

15 Nobody ever lights a candle and then puts a bowl over it. No way. They put that candle up in a high place, so that its light shines out everywhere.*

16 You have to be like that candle. You have to let everyone see that you are following me. They will see all the good things you do, and they will say good things about God, your father in heaven. They will say, ‘God is really great.’ ”*

The law and the messages in God’s book are really important

17 Jesus kept on teaching them. He said, “You know the law that Moses wrote. Well, I didn’t come here to take away that law. And you know all the messages that God gave to his men, the messages that they wrote in his book for us. I didn’t come here to take away those messages either. But I came here to show that the law and those messages are right, and to make those things happen, just like those men wrote.

18 Listen. God’s book is really important. Everything in it will happen. You know, the earth

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

* 5:15 Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16; 11:33

* 5:16 1 Peter 2:12

and sky are always here. They don't change. Well, just like that, God's word and his laws will not change, not even a little bit. They will stay the same until everything in God's book happens.*

¹⁹ So if you think to yourself, 'I can break just one little rule,' and if you teach other people to think like that too, then later on, in God's family in heaven, nobody will respect you. They will say, 'You are no good.' But if you don't break any of God's rules, and if you teach other people to follow them too, then later on, in God's family in heaven, everyone will respect you. And they will say, 'You are really good.'

²⁰ I'm telling you this, if you don't do everything that God says, then you can't come into his family. You know that mob called Pharisees. They are really strong for our Jewish law. And you know the mob that teach our Jewish law. Well, you have to follow God's law better than all of that Pharisee mob and that law teacher mob."

Don't get angry

²¹ Jesus said, "You know, the teachers of God's law tell you what God told the people, a long time ago. They say, 'Don't murder anybody. If you murder somebody, then you have to go to court, and the judge will punish you.'*

²² But now I'm telling you this. Don't even get angry with anybody. That is bad too. If you are angry with somebody, God will be your judge,

* **5:18** Luke 16:17 * **5:21** Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17

and he will punish you. Or if you call somebody bad names, you will end up in God's court. And if you get really angry with somebody, and if you tell them, 'You are a stupid fool,' God will judge you for that, and he can send you into the big fire called hell."

Fix up problems with other people

²³ Jesus said to the people, "Suppose you go to give a gift to God, and you take it to God's ceremony house, but then you remember that somebody is upset with you about something.

²⁴ You have to leave your gift there at God's house, and you have to go and find that other person straight away. You have to tell them that you are sorry, and you have to fix up that problem with them, so that you can both be friends again. After that, you can go back and give your gift to God.

²⁵ If somebody blames you and says that you have done something wrong, and if they start to take you to court about it, then you have to talk to that person straight away, and fix up that problem. Both of you have to agree about what is right. Do that even while you are going along the road to the court. If you don't do that, then that person will blame you in the court, and the judge might agree with them and tell the police to grab you and put you in jail.

²⁶ And you will stay in jail until you give that other person all the money that you owe them. That's for sure."

Don't even think about doing bad things

27 Jesus said, “You know, the teachers of God’s law tell you this, ‘Don’t sleep with a woman that is not your wife, as if you are married to her.’* ”

28 But now I’m telling you this. If you look at a woman that is not your wife, and you think about sleeping with her, that is bad too. If you think about doing that, you are going wrong. Thinking about it is just as bad as doing it.

29 You see, if things in your life push you to go wrong, then you have to get rid of them, even if it is hard to do. Be careful about how you use your eyes. If you see something that gets you to go wrong, then stop looking. That might be hard to do, like you are pulling out your eye and throwing it away. But it is better to lose one eye here on the earth now, than to keep 2 eyes and go to the bad place called hell.* ”

30 And think about how you use your hand. If you do something with your hand that gets you to go wrong, then pull your hand away. That might be hard to do, like you are cutting off your hand and throwing it away. But it is better to lose one hand here on the earth now, than to keep 2 hands and go to hell.”*

Husbands and wives have to stay together

31 Then Jesus said, “And God’s law says, ‘If a man wants to leave his wife, then he can write a

* **5:27** Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18 * **5:29** Matthew 18:9;
Mark 9:47 * **5:30** Matthew 18:8; Mark 9:43

divorce letter and give it to her. Then they aren't married any more.*

³² But now I'm telling you this, husbands and wives have to stay married to each other. Only if a man's wife sleeps with another man, as if he is her husband, only then can her husband divorce her. But if a wife never does that, then her husband can't divorce her. If he divorces her, he is forcing her to marry another man and sleep with him, and that is wrong. And the man that marries her is doing wrong too.”*

Don't use God's name to get people to believe you

³³ Jesus said to the people, “You know, sometimes people promise something to somebody, and to get people to believe them, they say, ‘by God’. That shows that they want God to punish them if they don't do it. And the law teachers tell you that God said, ‘If you say, “by God”, then you have to do what you promised.’* ”

³⁴ But now I'm telling you this. If you promise something, don't say, ‘by God’, to get people to believe you. And don't say, ‘by heaven’, when you promise something. God is the boss in heaven, so that is just like saying, ‘by God’.*

³⁵ And don't say, ‘by the earth’, when you promise something. God controls the earth too. And don't say, ‘by Jerusalem’, when you promise

* **5:31** Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:7; Mark 10:4 * **5:32** Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

* **5:33** Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21

* **5:34** James 5:12; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 23:22

something. Jerusalem is God's special city. He is the big boss there.*

³⁶ And don't say, 'by my head', when you promise something. You can't change the colour of even one hair on your head, to turn it black or turn it white.

³⁷ Look, just say what is properly true. When *yes* is the true answer, just say, 'Yes.' And when *no* is the true answer, just say, 'No.' The devil, the boss over the bad spirits, he tries to get you to say more than that, but don't do it. Don't say anything more to try to get people to believe you."

Don't do payback

³⁸ Jesus kept on talking to them. He said, "You know, the teachers of God's law tell you this, 'If somebody hits your eye and blinds it, then this is the payback, you have to hit one of that person's eyes and blind it.' And the teachers of God's law say, 'If somebody knocks out your tooth, then this is the payback, you have to knock out one of that person's teeth.' That's what they say.*

³⁹ But now I'm telling you this, don't do payback at all. If somebody does something bad to you, don't do payback to them. Somebody might hit you on one side of your face. All right, let them hit you on the other side of your face too.

* **5:35** Isaiah 66:1; Psalm 48:2 * **5:38** Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21

⁴⁰ Or if somebody takes you to court to get your shirt, all right, give that person your shirt, and give them your coat too.

⁴¹ Or a soldier might tell you, 'Carry my bag for a kilometre.' All right, help him more than that. Carry it for 2 kilometres.

⁴² Or if somebody asks you for something, give it to them. Or if they want to borrow something from you, let them have it."

You have to love everyone

⁴³ Jesus said, "You know, those teachers tell you this, 'Love your friends and hate your enemies.'"

⁴⁴ But I'm telling you to do more than that. You have to love your enemies too. And if anyone makes trouble for you, pray to God and ask him to be good to them.

⁴⁵ If you do that, you will be just like your father in heaven. He gets the sun to shine on everybody, bad people as well as good people. And he gets the rain to fall on everybody, good people and bad people too.

⁴⁶ You see, if you only love the people that love you, that is nothing. Even bad people do that. God will not give you anything for only loving people that love you.

⁴⁷ And if you only talk to your friends, that is nothing. Everybody talks to their friends, even people that don't believe in God do that. So if you only talk to your friends, you are no better than those people.

* **5:43** Leviticus 19:18

⁴⁸ So this is what I say. You have to be properly good, just like your father in heaven is properly good.”*

6

Don't do things just to get people to think you are good

¹ Jesus kept on teaching the people. He said, “If you only do good things so that people will see you and think you are good, God will not do good to you. Instead, you have to do good things and keep them secret. Then your father in heaven will do good things for you.*

² You know, there are some people that want everyone to think they are good, even though they are not good. So whenever they give something to help a poor person, they do it in front of the meeting house or on a busy street, so that people will see it and say that they are good. But listen, that is all those people will get. God will not give them anything good for doing that. Don't be like them. ³ Whenever you give something to help somebody, don't tell anyone else about it, not even your best friend.

⁴ Keep it a secret. You know, God, your father, always sees what you do in secret, and he will be properly good to you for doing that.”

Pray the right way

⁵ Jesus said, “Don't pray like those people that want everyone to think they are good, even

* **5:48** Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 18:13 * **6:1** Matthew 23:5

though they are not good. They like to stand up and pray in the meeting houses and on the busy street corners, so that lots of people can see them praying. They want to hear people say, 'That's a good person.' But listen, that is all those people will get. God will not give them anything good for doing that."*

⁶ And Jesus said, "I'll tell you the right way to pray. Go away from other people to a place where you can be alone, like go into a little room in your house and close the door. There you can pray to God, your father. He is in that secret place. And he sees what you do. He will listen to you, and he will be properly good to you for respecting him.

⁷ And when you pray, don't keep on talking on and on, with lots of words that don't mean anything. People that don't know God, they do that. They think that if they talk a lot, God will hear them. But they are wrong.

⁸ Don't be like them. God, your father, knows what you need already, even before you ask him.

⁹ So pray like this,
'God, our father, you live in heaven.
We want everyone to respect you.

¹⁰ We want you to be everyone's boss.
We want everyone in the world to do what you
want,
just like everyone in heaven does what you want.

¹¹ Please give us the food that we need each day.

¹² Please don't punish us for the bad things that
we did,

* **6:5** Luke 18:10-14

just like we don't do payback to the people that did bad things to us.

¹³ Don't let anything push us to do bad things.

And keep us safe from the devil, the boss over the bad spirits.' "

¹⁴ Then Jesus said, "If you don't do payback to other people for the bad things they do to you, God, your father in heaven, will not do payback to you for the bad things you do.

¹⁵ But if you do payback to other people, your father will do payback to you. He will punish you for the bad things you do."*

Don't stop eating just to get people to think you are good

¹⁶ Jesus kept on teaching the people. Some of those people used to stop eating for a while, so they can think about God and respect him. Jesus said, "Whenever you stop eating for a while, make sure you look the same as you always look. You know, there are some people that want everyone to think they are good, even though they are not good. Whenever they stop eating food to respect God, they want everyone to know what they are doing, so they let their faces get dirty, and they try to look sad. They want people to say, 'That's a good person.' But listen, that is all those people will get. God will not give them anything good for doing that. Don't be like them.

¹⁷ When you stop eating for God, just be normal and look the same as you always look. Wash your face and comb your hair.

* **6:15** Mark 11:25-26

18 Then nobody will know that you have stopped eating. But God your father knows. Nobody can see him, but he sees everything you do. He will see what you do in a secret way, and he will be properly good to you for it.”

Keep your good things in heaven

19-20 Jesus said, “If you have a lot of money and other good things here in this world, don’t try to keep them all for yourself. No. But give them away to people that need them. When you do that, it’s like you give them to God, and he will keep them for you in heaven. You see, here in this world you might lose them. There are things here that might eat them, like grubs or white ants. Or your good things might go rusty. Or somebody might steal them. But nothing will eat them in heaven, and they will not go rusty in heaven, and nobody there will steal them.*

21 You see, you will always think about the place where you keep your money and your good things. If they are here in this world, you will only live for the things of this world. But if you give them to God in heaven, then you will live for God.”

God can shine his light for you

22 Then Jesus told them this picture story. He said, “Your eyes are like lights for your body. They show you where to go. If you always want to look at good things, then you will think about good things, and you will live God’s way. It will

* 6:19-20 James 5:2-3

be like God is shining his light for you, to help you live his way.

²³ But if you always want to look at bad things, then you will think about bad things, and you will be spiritually blind, and you will not live God's way. It will be like you are living in the dark. And if you are spiritually blind, with no light from God, it will be really bad for you."

You can't work for both God and money

²⁴ And Jesus told them another picture story. He said, "You can't work for 2 bosses at the same time. If you try to do that, then you will only like one boss, and you will always work properly for him. But you will not like the other boss, and you will never work properly for him. You see, you can't have God as your boss, and money as your boss, both at the same time."

Trust God, and don't worry about the things you need

²⁵ Jesus said, "So I'm telling you, even though you need some things to stay alive, don't worry about them. Don't worry about what you will eat or drink. Don't worry about the clothes you will wear. Your life is more important than food, and your body is more important than clothes.

²⁶ Think about the birds. They don't put seeds into the ground to grow a garden, to get their food from it. And they don't build sheds to keep their food in. But God, your father, gives them food anyway. And you are much more special to God than birds, so you can trust him to give you the food you need.

²⁷ And don't worry about how long you will live, or when you will die. No matter how much you worry about it, you will not live any longer, not even one day longer.

²⁸⁻²⁹ And don't worry about your clothes. Listen. You know the story about Solomon. He was a very rich man, and he lived a long time ago. He wore very pretty clothes. Well, think about the wild flowers in the bush. They don't work hard to get clothes for themselves. But those wild flowers are more pretty than Solomon's clothes.*

³⁰ You see, we might think the grass and the wild flowers are rubbish, and anybody might burn them up at any time. But God makes them very pretty anyway. So God will give you the clothes you need. You have to trust God properly, and he will take care of you.

³¹ So don't keep on asking yourself, 'Where will I get my food? And where will I get my drink? And where will I get clothes to wear?'

³² Listen, God is your father in heaven, and he knows that you need these things. People that don't know God are always worrying about those things, but you shouldn't worry about them.

³³ Think, instead, about the things that are good for God's family, and try to do the good things that God wants you to do. Then God will give you all those other things that you need.

³⁴ So don't worry about how to get what you will need tomorrow. Each day has enough

* **6:28-29** 1 Kings 10:4-7; 2 Chronicles 9:3-6

problems of its own. When tomorrow comes, then you can think about those things.”

7

Don't tell other people they are bad

¹ Jesus said to the people, “Don't say to anybody, ‘You are bad,’ and then God will not say to you, ‘You are bad.’”

² God will judge you the same way as you judge other people. If you are easy on other people, God will be easy on you. But if you are hard on other people, God will be hard on you.*

³⁻⁵ You shouldn't always try to tell other people they are doing bad things. First, you have to think about all the bad things that you do, and you have to stop doing those bad things. Then maybe you can help other people to stop doing bad things too. Maybe you are doing lots of bad things, and your friend is just doing one little bad thing. If you are still doing lots of bad things, you can't help them stop doing that little bad thing. It's like this. All those bad things you do are making you blind, like you have a big bit of wood in your eye. And maybe your friend is just doing one little thing wrong, like they just have a little splinter of wood in their eye. You have to take that big bit of wood out of your eye, so that you can see properly, then maybe you can help your friend get that little splinter out of their eye.”

⁶ Jesus kept on talking to them. He said, “There are some things that belong to God. Don't give

* 7:2 Mark 4:24

those things to people that don't like God. Those people are like dogs. If you give them God's things, they will rubbish them, and then they will turn around and bite you, just like dogs. And some of God's things are really special. Don't give them to people that don't know that those things are special. They will rubbish those things. They will be just like pigs that don't know good things. They will walk on them and push them into the mud."

Keep asking God, and he will give you what you need

⁷ Jesus kept on teaching the people. He said, "Whenever you need something, you have to keep asking God for it, and he will give it to you. Keep looking for whatever you need, and God will let you find it. Maybe something will block you, so you can't get what you need, like there is a door that is shut and you can't get through it. Well, then keep on knocking at that door, and God will open it for you.

⁸ 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.

⁹ It's like this. If your son asks you for some bread, will you give him a stone? No way.

¹⁰ Or if your son asks you for a fish, will you give him a cheeky snake? No way.

¹¹ You see, you might be bad, but you give good things to your kids. Well, your father in heaven is a lot better than you. He is always good, so he

will always give good things to people that ask him.”

This is what God's law is all about

¹² Jesus said, “You know the way you want other people to treat you. Well, you have to treat other people that same way. You have to live like that all the time. That is a short way of saying the message that is in God’s book. It is what God’s law is all about, and it is what God got his men to write about in his book. You have to always treat other people the same way that you want people to treat you.”*

You have to follow the right track

¹³⁻¹⁴ Then Jesus told them this picture story about how to live. He said, “It is like there are 2 tracks in life, and each track has its own gate. One gate is big and wide, but the other gate is a narrow little gate. It is hard to get through that little gate, and only a few people get through it. Listen, you have to go through that little gate. If you want to live with God for ever, you have to pick that little gate and go through it, and you have to follow its track. Its track is a narrow little track, and it is hard to walk on. But if you go that way, you will live with God for ever. The other gate is wide and easy to go through, and its track is wide and easy to walk on. A lot of people go that way. They go through that wide gate and walk along that easy track. But that track goes to the wrong place, and God will finish up those people.”

* **7:12** Luke 6:31

Be careful of people that say they have a message from God

¹⁵ Then Jesus told them, “Always be careful. Don’t believe everybody. There are some people that reckon they are telling you a message from God, but they are liars. They try to get you to think they are like sheep, like they are soft and will not give you any trouble. But really, they are like wild dingoes. They will give you trouble, like dingoes hurt sheep. If you believe their words, then you will get lots of trouble. ¹⁶ If you look at the things these people do, you can find out if they are talking true words, or if they are liars.”

Then Jesus told a picture story. He said, “Think about the trees that give us fruit to eat. We can’t get good fruit from rubbish trees. We can’t get grapes from rubbish plants.

¹⁷ Good fruit grows on a good tree. Rubbish fruit grows on a rubbish tree.

¹⁸ A good tree can’t make bad fruit. A bad tree can’t make good fruit.

¹⁹ If a farmer has a tree that only makes rubbish fruit, he will cut down that tree and burn it in a fire.*

²⁰ So, to find out if a person is good or bad, look at what they do. A good person does good things. And a bad person does bad things.”*

God will only have the people that do what he wants

²¹ And Jesus said, “Lots of people call me, ‘My leader and my boss,’ but some of them will never

* **7:19** Matthew 3:10; Luke 3:9 * **7:20** Matthew 12:33

be in God's family. God will only have people that do what he wants them to do. God will have those people in his family, but not the other people. God is my father in heaven.

²² One day, God will get me to judge everybody, and some people will say to me, 'You are my leader and my boss. We used your power to tell people your messages, and to force bad spirits out of people, and to do a lot of other great things.'

²³ Then I will tell them, 'I don't know you mob. You are bad. You don't do what God wants. So get away from me.' ”*

Be wise and do what Jesus says

²⁴ Then Jesus told them 2 more picture stories. He said, "If you listen to my message, and if you do what I say, you are like a wise man that built his house on hard rock.

²⁵ Then a lot of rain came and made big flood waters that flowed along really fast, and that water hit that house, and strong winds blew hard against that house. But that house didn't fall down. He built it on hard rock, so it stayed strong. You see, if you do what I say, you will be like the wise man in that picture story.

²⁶ But if you hear my message and you don't do what I say, you are like a stupid man that built his house on soft sand.

²⁷ Then a lot of rain came and made big flood waters that flowed along really fast, and that water hit that house, and strong winds blew hard against that house. Then that house fell down,

* 7:23 Psalm 6:8

and it broke up into little bits. You see, if you don't do what I say, you will be like the stupid man in that picture story."

²⁸ Then Jesus finished talking to that big mob of people. They were really surprised as they listened to what he told them.

²⁹ You see, they knew he told them God's word properly. He knew what he was talking about. Their law teachers never talked like that.*

(We have not yet translated 8:1-4. You can read that story in Mark 1:40-44.)

8

A Roman army boss trusted Jesus properly

⁵ Jesus went to a town called Capernium. There was a Roman army boss there. He was the boss over 100 soldiers. He went to Jesus and strongly asked him for help.

⁶ He said, "Sir, my young work-man is lying in bed at home. He can't move, and he is hurting a lot."

⁷ Jesus said, "I will go with you and make him better."

⁸ But the army boss said to Jesus, "Sir, I'm not good enough for you, so it will not be right for you to go into my house. But you can make him better from right here. You can tell that sickness to stop, and leave my work-man, and then he will get better straight away.

⁹ I know it will happen. You see, I know about bosses. I have a boss over me, and I'm the boss

* **7:29** Mark 1:22; Luke 4:32

over a lot of soldiers. If I tell a soldier to go somewhere, he goes there. And if I tell one of them to come to me, he comes to me. And if I tell my work-men to do something, they do it. Well, I believe that you are a powerful boss. If you just tell that sickness to go, then my work-man will get better straight away.”

¹⁰ Jesus heard what that Roman army boss said, and he was very surprised. He said to the people that were following him, “Listen. This man is not one of you Israel mob, but he trusts me more than any of you Israel people.”

¹¹ Then Jesus told them about something that will happen one day. He said, “Listen. You know that God picked you Israel mob to be his special people. But one day, a lot of other people will come from everywhere in the world, and they will join God’s family in heaven. God will put on a big dinner there for his family, and these other people will sit down and eat it with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. They are your grand-fathers that lived a long time ago.*

¹² But a lot of Israel people will not eat any of it. God will grab them and chuck them out. They will be very upset and angry. They will cry a lot, and they will be so angry that they will bite their teeth together.”*

¹³ Then Jesus said to the army boss, “You can go back home now. You are trusting me to make your work-man better, so I am doing it.” And

* **8:11** Luke 13:29 * **8:12** Matthew 22:13; 25:30; Luke 13:28

right then, at that same time, that army boss's work-man got better.

(We have not yet translated 8:14-17. You can read that story in Mark 1:29-34.)

If we follow Jesus, it might be hard for us

¹⁸ At another time Jesus saw a big mob of people coming around him, so he told his followers to take him in a boat to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹ After they got there, a Jewish law teacher went to Jesus and said, "Teacher, I want to be one of your followers. I will go everywhere with you."

²⁰ Jesus said to him, "Wild dogs have places where they can sleep, and wild birds have nests they can sleep in. But I haven't got a home to lie down and sleep in, even though I'm God's special man from heaven."

²¹ There was another man that was already a follower of Jesus. He said to Jesus, "Sir, 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."

²² Jesus said to him, "No. You come and follow me now. You see, some people are spiritually dead, so they can bury the dead bodies of their own people. But you come and follow me."

(We have not yet translated 8:23—9:26. You can read those stories in Mark 2:1-22; 4:35-41; 5:1-43.)

9

Jesus made 2 blind men see again

²⁷ Jesus was walking along, and 2 blind men followed him. They kept on shouting to him, "You belong to David's family, and you are the special man that God promised to send. Please, feel sorry for us, and help us."

²⁸ Jesus went into a house, and the blind men went to him. He asked them, "Do you believe that I can make your eyes good, so you will see again?"

The men said, "Yes, sir, we believe that you can do that."

²⁹ Then Jesus touched the men's eyes and said, "You believed in me, so you will see again."

³⁰ Then straight away, those men could see again.

Jesus told them strongly, "Don't tell anybody about this."

³¹ But they went away and told everybody in that country that Jesus made their eyes better.

Jesus forced the bad spirit out of a man that couldn't talk

³² Jesus and his followers started to walk along the road away from that place. Then some people brought a man to Jesus that had a bad spirit living inside him, so he couldn't talk.

³³ Jesus said to that bad spirit, "Get out of this man." Then the bad spirit went out of that man, and he started to talk.

Everybody there was very surprised. They said, “Nothing like that ever happened before in our country, called Israel.”

(We have not yet translated 9:34-36. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 1:14-15; 1:39; 3:22; 6:34.)

Jesus needs workers

³⁷ Jesus said to his followers, “Lots of people need to hear about me. They are ready to listen, but nobody is telling them. They are like a big crop of food plants on a farm that are ready for the workers to get their seeds for food. But there are only a few workers. The farmer needs a lot of workers to bring all those seeds into the shed, and in the same way I need a lot of workers to tell people about me, and bring them to God. ³⁸ So you have to ask God to send more workers out to tell everyone about me, just like the farmer has to ask for more workers for his crop.”*

(We have not yet translated 10:1-23. You can read those stories and most of those messages in Mark 3:13-19; 6:7-13; 13:9-13.)

10

Don't be frightened of people that will hurt you because you follow Jesus

²⁴⁻²⁵ Jesus told his followers, “You know about students and teachers. The teacher is more important than any of the students. The students

* **9:38** Luke 10:2

have to learn to be like their teacher. And I am your teacher, so you have to learn to be like me.*

And you know about workers and their boss. The boss is more important than any of the workers. The workers have to learn to be like their boss. And I am your boss, so you have to learn to be like me.

People will treat you the same way as they treat me. I am your leader, and they lie about me. They call me the boss over the bad spirits. And you are my followers, so they will say bad things about you too, more than they say about me.

²⁶ But don't be frightened of them. You see, people might do things secretly now, but later God will let everyone know what they do. People hide things now, but later God will show them to everybody.*

²⁷ And think about the message I tell you now. Sometimes I tell you something when nobody else is here. I might even just say it quietly in your ear. But later on, I want you to tell my message to everyone in the world. If you can, get up on a high place, and shout my words out loud, for lots of people to hear.

²⁸ Don't be frightened of those people that can only kill your body. They can't kill your soul. But you have to listen to God. If you don't do what he says, you have to be frightened. He can finish up your body, and then he can also finish up your soul too, in that bad place called hell.

* **10:24-25** Matthew 9:34; 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 6:40; 11:15; John 13:16; 15:20 * **10:26** Mark 4:22; Luke 8:17

²⁹ Think about those little birds called sparrows. They don't cost very much. You can buy them for a few dollars. But God remembers each one of them anyway. And if one of them falls down to the ground, God knows about it.

³⁰⁻³¹ Well, you are more important to God than a big mob of those birds, so don't be frightened. He knows you properly. He even knows how many hairs you have on your head. So he will only let things happen to you that will be good for you."

Follow Jesus properly

³² Jesus said, "If you tell everyone that you are one of my followers, I will tell God, my father in heaven, that you are one of my followers.

³³ But if you tell everyone that you are not one of my followers, I will tell God, my father in heaven, that I don't know you, and I will tell him that you are not one of my followers.*

³⁴ Don't think that I came into the world to get everyone to agree with each other. No. People will not agree about me, and some people will fight the people that they don't agree with. It will be like this,

³⁵⁻³⁶ Maybe your own family will not want me, and they will turn against you and be your enemies.

A man will be the enemy of his father.

A daughter will be the enemy of her mother.

A woman will be the enemy of her mother-in-law.*

* **10:33** 2 Timothy 2:12 * **10:35-36** Micah 7:6

³⁷ You see, you have to love me more than you love your own father and mother. Then it is all right for you to be my follower. And you have to love me more than you love your own son or daughter. Then it is all right for you to be my follower. If you don't love me like that, you are not the right person to be my follower.

³⁸ If you want to follow me properly, you have to stop thinking only about yourself. You have to live like me. You have to be ready to die, yes, to die like a criminal on a cross, just like me.*

³⁹ If you only want to look after your own life here on earth, you will lose it. You will not live with me for ever. But if you are ready to give up your life here, then you will find real life, and you will live with me for ever.”*

(We have not yet translated 10:40-42. You can read some of those messages in Mark 8:34-35; 9:37, 41.)

11

Jesus talked about John the Baptist

¹ Jesus finished talking to his 12 special workers, then he went around the towns in Galilee country. He talked to people and taught them more about God.

² At that time, John the Baptist was in jail. But people told him about all the things that

* **10:38** Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 * **10:39** Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25

Jesus was doing. So John sent some of his own followers to ask Jesus some questions.

³ They went to Jesus and said to him, “John the Baptist has sent us to you. He wants us to ask you, ‘Are you the special man that God has sent to us? Or do we have to start looking around for somebody else?’ ”

⁴ Jesus said, “Go back and tell John what you see here.

⁵ Some people were blind, but now they can see. Some people were crippled, but now they can walk. Some people had a bad skin sickness, but now their skin is good again. Some people were deaf, but now they can hear. Some people were dead, but now they are alive again. And tell John that you heard us telling the good news to poor people.*

⁶ Maybe I’m not the sort of person you thought God would send, but just trust me anyway, and God will make you happy.”

⁷ Then the followers of John went away, and Jesus started to talk to all the people. He talked to them about John. He said, “You know, you went out into the bush to see John. What sort of man did you think you would see? You didn’t go out there to see a man that is weak, like grass that goes any way the wind pushes it.

⁸ And you didn’t go out there to see a man wearing pretty clothes. No, men that wear pretty clothes live in the town, in good big houses.

* **11:5** Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1

⁹ Did you go out there to see a man that tells people God's messages? Yes, John the Baptist told you God's message, and he did something even more important than that.

¹⁰ You see, a long time ago, God got one of his men to write about somebody that will get everything ready. God's man wrote about John the Baptist. We can read it in God's book. This is what it says,

'God will send a man to get everything ready for God's special person.

That man will talk about God's special person, and he will make a way for people to listen to him.' **

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "Listen. John the Baptist is a very important man. He is greater than any other man that ever lived. But everyone in God's family is more important than John the Baptist.

¹² You know, John started to teach some time ago, and from that time until now, God's family has been getting bigger. There are people that really want to be friends with God, and they have been trying hard to get into his family.

¹³ You see, before John came, God told his words and his laws to his men, and they wrote them in God's book. And you know, that was a long time ago, but they wrote about the things that will happen now, at this time.*

¹⁴ Look. Try to believe this. They wrote about John, but they didn't use that name for him.

* **11:10** Malachi 3:1 * **11:13** Luke 16:16

They called him *Elijah*.”*

¹⁵ And Jesus said, “You’ve got ears, so you have to listen to me properly, and take notice of my words.”

¹⁶ Then Jesus said, “Now I’ll talk about you people that are alive today and I’ll tell you what you are like. You are like kids that are playing in the street. Some kids say to the other kids,

¹⁷ ‘We played happy music for you, but you didn’t dance. So we sang a sad song, but you didn’t cry. No matter what we do, you say we are wrong.’

¹⁸ Those kids are a picture of you mob. You are just like those kids. You rubbish God’s people no matter what they do. You see, John the Baptist didn’t go to parties and eat lots of good food, and he didn’t drink wine. But you rubbished him and said, ‘He’s got a bad spirit living inside him.’

¹⁹ But sometimes I go to parties and eat good food, and sometimes I drink wine, and even though I’m God’s special man from heaven, you rubbish me too. You say, ‘He eats too much, and he drinks too much. He’s a friend of those bad men that get tax money from people and give it to the Roman government, and he’s a friend of other bad people that don’t follow the law properly.’ But really, John and me, we are both wise. And you can know if somebody is wise or not. Just look at what they do, and see if they do good things or not.”

* **11:14** Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-13; Mark 9:11-13

(We have not yet translated 11:20-24. You can read that message in Luke 10:13-15.)

God shows things to people that know they are not smart

²⁵ At that time, Jesus prayed to God. He said, "Father, you are the biggest boss. You are the boss over everything in the sky and everything on the earth. There are some people here that reckon they are smart, and they reckon they understand everything. And there are other people that are just like little kids. They know that they are not smart. Thank you for showing what your message means to those people that are like kids. And thank you for not showing it to those people that reckon they are smart.

²⁶ Yes, Father, that is how you wanted to do it."

²⁷ Then Jesus told the people, "God, my father, gave me everything, so I can teach people all about him. You see, I am God's son, and my father knows me properly. Nobody else knows me properly. And I know my father properly. I pick some people, and I show them what my father is like, but nobody else knows God properly."*

Jesus is good to his workers

²⁸ Then Jesus said to the people, "Come to me, all of you mob that are tired. You did a lot of ceremony things to get God to save you, but that is not the right way. It's like you worked hard, and you carried a lot of heavy things, and then you got too tired. Look, instead of that, just come

* **11:27** John 3:35; 1:18; 10:15

and work for me, and I will let you rest really good.

²⁹ Be my follower and work for me. Listen to the things I teach you, and you will feel good inside yourselves, like your spirit is resting. You see, I am not a big tough boss. I will be easy on you.*

³⁰ I will never ask you to do things that are too hard for you.”

(We have not yet translated 12:1-15a. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 2:23—3:6.)

12

One of God's men wrote about Jesus

¹⁵ Big mobs of people followed Jesus. Some of them were sick, and he made them better.

¹⁶ But he told them straight, “Don’t go and tell other people about me.”

¹⁷ A long time ago, God got his man called Isaiah to write about this, and it is in God’s book. It happened just like Isaiah said. This is what he wrote,

¹⁸ “This is the man that God picked to work for himself.

God loves him, and he makes God very happy.

God will put his spirit in him,

and he will tell the people in other nations that God is right and fair.

¹⁹ He will not fight with anyone or shout at people.

* **11:29** Jeremiah 6:16

Nobody will hear him shouting in the streets.

²⁰ Some people are weak, like a bit of grass that is almost broken, and some people can't help themselves, like a candle wick that has almost gone out.

He will not forget those people, but he will help them to get strong.

He will keep on being right and fair to everyone, until people are fair to each other too.

²¹ And people everywhere will believe that he can save them.”*

(We have not yet translated 12:22-37. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 3:20-30 and Luke 6:43-45.)

The Pharisee mob asked Jesus to do something powerful

³⁸ One day, some Jewish law teachers, and some of the Pharisee mob, that were strong for the Jewish law, they went to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want to see you do something powerful. That will show us that God sent you.”*

³⁹ Jesus said, “You mob that are alive today are really bad. You turned away from God. But now you want me to show you something powerful, right? No. I will not do that. The only powerful thing you will see is the same thing that God did to Jonah. He was one of God's men.*

⁴⁰ Think about that story from a long time ago. A big fish swallowed Jonah, and he stayed inside

* **12:21** Isaiah 42:1-4

* **12:38** Matthew 16:1; Luke 11:16

* **12:39** Matthew 16:4

that fish for 3 days. And just like that, I will stay in the ground for 3 days. I am God's special man from heaven.*

⁴¹ Jonah went to the people that lived in the city called Nineveh, and he told them God's message. Those people listened to him, and they stopped doing bad things and turned to God. Well, later, on the day when God will judge everyone, that Nineveh mob will get up and tell you mob here that you are wrong. You see, that Nineveh mob listened to Jonah. And I am greater than Jonah, but you mob don't listen properly to me. You don't turn to God, and you don't stop doing bad things.*

⁴² And think about the story about the woman from Sheba. She was the big boss over that country. One day, she heard about Solomon. He was the big boss over our country. She heard that he was a very wise man, so she came here to listen to the good things he said. Well, later, on the day when God will judge everyone, that woman will get up and tell you mob here that you are stupid. You see, she came a long way from her country just to listen to Solomon. And I am more wise than Solomon, but you mob don't want to listen to me.”*

Bad spirits come back

⁴³ And Jesus said, “When a bad spirit goes out of a person, it goes around in dry country looking

* **12:40** Jonah 1:17 * **12:41** Jonah 3:5 * **12:42** 1 Kings 10:1-10;
2 Chronicles 9:1-12

for a new place to live. But it doesn't find a good place.

⁴⁴ So it says to itself, 'I will go back to the place where I lived before.' Then it goes back to that person, and it finds the place is good, empty, and clean.

⁴⁵ Then the bad spirit goes out and gets 7 other bad spirits that are worse than itself. And they all go into the person, and they live there. Then that person has more bad spirits than before, so that person is worse than before. Listen, I'm talking about you mob here today. You don't listen to me, so you are worse now than you were before I came."

(We have not yet translated 12:46—13:23. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 3:31-35; 4:1-20.)

13

Jesus told a story about some rubbish plants

²⁴ Then Jesus told the people another picture story. He said, "This story shows you something about God's family.

A farmer planted some good food seeds in his garden.

²⁵ But there was a bad man that didn't like that farmer. One night, when everyone was asleep, that bad man went to the farmer's garden and planted some rubbish plant seeds in it, beside the good seeds. Then that bad man went away.

²⁶ The good seeds grew into good plants, but at the same time the rubbish plants started to

grow there too. Those rubbish plants look like the good plants when they are young, but when they get big we can't eat their seeds. They are too cheeky.

²⁷ So the farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Boss, you planted good food seeds in that ground. How come a lot of rubbish plants are growing there too?'

²⁸ The farmer said, 'I reckon there is a bad man that doesn't like me, and he planted those rubbish plants.'

The workers said, 'Do you want us to go and pull up those rubbish plants?'

²⁹ The farmer said, 'No, don't do that. Those plants are all mixed together, so if you pull up the rubbish plants, then you will pull up some of the good food plants with them.'

³⁰ No. Just let them all grow up, the good plants and the rubbish plants together. Later, when the right time comes, I will get some men to get the good seed food. But I will talk to them before they do that job. I will tell them to cut down the rubbish plants first, and take them away, and burn them. After that, they will get all the good seed food and bring it into my shed.' "

(We have not yet translated 13:31-35. You can read some of those stories and messages in Mark 4:30-32.)

Jesus told his followers what the story about the rubbish plants means

³⁶ Then Jesus went into a house, away from all the people. And his followers went to him and

said, "Please tell us what that story means, that picture story about the rubbish plants and the garden."

³⁷ Jesus said to them, "I'm God's special man from heaven, and I'm like the farmer in that story. I'm like the man that planted good food seeds in a garden.

³⁸ That garden is like the world. The good food seeds are like the people that belong to God. The rubbish plant seeds are like the people that belong to the devil, the boss over the bad spirits.

³⁹ The bad man that planted those rubbish seeds in the garden is like the devil. The time to get all the good seed food is like the time for the end of the world. The workers that cut down the plants are like God's angel messengers.

⁴⁰ And in the story the workers cut down the rubbish plants and burned them in the fire. That is a picture of what will happen at the end of the world.

⁴¹ You see, I'm God's special man from heaven, and at the end of the world, I will send out God's angel messengers. They will get the people that belong to the devil. They will get all the people that don't belong in God's family. Those people are the ones that break God's law, and they make other people do bad things.

⁴² The angels will chuck all those bad people into a big fire. Those people will cry, and they will be so angry that they will bite their teeth together.

⁴³ But at that time God will show everyone that the good people are really great. It will be like

they are shiny, like the sun. And they will be in the family of God, their father.”

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

Jesus told 2 stories to show us that God’s family is very good

⁴⁴ Jesus told his followers another picture story. He said, “This story shows you more about God’s family.

A man buried a lot of gold in the ground, to hide it. Some time later, another man found that gold, but he didn’t own the land, so he couldn’t get it for himself. So he buried it again. Then he went away, and he sold everything that he owned, to get some money. Then he bought that land. After that, he got all that gold for himself, and he was really happy. Well, if you find out how to get into God’s family, it is like you find a lot of gold.”

⁴⁵ Jesus talked some more. He said, “This is another picture story that shows you about God’s family. There was a man that used to buy things, and then take them to another place and sell them again at a higher price. That was his job. One day, he was looking for beautiful pearls to buy.

⁴⁶ He found a really good and beautiful pearl, but its price was very high. So he sold everything that he owned, to get enough money for it. Then he bought that very good pearl. Well, if you find

out how to get into God's family, it is like you find a very good pearl."

Jesus told a story about a fishing net, to show more about God's family

⁴⁷ Then Jesus said, "This is another picture story that shows you about God's family. Some fishermen threw their fishing net into the water and caught a lot of fish in it. There were all sorts of fish in that net.

⁴⁸ Then they dragged it up on to the land, and sat down, and sorted out the fish. They put the good fish into baskets to keep them, and they chucked the bad fish away. ⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰ That's what it will be like when God will finish up this world. His angel workers will come and sort everybody out. They will save good people, and they will chuck the bad people into a big fire. Those people will cry a lot, and they will be so angry that they will bite their teeth together."

Teachers in God's family use both new and old messages from God

⁵¹ Then Jesus asked his followers, "Do you understand all these things?"

They said, "Yes, we do."

⁵² Then Jesus said, "Every teacher of our Jewish law that joins God's family will teach new messages from God as well as old messages. Every teacher of God's word is like a man that owns a big house. That man has a store-room in that house, where he keeps his very special things. Sometimes he brings those things out to

show to his friends. He shows them new things, as well as old things.”

(We have not yet translated 13:53—17:23. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 6:1—9:32.)

17

Jesus paid tax money for God's ceremony house

²⁴ Jesus and his followers went and stayed in the town called Capernium. There were some men that worked in God's ceremony house. Every year, all the Jewish people had to pay tax money to those men. They used that money to look after God's ceremony house. Those men went to Peter and asked him, “Is your teacher going to pay the tax money for God's ceremony house?”*

²⁵ Peter said, “Yes.”

Then Peter went into the house where they were staying, to talk to Jesus about it. But Jesus talked first. He said, “Peter, think about the big bosses in this world. They take money from people, but what do you reckon? Do they take it from their own mob, or do they take it from other people?”

²⁶ Peter said, “They take money from other people, not from their own mob.”

Then Jesus said, “All right, that means their own families don't have to pay anything. And we

* **17:24** Exodus 30:13; 38:26

are God's family, so we don't have to pay money for God's house.

²⁷ But we don't want to make those tax men angry. So get a fishing line, and go down to the lake, and throw in the line to catch a fish. Get the first fish that you catch, open its mouth, and you will find a gold coin inside it. Take that coin, and give it to those tax men. It will be enough money for both my tax and your tax."

(We have not yet translated 18:1-14. You can read those stories and messages in Mark 9:34-47; Luke 15:3-7; 17:1-2.)

18

What if a Christian does something wrong to you?

¹⁵ Jesus told his followers, "If another one of my followers does something wrong to you, then you have to go to them and talk about it. Just the 2 of you can talk about it together, while you are alone. If they listen to you, and if they agree with you, then you can call them your friend again.*

¹⁶ But if they don't want to listen to you, then take one or 2 other people with you, and go to that person. These other people will hear you talk about the wrong things that person did, and they will hear what that person says, and they will find out what is true.*

¹⁷ If that person will not listen to all of you, then go to the church, and tell the people in

* **18:15** Luke 17:3 * **18:16** Deuteronomy 19:15

the church what happened. Let them sort it out and talk to that person. If that person doesn't want to listen to them, then you can treat them like somebody that doesn't follow me. They are like somebody that doesn't know God, or like somebody that doesn't do what God says."

¹⁸ Then Jesus told his followers, "Listen. You are the people that will know what God wants. If you all agree that something here on this earth is wrong, it will be something that God in heaven already said is wrong. And if you all agree that something here on this earth is all right, it will be something that God in heaven already said is all right.*"

¹⁹ I'm telling you this again. If you agree together about something, even if it is only 2 of you, and then you ask my father in heaven to do that thing, then he will do it for you.

²⁰ You see, if you get together to respect me, I will be right there with you, even if it is only 2 or 3 of you at that time."

The story about the work-man that was hard on another man

²¹ Then Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Teacher, if somebody is always doing wrong things to me, how many times do I have to forget it and not do payback to that person? If I forget it 7 times, is that enough? Then if they do another wrong thing, I can do payback, right?"

* **18:18** Matthew 16:19; John 20:23

²² Jesus said, “No, not 7 times, but I say lots of times, like 77 times.”*

²³⁻²⁴ Then Jesus told them a story. He said, “I will tell you a picture story to show you what it’s like in God’s family. There was a big boss that loaned some money to his workers. After a while he wanted them to give it back. So he started to check up on them, and he got his soldiers to bring those workers to him. They brought a work-man that borrowed a real lot of money, like millions of dollars, and the boss said, ‘Give me that money now.’

²⁵ The work-man said, ‘No, not yet. I haven’t got any money right now.’ The big boss was angry. He wanted to get some money back, so he told his soldiers, ‘Grab this man, and his wife, and his kids, and all his things, and sell them to another man. He will make them work for no pay.’

²⁶ Then the work-man got down on his knees in front of the big boss and said to him, ‘Please, please give me more time, then I will give you back all your money.’

²⁷ Then the big boss felt sorry for his work-man, and he changed his mind, and he said, ‘All right, you don’t have to give that money back to me. I’ll forget it. You can go free now.’

²⁸ But after that, his work-man went away, and he met another man. Before this time, that other man borrowed a little bit of money from the work-man, just 100 dollars. So the work-man

* **18:22** Luke 17:3-4; Genesis 4:24

grabbed that other man's neck and said, 'Give me back that money right now. It's my money.'

²⁹ That other man went down on his knees and said, 'Please, please give me more time. Then I will give you back your money.'

³⁰ But the work-man said, 'No way. I will not forget what you owe me.' And he put that man in jail, and he told the boss over the jail to keep him there until he gives back all of that money.

³¹ Some of the other workers saw what happened, and they were not happy about it. So they went to the big boss and told him all about it.

³² Then the big boss got the work-man to come in, and said to him, 'You are really bad. You asked me to forget about all my money that you borrowed. It was millions of dollars. And I was good to you. I said that you didn't have to give it back to me.'

³³ So now you have to feel sorry for that other man and be good to him, just like I felt sorry for you.'

³⁴ The big boss was really angry, and he told the soldiers to grab that work-man, to beat him up, and to put him in jail. He will stay there until he can give all that money back to the big boss."

³⁵ Then Jesus said, "It's like that with you too. You have to be good to all my other followers. If they do something bad to you, don't do payback to them. Just forget it. Then, in the same way, my father in heaven will not do payback to you."

(We have not yet translated chapter 19. You can read those stories and messages in Mark

10:1-31.)

20

Jesus told a story about work-men in a garden

¹ Jesus said to his followers, “This picture story is about the people that will be in God’s family. There was a man that owned a garden, and he wanted some work-men to get a job finished in one day. So he went out early in the morning, to the place in the town where men waited around looking for a job.

² He talked to the men there, and they agreed to work for him. He agreed to give them the right pay, the pay that men always get for a day’s work. Then he sent them to work in his garden.

³ At 9 o’clock in the morning he went again to that place in the town, and he saw some other men standing around doing nothing.

⁴ So he gave each of them a job too. He told them, ‘Come and work in my garden today, and I will pay you the right money at the end of the day.’

⁵ So they went to work in his garden.

Then, in the middle of the day, the boss went to that place in the town again. And he found some more men there, and he did the same for them. He gave them jobs. At 3 o’clock in the afternoon, he did the same thing. He found some more men and gave them jobs too.

⁶ Then, at 5 o’clock in the afternoon, he went into town again, and he saw some more men

standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?'

⁷ They said, 'Because nobody gave us a job.'

The boss said to them, 'All right, I'll give each of you a job. Go and work in my garden.'

⁸ At the end of the day, he told his manager, 'Tell all the work-men to come here, and we will pay them their money. Tell the last work-men to come first.'^{*}

⁹ So he paid the men that started their job at 5 o'clock, and he gave each of them a full day's pay. Then he kept on paying the other men, and he gave each man a full day's pay.

¹⁰ Last of all, he paid the men that started their job early in the morning. They thought they were going to get more money, but they didn't. Each of them got a full day's pay, just like the other men.

¹¹ When they got their money, they complained to the boss. They said,

¹² 'Those men only worked for one hour, and you paid them just as much money as you paid us. That's not fair. We worked all day in the hot sun.'

¹³ The boss said to one of them, 'My friend, I'm not cheating you. You agreed to work all day for one day's pay, right?'

¹⁴ Well, take your money and go home. You see, I wanted to pay these last work-men the same as you.

* **20:8** Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:15

¹⁵ It's all right for me to do what I want with my own money, right? If I'm good to somebody, don't get upset with me.' "

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them what that story means. He said, "One day, those people that are the last ones now, they will be the first ones. And those people that are the first ones now, they will be the last ones."*

(We have not yet translated 20:17—21:27. You can read that story and those messages in Mark 10:32—11:33.)

21

Jesus told a story about 2 sons

²⁸ Jesus talked to the Jewish leaders. He said, "Tell me what you think about this picture story. A man had 2 sons. He went to the oldest son and said, 'Son, go and work on our farm today.'

²⁹ The oldest son said, 'No. I don't want to.' But later, he changed his mind, and he went and worked on their farm.

³⁰ The father also went to his youngest son and said the same thing to him. He said, 'Son, go and work on our farm today.'

The youngest son said, 'Yes, Dad, I will go.' But he didn't go and work on their farm."

³¹ Then Jesus asked those Jewish leaders, "Which one of that man's sons did what their father wanted?"

They said, "The oldest son did what their father wanted."

* **20:16** Matthew 19:30; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30

Then Jesus said, “Listen. There are people that did bad things, but they will go into God’s family before you mob do. You know, there are some men that get tax money from people and give it to the Roman government. And sometimes a woman does bad things, so if men pay her money she sleeps with them, like a woman sleeps with her husband. But some of those bad people will go into God’s family before you mob do.

³² You see, John the Baptist came and told everyone the right way to live, and you mob didn’t believe him. But some of those bad people did believe him, and they stopped doing bad things. And even when you saw them do that, you still didn’t change your minds. You didn’t say you were sorry for the bad things you did, and you didn’t turn around and follow God’s way.”*

(We have not yet translated 21:33—24:44. You can read most of those stories and messages in Mark chapters 12 and 13; Luke 11:37-51; 13:34-35; 14:15-24; 17:24-35.)

24

Jesus told a picture story about 2 work-men

⁴⁵ Then Jesus said to the people, “Think about a good work-man. He will always do what his boss says. He thinks about it and does it properly. So, if the boss has to go away for a while, he will pick that good work-man to be in charge of all

* **21:32** Luke 3:12; 7:29-30

his other workers, to look after them and give them food every day.

⁴⁶ Later, the boss will come home. And if he sees that work-man doing everything properly, then the boss will be good to that work-man.

⁴⁷ Yes, the boss will put him in charge of everything he owns.

⁴⁸ But now think about a bad work-man. If the boss goes away for a while, then that bad work-man will say to himself, 'My boss will be away for a long time.'

⁴⁹ Then he will do bad things. He will hit the other workers, and he will eat too much food, and get drunk with other people that drink too much grog.

⁵⁰ Then the boss will come home at a time when the bad work-man doesn't think he will. So the boss will catch him doing bad things.

⁵¹ And the boss will punish that bad work-man a lot. He will put him in a bad place with people that say they are good, but really, they do bad things. Everyone in that place will cry, and they will be so angry they will bite their teeth together."

25

Jesus told a story about 10 young women at a wedding ceremony

¹ Jesus said to his followers, "This picture story is about what will happen in God's family, at the time when I come back from heaven.*

* 25:1 Luke 12:35

There were some young women that had a special job at a wedding ceremony. When the man getting married came to the house, they had to meet him, and they had to bring him into the house. Then they were all going to eat a big dinner with that man and his new wife. That wedding was at night time, so the young women had their oil lamps with them.

²⁻⁴ There were 10 of these young women. And 5 of them used their brains. They took jars of extra oil with them for their lamps. But the other 5 women were stupid. They didn't take any extra oil with them.

⁵ That man getting married didn't come for a long time, so all the young women got tired and went to sleep.

⁶ In the middle of the night, somebody shouted, 'He is coming now. Come out to meet him.'

⁷ The 10 young women woke up. Then they got up quickly, and they tried to make their lamps burn bright.

⁸ The 5 stupid women that didn't have any extra oil said to the other 5 women, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'

⁹ The other women said, 'Sorry, we can't do that. There is not enough oil for all of us. You have to go and buy some oil for yourselves.'

¹⁰ So those 5 stupid women went to buy some oil. While they were away, that man came to the house to get married. The 5 other women were ready, and they went with him into the house, and somebody locked the door. Then they all started to eat the wedding dinner.

¹¹ Later, the 5 stupid women came back. They called to that man. They said, ‘Sir, please open the door for us.’

¹² But he said, ‘Who are you? I don’t know you.’ ”*

¹³ Then Jesus said, “It will be like that for you too. You don’t know when I will come back. You don’t know the day or the time. So you have to keep on waiting for me properly. You have to be ready for me when I come.”

(We have not yet translated 25:14-30. You can read a story like that story in Luke 19:11-27.)

After Jesus comes back, he will judge everybody

³¹ Jesus said, “I am God’s special man, and one day, I will come back from heaven, and all God’s angel messengers will come with me. At that time, I will be really great and powerful. I will be the biggest boss, and I will sit down on the big boss’s seat.*

³² All the people in the world, from every country, they will all come together in front of me. Then I will split all those people into 2 mobs.

³³ I will put one mob on one side of me, and the other mob on the other side of me.

³⁴ Then I will say to the people on my right-hand side, ‘Come on, you mob. My father is happy with you, so you can be in his family. A long time ago, at the time when he made the world, he made a good place for you. It is ready for you now.’

* **25:12** Luke 13:25 * **25:31** Matthew 16:27; 19:28

³⁵ You see, at one time I was hungry, and you gave me some food to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me some water to drink. I was a stranger with no-where to live, so you took me into your home.

³⁶ In the cold weather time I didn't have enough clothes to keep me warm, so you gave me some more clothes. I was sick, and you looked after me. I was in prison, and you visited me there.'

³⁷ Then these good people will say, 'Sir, when did we ever see you hungry, and give you food? Or thirsty, and give you water to drink?

³⁸ When did we ever see you as a stranger, and take you into our homes? When did we ever see you without enough clothes, and give you some more clothes?

³⁹ When did we ever see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?'

⁴⁰ I will say to them, 'Listen. You did all these things to help my followers. They were not important people, but they were mine, so every time you helped them, you helped me at the same time.'

⁴¹ Then I will turn to the people on my left-hand side, and I will say to them, 'Get away from me, you mob that God will punish. Go into that big fire that burns for ever. God made that fire for all the bad spirits and for their boss, the devil. And you have to go there too.

⁴² You see, I was hungry, but you didn't give me anything to eat. I was thirsty, but you didn't give me a drink.

⁴³ I was a stranger with no-where to live, but you didn't take me into your home. I didn't have enough clothes to keep me warm, but you didn't give me any more clothes. I was sick, and in prison, but you didn't visit me.'

⁴⁴ Then they will say, 'But, sir, when did we ever see you with those problems and not help you? We never saw you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without enough clothes, or sick, or in prison.'

⁴⁵ And I will say to them, 'Listen. You didn't do anything to help my friends. They were not important people, but they were my people. Every time you said *no* to helping them, at that same time you were saying *no* to helping me.'

⁴⁶ Then that bad mob will go to the bad place, and God will punish them for ever. But the good mob will go to live in the good place for ever."*

(We have not yet translated 26:1—27:62a. You can read those stories and messages in Mark chapters 14 and 15, and Luke chapters 22 and 23. They are about the way people killed Jesus, and put his body in a cave, and blocked that cave with a big stone.)

27

Soldiers guarded the cave that had Jesus's body

⁶² The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies got together with the Pharisee mob, that were strong

* 25:46 Daniel 12:2

for the Jewish law, and they went to Pilate. He was the Roman boss at that time.

⁶³ They said, “Sir, we can remember the things Jesus said while he was still alive. That man tried to get people to believe things that are not true. He said, ‘I will die, and then after 2 nights, on the 3rd day, I will come alive again.’* ”

⁶⁴ Maybe his followers will come and steal his body, and then tell everyone that he came alive again. If they do that, then we’ll be worse off than before. So we want to stop them from doing that. We want somebody to guard the cave that has Jesus’s body, and keep people away from it for 3 days.”

⁶⁵ Pilate said, “All right. You can take a mob of soldiers to guard that cave. Do whatever you can to stop anybody from moving that stone.”

⁶⁶ So they tied a rope around that stone and put wax on the knot, and they made Pilate’s mark in that wax. Then they would know if somebody tried to move that stone. And they told the soldiers, “Guard this cave. Don’t let anyone touch it.”

28

Jesus came alive again

¹ On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, and another woman that was called Mary, they got up really early and went to look at the cave that had Jesus’s body in it.

* **27:63** Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34; Luke 9:22; 18:31-33

² Suddenly there was a big earthquake. One of God's angel messengers came down from heaven, and he rolled the big stone away from the cave, and he sat on top of it.

³ His face was bright and shiny, like lightning. His clothes were really white, like snow.

⁴ The soldiers that were guarding the cave were really frightened. They fell down on the ground like dead men, and they couldn't move.

⁵ Then the angel said to the women, "Don't be frightened. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the man they killed on a cross.

⁶ But he is not here. God made him alive again. Remember, Jesus told you that this was going to happen. Come over here and see the place where he was lying.

⁷ Now you have to go quickly to his followers. Tell them, 'Jesus is alive again, and he is going to Galilee country ahead of you mob. You have to go and see him there.' So go quickly now, and tell them."

⁸ Then the women ran quickly away from that cave. They were really frightened, but they were really happy too. They got up to run to Jesus's other followers, to tell them the angel's message.

⁹ But Jesus met them half-way and called out, "Hello." They went up to Jesus and showed him strong respect. They even got down and held on to his feet.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Don't be frightened. Go and tell my other followers to go back to Galilee country, and they will see me there."

The guards told the Jewish leaders what happened

¹¹ While the women were going away, some of the soldier guards went into the city and told the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies everything that happened at the cave.

¹² Then the ceremony bosses called a meeting with the Jewish elders. They all agreed to give the soldiers a lot of money to get them to tell a lie.

¹³ They told the soldiers, “You have to tell everyone, ‘Jesus’s followers came in the night, while we were asleep, and they stole his body.’”

¹⁴ If anyone tells the boss, Pilate, about this, then we’ll talk to him and tell him that you didn’t do anything wrong, so he will not give you any trouble.”

¹⁵ The soldiers took the money, and they told everyone that lie, like the leaders told them to say. So a lot of Jewish people heard that story, and some of them still tell that lie to other people.

Jesus’s followers have to tell everyone in the world about him

¹⁶ The women told Jesus’s message to his 11 special workers. Then those men remembered that Jesus told them to meet him on a mountain in Galilee, so they went there.*

¹⁷ They saw Jesus there, and they felt really happy, and they showed him strong respect. But some of them were thinking, “Is this really Jesus? I don’t know.”

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

¹⁸ Then Jesus said to them, “God, my father, has made me boss over everything now. I’m boss over everything up in heaven. And I’m boss over everything down here on the earth.

¹⁹ So go out to all the people in the world, and tell them about me. Teach those people to follow my way, and baptise them with water to show that they belong to the father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ You have to teach them to do everything that I told you to do. And remember this, I will be with you all the time. I will be with you to help you, right up until the time when this world will finish.”

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