

Mark wrote this good story about Jesus

This page tells a bit more about the good story Mark wrote about Jesus

Mark was a young man when Jesus went around teaching God's word and doing good things for people. Mark probably knew Jesus and his close friends very well. He was sometimes called John Mark. His mother had a house in Jerusalem city, and after Jesus went back to heaven his followers sometimes met together in Mark's mother's house (see Acts 12:12). Some time later Paul and Barnabas went to many different places to tell people about Jesus, and they took Mark with them to help them (see Acts 13:5 and 15:36-39, and 2 Timothy 4:11). He was a friend of Peter and a cousin of Barnabas (see Colossians 4:10).

Mark wrote this book about 20 or 30 years after those things happened.

When he was a young man he saw some of those things with his own eyes, and later he got more stories about them from Peter and other people that saw them happen. Mark wrote this book before Matthew, Luke or John wrote their books about Jesus.

These things happened almost 2,000 years ago, and most of them happened in the country we now call Israel.

John baptised people

(Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:19-28)

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

²⁻³ A long time before Jesus was born, God told a man called Isaiah to write about the things God was going to do for Jesus some time later. Isaiah wrote,

“God will send a man to get everything ready for him. That man will talk about him, and will make a way for people to listen to him.

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

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

It is like when a big boss comes, and you have to make a good road for him.’ ”

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

John talked to people out there in the bush. He said, “You mob have to be really sorry for the wrong way you are living. You have to turn right around and live God’s way.” He also told them, “If you do that I will take you through a special washing ceremony, I will baptise you.”

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

⁷ John told them, “A man will come to this country later. He is more important than me, and he is stronger than me. I’m not good enough to untie his shoes. ⁸ I’m just nothing. You see, I cleaned you on the outside with water but this new man will clean you properly with God’s

power. He will clean you on the inside with The Holy Spirit.”

John baptised Jesus

(Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22)

⁹ At that time Jesus was living in a small community called Nazareth, in Galilee country. Then Jesus left his home and walked all the way south to a place on the Jordan River. John was baptising people there. ¹⁰ After he got to that place Jesus went down into the water and John baptised him. As he got up out of the water Jesus looked up and saw the sky split open, and he saw the Holy Spirit. It looked just like a pigeon, and it flew down to Jesus. ¹¹ And God said to Jesus, “You are my son. I love you very much, and I’m very happy with you.”

Satan tested Jesus

(Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

¹² Straight away the Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the bush. ¹³ Jesus stayed out there for 40 days. The boss of all the bad spirits, called Satan, came to him and tried to trick him. Satan tried to make him do something bad. But Jesus didn’t do it. There were wild animals in that place but God’s special helpers, called angels, came and looked after Jesus.

Jesus went back to Galilee

(Matthew 4:12-22; Luke 4:14-15; 5:1-11)

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

Jesus told some fishermen to leave their job and follow him

¹⁶ One day, Jesus walked next to a big lake, called Lake Galilee, and he saw 2 men throwing a net into the water to catch fish. That was their job. One man was called Simon and the other was his young brother Andrew.

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

¹⁹ As Jesus kept walking along next to the water he saw an old man called Zebedee and his 2 sons, James and John. They were all getting their nets ready to catch fish. ²⁰ Like before, Jesus called out to James and John to stop their work and follow him. Straight away they left their father and the other workmen in the boat, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus forced a bad spirit to leave a man

(Luke 4:31-37)

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

²³ Then, in the middle of the meeting, a man with a bad spirit in him called out, ²⁴ “Leave us, Jesus from Nazareth. Why do you trouble us? Are you going to kill all of us bad spirits dead? We know you. You are God’s special person.”

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

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

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

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

Jesus made a lot of sick people better

(Matthew 8:14-17; Luke 4:38-41)

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

³² Late that afternoon, just after the sun went down, all the people from that town got all the sick people, and people with bad spirits in them, and they brought them all to Simon’s house. ³³ A big mob of people were there outside that house. ³⁴ Jesus made lots of the sick people better, and he forced lots of bad spirits to go out of people. The bad spirits knew that Jesus was God’s son, but Jesus wouldn’t let them tell everyone. He forced those bad spirits to be quiet.

Jesus prayed

(Luke 4:42-44)

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

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

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

*A man had bad skin sickness but Jesus made him better
(Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 5:12-16)*

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

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

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Jesus then told him strongly, “I don’t want you to tell anyone about this. But I want you to go to God’s house and show your skin to the leaders of the Jewish ceremony, so that they can see that you are better. And you have to do the right ceremony that Moses gave us, to say thank you to God. He is the one that makes us better. When you do that ceremony, everyone will see that God was good to you.”

⁴⁵ But the man didn’t do what Jesus said. He went away and told everyone, “Jesus made me better.” After people heard the man’s story they came from everywhere. Lots

of people came to Jesus. He couldn't walk by himself in the towns any more. There were too many people. So he had to stay out in the bush. But people still came from everywhere and found him.

2

*Some men carried their sick friend to Jesus
(Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26)*

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

³ While Jesus was inside, teaching the people God's story, some men came to the house with a crippled man on a swag. They wanted to get that man close to Jesus, so that Jesus could make him better. ⁴ But those men found a lot of people blocking the house. So they carried the sick man up on to the flat roof of the house and made a hole in it. Then they picked up the sick man on his swag and put him down through the hole to where Jesus was.

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

⁶ But some of the Jewish law men didn't like Jesus saying that. These law men were thinking, ⁷ "Hey, he can't say that. Only God can talk that way. This man is talking like he is God. He can't talk like that. He is shaming God."

⁸⁻⁹ Straight away, Jesus knew what the Jewish law men were thinking, so he said, "You are thinking the wrong way. I might say to this man, 'You did bad things, but I will make you not guilty of them.' Or I might say to him, 'Get up, pick up your swag and go home.' I can do

both of these things. ¹⁰ I will show you that I'm the boss over sickness, and God also said I can make people like they are not guilty, so that God will not punish them. I'm God's special man from heaven, and I have the power to say these things, and I have the power to do these things."

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

¹² Straight away, that man got up, rolled up his swag in front of all the people, walked out of the house and went home. Everybody there saw him do it and they got a big surprise. They started talking about it. They praised God, telling him he is really good. They said, "We've never seen anything like this before."

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

Jesus told a tax collector to join his followers

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

¹⁵ Later that day, after the sun went down, Jesus and his followers were having a feed at Levi's house. There were lots of other people too. Some of those people were men that used to get tax money from people and give it to the Roman government, and some other people there didn't live God's way. ¹⁶ The Jewish law teachers and other law men, called Pharisees, they saw Jesus eating with all those

people. The law men asked Jesus's followers, "Why does Jesus eat with those people that don't live God's way?"

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

*Jesus talked about not eating food
(Matthew 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39)*

¹⁸ The Pharisee law men sometimes stopped eating food for a while to show God that they respected him. The followers of John the Baptist did the same. Some people came to Jesus and asked him, "How come your followers don't stop eating food to make God happy, you know, just like the Pharisee mob and John's followers?"

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

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

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

*Jesus talked about the Jewish rest day
(Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5)*

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

²⁵ Jesus said to them, "Hey. Remember the story about David and his men. You know, it was at that time Abiathar was the leader for the Jewish ceremonies. David and his men were really hungry, ²⁶ so David went into God's ceremony place and got the special bread. Only the leaders of the Jewish ceremony can eat that bread. But David and his men ate that special bread, and so they broke our Jewish law, but God didn't punish them."

²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Listen to me now. God's rest day is for people to have a rest, not just to follow laws. ²⁸ Listen, I am God's special man from heaven, and I'm boss of everything. I am even the boss for our Jewish rest day. So I'm not worried that my friends are grabbing some seeds to eat."

3

*Jesus made a man's hand better on the Jewish rest day
(Matthew 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11)*

¹ Jesus went to the Jewish meeting place again on their rest day, and saw a man with one hand that was no good. It was all dried up and useless. ² Some Jewish law men

wanted to make trouble for Jesus, so they watched him there. They wanted to see if he was going to help the man with the dried up hand, and make it better on their Jewish rest day. If he did that, they were going to say, “He worked on the rest day, so he broke the law.”

³ Jesus knew they were thinking like that, and so he said to the man, “Come here and stand in front, I want everybody to look.”

⁴ Then Jesus said to the Jewish law men, “What does our law say about our rest day? Is it right to do good things on our rest day, or is it right to do bad things? Should I make this man better or should I hurt him?” The Jewish law men said nothing.

⁵ Jesus looked at those men. They didn’t care about people, they only worried about their law, and this made Jesus really angry, and it made him sad too. Jesus said to the man with the useless hand, “Hold out your hand.” The man put his hand out and straight away it was better. It wasn’t dried up any more.

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

A big mob followed Jesus to the Big Lake

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

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

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

¹² And every time they shouted out, Jesus growled at them and told them to stay quiet. He said, “Don’t tell anyone that I’m really God’s son.”

*Jesus picked out 12 men to be close followers
(Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16)*

¹³ One day Jesus walked up a hill and called out to some of the people to follow him. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Then Jesus picked out 12 men that he wanted to be his close followers. Jesus told them, “You mob will walk around with me and live with me, and after that I will send you out to tell people God’s good news, and God will give you the power to send bad spirits out of people.” He called them his close followers.

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

- Simon. Jesus gave him another name. He called him Peter.
- James and John. They were Zebedee’s sons, and they were loud men, so Jesus gave them another name. He called them Thunder men.
- Andrew,
- Philip,
- Bartholomew,
- Matthew,
- Thomas,
- James. He was the son of Alphaeus,

- Thaddeus,
- Simon. He was a man that really loved his nation and was ready to fight for it.
- Judas Iscariot. Some time later he changed sides and helped the enemies of Jesus to catch him.

Jesus is stronger than Satan

²⁰ Jesus went into a house and a big mob of people gathered there to him. There were so many people that Jesus and his followers couldn't even get a feed.

²¹ Somebody went and told his family about him. They said, "He is mad." So his family came and tried to take him home to look after him.

²² Some teachers of the Jewish law came from Jerusalem and they were watching Jesus too. They said, "The boss of all the bad spirits, called Beelzebul, is living inside Jesus, and he gives Jesus the power to force bad spirits out from people."

²³ Jesus knew the law teachers were rubbishing him like that, so he called out to them, "Come here and listen to me." Then he told them stories to teach them. He said, "Do you reckon Satan, the boss of the bad spirits, will fight against his own mob of bad spirits? That doesn't make sense. ²⁴ Listen to me. If a tribe splits into 2 mobs that fight against each other, that tribe will get weak and finish up. ²⁵ In the same way, people in a family, if they fight each other all the time they will split up and will stop being a family. ²⁶ So, if Satan is fighting against his own mob of bad spirits, he will get weak and will have no power. So he will not do that. You have got it all wrong.

²⁷ Listen to this picture story. A man wanted to take some things from a strong man's house. First he tied up that strong man. After that he took all the strong man's things. Well, in this story Satan is like that strong man,

and I'm like the man that tied him up and now I'm taking my people away from him.

²⁸ I'm telling you straight, people might do bad things and say bad things against God, but later, if they are sorry for those bad things, God can say they are not guilty. ²⁹ But if somebody says bad things about the Holy Spirit they are always guilty. God will blame them and punish them for ever."

³⁰ You see, the Jewish law teachers reckoned that Jesus had a bad spirit in him. That is why Jesus talked so straight to them.

Jesus talked about his true family

³¹ The mother of Jesus and his younger brothers came to the house where he was teaching. They sent somebody in to tell Jesus to come out and talk to them. ³² There was a big mob of people sitting around Jesus listening to him. The people said to him, "Your mother and your younger brothers are outside looking for you."

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

4

Jesus told a story about seeds and ground (Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)

¹ Jesus went down to the lake and started to teach again. A big mob of people came to listen to him. There were too many people, so Jesus got into a boat, pushed it out a little bit away from the dry ground, and sat down there. All the

people stayed on the dry ground and listened to his words.
² He told them picture stories to help them understand what he was teaching.

Jesus told them this story. He said, ³ “You mob listen to me now. A man wanted to grow some seed food in a garden. ⁴ He threw the seeds all over the garden. Some went too far and fell on the road. Some birds saw that seed lying there, so they ate it and finished it up.

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

⁷ He kept on throwing seeds and some of those seeds went into the rubbish grass growing right next to the garden. Those new seeds tried to grow but the rubbish grass blocked them, so they couldn’t grow properly. They didn’t get any new seeds on top.

⁸ But some of those seeds fell into really good ground and those seeds grew properly. When the seed food plants were ready they had a really big mob of new seeds on top.”

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

*Jesus told stories to teach people
(Matthew 13:10-17; Luke 8:9-10)*

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

¹¹ Jesus said, “You mob follow me, so God wants you to know what my stories are all about, and I will tell you

their meaning. These stories are about the way God gets people into his family. But other people don't follow me, so they only get the picture stories. I will not tell them what they mean. ¹² I do it this way so that these words in God's book will come true,

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

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

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

*This is the meaning of the story about seeds and ground
(Matthew 13:18-23; Luke 8:11-15)*

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

¹⁴ Listen to me again. In my story, a man threw out the seeds to grow some food. This is like somebody that tells God's word to people.

¹⁵ I said that some seeds fell on the road, and the road was too hard, so the seeds stayed on top of it. They couldn't grow to make new plants. Those seeds are a picture for God's word. Some people are too hard and don't listen to God's word. They are like that road. The birds are a picture of the devil called Satan. He makes them forget God's word, so they take no notice of its message.

¹⁶ In my story there was ground with too much rock in it. That is a picture of people that are happy to listen to God's word and they start to take notice of him.

¹⁷ But other people see them believing that word and those other people make trouble for them, so they stop listening. They soon turn their back and walk away from God's word.

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

²⁰ In my story, the seeds that fell into the good ground grew properly, and when those plants were big they made lots of new seeds. This is a picture of people that are ready to hear God's word and do what he says. When they believe God's word they grow stronger and stronger for God. They learn more and more of God's message and they share it with other people. Some people in God's family tell out his stories more than other people."

*Jesus told a picture story about a light
(Luke 8:16-18)*

²¹ Then Jesus said, "When somebody lights a candle they don't put it under a bowl, do they? And they don't put that candle under their bed, do they? No way. People hang lights up high, so everyone can see clearly. ²² It's like this. There are some things you don't know about yet, but some time later God will tell about them. And there are some things that are secret now, but some time later God will let you know what they are all about. ²³ You've all got

ears, so you have to listen to me properly, and take notice of my words.”

²⁴⁻²⁵ Then Jesus said, “Make sure you listen to me properly and think about what I say. When you really take notice of my message, God will help you understand it, and he will help you to know more and more of his word. But if you don’t want to listen to my message, God will stop you from understanding anything you do hear.”

God’s family grows like seeds and plants

²⁶⁻²⁹ Jesus kept on teaching, and said, “I want you to know the way God’s family grows. This is another picture story. A man wanted to grow some seed food, so he threw some seeds on the ground. The seeds fell on the ground and after that the man walked away and left the seeds there. Those seeds grew all by themselves and that man didn’t know what made those seeds grow. He just left them there for many days and they grew. God made those seeds grow in the ground. At first the long stick part grew, and after that the head part grew with all the seeds inside it. At the right time God made the seeds get hard, ready for people to cut down those plants and pick up the seed food. God is boss for everyone and his family will grow just like the seeds in that story.”

Jesus talked more about seeds and God’s family

(Matthew 13:31-32,34; Luke 13:18-19)

³⁰ Jesus talked some more. He said, “Do you know what God’s family is like? I will tell you another picture story to help you understand it. ³¹ God’s family is like a really little seed. You know that gum tree? Its seeds are very small. ³² When one of those small seeds falls into the ground it grows and grows. Later it gets really big with lots of branches, and birds can sit down in the shade on those

branches, and they can make their nests there. Well, God's family will grow like that."

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

Jesus told the wind and waves to sit down quiet

(Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25)

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

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

³⁹ Jesus opened his eyes, stood up and growled at the wind and told that water, "Stop. Be quiet." Straight away the wind stopped and the water lay down flat. Everything was quiet and still.

⁴⁰ Jesus then said to his followers, "Why are you so frightened?"

⁴¹ His followers in the boat were really frightened and said to each other, "Hey. Look. The wind and the water listen to this man and do what he says. He is properly powerful."

5

Jesus sent bad spirits out of a man
(Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39)

¹ Then they went in the boat to the country called Gerasene on the other side of the lake.

²⁻⁵ There was a man there that was full of bad spirits. He was mad. He camped in the cemetery there.

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

When Jesus got out of the boat ⁶ that madman saw him from a long way off. He ran right up to Jesus and got down on his knees in front of him, to show him respect.

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

But the spirit in him screamed, "Why have you come here? I know you. You are Jesus. You are the son of God. He is the big boss of everything. Promise me truly that you will not hurt me."

⁹ Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?"

He said, "My name is Big Mob. You see, we are a mob of bad spirits inside this man. ¹⁰ Please don't send us away from this country."

¹¹ There were about 2,000 pigs having a feed on the hill nearby. ¹² The bad spirits asked Jesus, "Can we go into that big mob of pigs over there?"

¹³ Jesus let those bad spirits go out of the man and go into the pigs. Then those pigs went mad and ran down

the steep hill into the lake and drowned themselves in the water.

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

¹⁸ Jesus listened to them and started to get into the boat. Then the man, that used to have the bad spirits in him, asked Jesus strongly, "Can I come with you?"

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

²⁰ Then that man went all over that country called Ten Towns and told everybody that story. He told them all about the good things Jesus did for him. Everybody got a really big surprise.

Jesus made a woman better

(Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56)

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

²² A man called Jairus came up to them. He was one of the bosses of a Jewish meeting place. He saw Jesus and went close to him and got down on his knees in front of

him, to show him respect. ²³ He strongly asked Jesus to help his daughter. He said, “My little girl is really sick and I think she will die. Please come and put your hands on her. I know you can make her better so that she will not die.”

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

²⁵ While they were walking along, a sick woman was there. A long time before this she started bleeding and that bleeding didn't stop. ²⁶ She went to every doctor but none of them could help her. She spent all her money trying to get better, but it was no good, she only got worse. She kept bleeding for 12 years. ²⁷⁻²⁸ Then somebody told her about Jesus and she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his coat, I will get better.” So she came up behind Jesus and touched his coat ²⁹ and straight away her bleeding stopped. She knew she was better.

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

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

³² Jesus kept on looking around to see the person that used his power. ³³ That woman knew that she was the one that got better, so she was very frightened and she was shaking. She came to Jesus and got down on her knees in front of him, to show him respect, and she told him her story. She told him that she touched him. ³⁴ Jesus said to her, “Dear Lady, you really believed in me, so now you are

better. You can go home and have no more trouble. You are not sick any more.”

Jesus made a dead girl alive again

³⁵ While Jesus was talking to the woman, somebody came to Jairus from his house with bad news. He said, “I’m sorry, it’s too late. Your little girl is dead. Don’t worry Jesus now.”

³⁶ Jesus heard their words but took no notice. He said to Jairus, “Don’t be frightened. Just trust me.” ³⁷ Then Jesus told the people, “Stay away from this man’s house.” He only let a few people go with him. They were the girl’s father and mother, and Peter, and James and his young brother John. They were the only ones that went with him.

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

⁴⁰ They knew the girl was dead, so they just laughed at Jesus. He told them, “Get out,” and he forced them all outside the house. Then Jesus said to the girl’s mother and father, and to his 3 friends, “You come with me.” Then they went together into the room where the girl lay.

⁴¹ Jesus held the girl’s hand and said to her, in their language, “Talitha Koum.” This means Wake up little girl.

⁴² Straight away that girl woke up, stood up and walked around the room. Her mother and father were really surprised. Their little girl was alive again. She was 12 years old at that time.

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

6

The countrymen of Jesus rubbished him
(Matthew 13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30)

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

²⁻³ On the Jewish people's rest day Jesus went to the Jewish meeting place and started to teach the people God's message. A lot of the people heard his words and were really shocked. They said, "Hey, we know this man. He comes from this place. His mother Mary lives here with his brothers James, Joses, Judas and Simon, as well as his sisters. His job here is to make things with wood. How does he know so much? And where did he get the power to do clever things for people?" Those Nazareth people got upset and they wouldn't take any notice of him.

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

⁵⁻⁶ The people of his own community didn't believe in Jesus, and he was really shocked. So he couldn't do anything really powerful there. He only touched a few sick people and made them better. Then he left them and went to other little communities, and taught them God's words.

Jesus sent out his 12 close followers
(Matthew 10:5-15; Luke 9:1-6)

⁷⁻¹¹ Jesus called together his 12 close followers. He told them, "You have to go to every community and tell my message to the people. Let them take care of you when you go there. Don't take a bag, or food, or money or spare

clothes with you. Just take your sandals and a walking stick. After you get to a community, and that community is happy for you to stay, you have to camp in only one house. Don't move around to different houses. But if a community doesn't want to have you there, and if they will not listen to you, then you have to go away from it. As you leave it, shake the dust off your feet. That will show that mob that they will get trouble. It will be like you are telling them, 'You didn't take notice of my message, so God will judge you and punish you.' "

And Jesus told his close followers, "I'm giving you my power now to force bad spirits out from people." Then Jesus split them into 6 teams with 2 men in each team, and sent them out to do God's work. ¹² The teams did as Jesus told them. They went to other communities and told everyone to turn around, change their lives and come back to God's way. ¹³ Those men sent a lot of bad spirits out of people. And they put olive oil on a lot of sick people, like medicine for them, and those sick people got better.

*King Herod killed John, the man that baptised people
(Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9)*

¹⁴⁻²⁹ This is the story about what happened to John the Baptist. The big boss called King Herod had a brother called Philip. Philip had a wife called Herodias. Herodias didn't want to live with Philip any more, so she left him, and married Herod.

John kept on telling Herod, "You are breaking God's law. You shouldn't have your brother's wife." Herodias hated John for saying this and she wanted to kill him, but Herod sent some soldiers to grab John and keep him in jail, so Herodias couldn't do anything to him. John was a good man and lived God's way all the time, so Herod was

frightened of him. And Herod liked to talk with John, but John's words confused him and upset him.

Some time later Herod had a birthday party, and Herodias got her chance to hurt John. All the leaders of Herod's army and the government bosses from Galilee country were there at Herod's party.

The daughter of Herodias danced for them at that party. Everybody was really happy with her dancing, so Herod made a strong promise to her, he told her, "I want to give you a really good present. You can ask for anything. I will give you anything you ask for, even as much as half of this country. This is true. I'm not lying."

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

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

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

When Herod heard these words he was really sad. But he didn't want to break his promise and be ashamed, so he sent a soldier to cut off John's head and bring it back to the girl on a big plate.

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

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

King Herod was worried about Jesus

Later lots of people heard about what Jesus was doing and they talked about him all the time. Some people

said, “Jesus is really Elijah, that old man that told God’s message a long time ago. God made him alive again.”

Some other people said, “Jesus is a man talking for God, just like those other men that told God’s message a long time ago.”

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

King Herod heard these stories and said, “I got my soldiers to cut John’s head off, but this man now, he has to be John the Baptist. I reckon God made him alive again.”

Jesus gave food to 5,000 people

(Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)

³⁰ Some time later the 12 close followers of Jesus came back from telling his message to all the communities. They stood around Jesus and told him everything they did and what they taught the people in the communities.

³¹ While they were talking, lots of other people were coming up to Jesus all the time, so Jesus and his followers didn’t get a chance to eat any food. Jesus was worried for his followers, so he said to them, “Let’s go to a quiet place out bush so that you can rest for a while.”

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

³⁴ Jesus and his close followers came to that place and got out of the boat. Jesus looked at the mob of people waiting for him and he felt sad inside for them. They didn’t have anyone looking after them. They were like

a mob of sheep that had no boss to take care of them. So Jesus started to teach them lots of things.

³⁵ At the end of the day, the close followers of Jesus went to him and said, “It’s nearly time for the sun to go down and we are way out here in the bush. ³⁶ You have to send the people away from here so that they can find some food. They can go to a nearby farm or community to buy some food to eat.”

³⁷ Jesus said to them, “You mob give them some food to eat.”

But they said, “What? We haven’t got that much food. Do you want us to go and buy a lot of bread for them? That will cost thousands of dollars.” ³⁸ Jesus said to his followers, “How much food have you got? Go and have a look.”

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

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

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

⁴² All of the people had a good feed ⁴³ and after that Jesus’s followers picked up the bits of food left over. They filled up 12 big baskets with the food that people didn’t eat. ⁴⁴ A really big mob of people had a feed that day. There were 5,000 men, as well as women and kids.

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

Then he started telling all the people, “You mob can go home now. Goodbye.” ⁴⁶ After he said goodbye to them Jesus went up into the hills to pray.

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

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

⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰ The followers of Jesus saw him walking on the water and they thought he was a ghost. They got really frightened and screamed. Straight away Jesus said to them, “It’s all right. It’s me, Jesus. Don’t be frightened.”

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

⁵³ Then they came to the land again, to the country called Gennesaret, and they tied up the boat. ⁵⁴ A lot of people saw Jesus getting out of the boat and they knew who he was, ⁵⁵ so they ran around everywhere to the sick people in that country and carried them on swags to Jesus. ⁵⁶ As Jesus went into communities and towns, people carried their sick ones to the middle of the town and put them on the ground, so Jesus could see them. Those sick people asked Jesus if they could touch his clothes, and everyone that touched his clothes got better.

7

*Some rules don't come from God
(Matthew 15:1-9)*

¹⁻⁴ There were some Jewish law men called Pharisees. From a long time ago these Jewish leaders made up a lot of rules for their people. These rules were not in God's book. One of these made up rules was this. Before they could eat anything they had to wash their hands in a special way, and after people came home from shopping they had to wash the same way. There were other rules too that those leaders made up long ago, like the way they had to wash cups, billycans, cooking pots and the chairs they sat on to eat their food. These rules didn't come from God.

Some of these Pharisees, and some other law teachers, came from Jerusalem to see Jesus and his followers. They saw that some of Jesus's followers didn't wash their hands that special way before they ate food, ⁵ and those law men growled at Jesus and said, "How come your followers don't follow the rules that our old leaders gave us long ago? Your followers are eating but they didn't wash their hands the right way. Why don't they do that hand wash ceremony before they eat?"

⁶ Jesus said back to them, "You mob tell everyone you are good, but really, you are not good. You know that man called Isaiah that lived a long time ago and wrote down God's words, he wrote a true story about you. He wrote, 'Those people will show respect to me with their mouth but really, they think another way.

⁷ They have ceremonies for me but, really, they rubbish me.

They teach rules that men made up themselves and they tell everybody that these are God's laws.'

⁸ You mob are just like that. You turn your back on God's law but you are strong on the rules that men made up."

⁹ And Jesus kept talking to them, he said, "You mob are tricky in the way you turn your back on God's law and follow your own rules. ¹⁰ You see, God told Moses to tell people to look after their old people. Moses wrote this law,
'You have to respect your father and mother.'

And it says,
'If anyone rubbishes their father or mother, you have to kill that person.'

¹¹ But you mob reckon that a man can tell his father or mother, 'I want to help you old people, but sorry, I promised to give that thing to God, so I can't give you that thing that you need.' ¹² You mob reckon that if he says that to his father and mother, he doesn't have to help them and he can keep that thing for himself. ¹³ In that way you take God's word away from people so that they will just follow the rules that you made up. You do all sorts of things like that all the time."

¹⁴ Then Jesus called out to all the people to come and listen to him. He said, "Listen to me, everyone, and try to understand what I'm saying. ¹⁵ Don't worry about what goes into your mouth but worry about what comes out of it. If God hears bad things come out of your mouth he will say that you are no good inside."

¹⁷ After that Jesus stopped talking to all the people and went into his house to take a break. His followers went in with him, and they asked him what he meant by the words he just told the people. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, "What is wrong with you? Don't you understand me? Listen. If you eat something, it goes into your stomach and some time later

it goes out of your body into the toilet. It doesn't go into your brains. So God will not say, 'You ate the wrong food and made yourself no good.' No, he will not say that." (Jesus said this about food and made it clear for us that all kinds of food are all right.)

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

- They might think about all sorts of bad things.
- They might play around with anybody, and do what married people do together.
- They might be greedy, wanting lots of money and things.
- They might want to get something that other people have.
- They might steal things.
- They might murder somebody.
- They might sleep with somebody else's husband or wife, like they are married to them.
- They might trick people.
- They might rubbish other people.
- They might think that they themselves are great.
- They might only think about whatever they want for themselves.
- They might do the first bad thing that comes into their mind.
- They might do really stupid things.

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

Jesus met a woman that trusted him

²⁴ After that Jesus got up and left Galilee country and went north to a town called Tyre. This town was near the salt water sea. The people that lived in Tyre were not Jewish people. Jesus went into a house, so he could sit down by himself for a while, but his plan didn't work. People heard that he was in that house and they came to visit him.

²⁵⁻²⁶ There was a Greek woman there. She came from a place called Phoenicia in Syria. Her daughter had a bad spirit inside her. So that woman went to Jesus to get help. She got down on her knees in front of Jesus, to show him respect, and she asked him to force the bad spirit out of her daughter.

²⁷ Jesus said to her, "I belong to the Jewish tribe. I have to look after my own people first, not you people that are not Jewish. A man feeds his own kids first. He will not take their food and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ The woman said, "Yes teacher, you are right about that, but while those kids are eating they drop a few little bits of food, and the dogs under the table can eat those little bits of food. I'm not Jewish but you can still do a little bit for me."

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

³⁰ Then the woman went home and found her daughter lying down quietly on a bed. The bad spirit was gone.

Jesus made a deaf man better

³¹ Then Jesus left Tyre and walked back through another town called Sidon, and then he went around the north of Lake Galilee to the country everyone called Ten Towns.

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

³³ Jesus took the man away from the other people and put his fingers in the man's ears. He spat and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Then Jesus looked up into the sky and prayed for the man. He talked in their language, he said, "Ephpatha," which means Open up. ³⁵ And straight away that man could hear properly, and his tongue was better so he could talk properly.

³⁶ Jesus went back and told the people strongly, "Don't tell anyone about the great thing I just did." But they didn't listen to Jesus. More and more he asked them to stay quiet but more and more they told other people, "Jesus made that man better."

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

8

Jesus fed 4,000 people (Matthew 15:32-39)

¹ Jesus kept on teaching the people in that country. A big mob of people stayed there and listened to him for 3 days, and in that time they finished up all their food. ² Jesus called his followers to come to him and said, "I feel really sorry for this mob. They are hungry and they've got nothing to eat. ³ I can't send them home like this. Some of them have walked a long way to get here and if they start

walking home now they will get weak and fall down. We have to give them some food.”

⁴ The followers of Jesus said, “Hey, this is a really big mob of people. We can’t get enough food out here in the bush to feed them all.”

⁵ Jesus said, “How much bread have you got?”

The men answered, “7 loaves of bread.”

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

⁷ Somebody had some small fish and gave them to Jesus, and again he said, “Thank you God for these fish.” Then Jesus gave the fish to his followers to give out to the people.

⁸ They all ate and ate until they were full. There was a lot left over. The people picked up all the bits from the ground and they filled up 7 baskets with food. ⁹ After the people finished that feed Jesus told them to go home. There were 4,000 people in that big mob that had a feed that day.

¹⁰ Straight away Jesus and his close followers got into a boat and went to a place called Dalmanutha, on the other side of the lake.

*The law men asked Jesus to show everyone his power
(Matthew 16:1-4)*

¹¹ There were some Jewish law men called Pharisees there at that place. They heard people say that Jesus was there and they came to talk to him. They wanted to trick him, so they started to argue with him. They asked him, “Can you do something special with power, to show that God sent you?”

¹² Jesus was a little bit upset. He breathed deeply and said, “You mob that are alive today always want to see something powerful before you will believe that God sent me. Listen, I’m telling you straight, I will not do anything powerful for you mob here now.” ¹³ Then Jesus and his followers walked away from those Pharisees and got into a boat and went across to the other side of the lake.

Jesus told his friends to be careful

(Matthew 16:5-12)

¹⁴ But Jesus’s followers didn’t buy any food at Dalmanutha. They forgot to do it. Then, in the boat half way across the lake, they remembered about it. They looked into their food bag and saw that they only had one loaf of bread.

¹⁵ Jesus talked to his followers. He said, “You know that we put that yeast into flour to make it rise up, to make it into bread. Well, I’m telling you this, stay away from the yeast that comes from those Pharisee law men, and stay away from the yeast that comes from the big boss called King Herod.”

¹⁶ The men didn’t understand what Jesus meant, and they started to talk to each other about it. They said, “We didn’t get enough bread for the trip, so now he’s growling at us.”

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

The men said, “12 baskets full.”

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

The men said, “7 baskets full.”

²¹ Jesus asked them, “So how come you still don’t understand about me?”

Jesus made a blind man see again

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

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

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

Peter told Jesus, “You are Christ, the man God sent.”

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

²⁸ They answered, “Some people reckon you are John the Baptiser come alive again. And other people reckon you are Elijah, that man that lived a long time ago. And

other people reckon you are one of those other men that told God's messages a long time ago."

²⁹ So Jesus said, "Who do you reckon I really am?"

Peter said straight out, "You are the man that God sent to save people. We have to call you Christ."

³⁰ Jesus told them strongly, "Don't tell that to anyone yet."

Jesus told his followers, "They will kill me."

(Matthew 16:21-28; Luke 9:22-27)

³¹ Then Jesus told his followers about the bad things that will happen to him. He said, "The elders, the ceremony leaders and the law teachers will reckon I'm no good, even though I'm God's special man from heaven. That mob will hurt me badly in lots of ways, and they will kill me. I will be dead for 3 days, then I will get up alive again."

³² Jesus talked straight to them, but Peter couldn't believe it. He took Jesus away from the others and growled at him for talking that way. ³³ Jesus looked at the other followers there, then he said strongly to Peter, "Go away from me. You are like Satan. You are not thinking God's way. You are just thinking like a man."

³⁴ Then Jesus called out to all the people that were there. He called them to come up close, with his followers, and he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow me properly, he has to stop thinking only about himself. He has to live like me. He has to be ready to die, yes, die like a crook on a cross, just like me. ³⁵ If a person only wants to look after his own life here on earth he will lose it. He will not be in heaven with me. But if anyone is happy to give up his life here and live my way, and tell other people the good news about me, he will find real life. He will live with me for ever. ³⁶ You see, a man might get everything in the

whole world for himself, but if he misses out on real life and doesn't get to heaven, all that stuff is useless to him.

³⁷ All that stuff can't get him to heaven, to get real life.

³⁸ You know that there are people that are really bad, and they don't take any notice of God. If anyone is so frightened of them that he is ashamed about me and my story, I will be ashamed of him later. I'm God's special man from heaven, and one day my Father, God, will make me really great, and I will come back here with all God's angel messengers. But if anyone is ashamed of me now, I will be ashamed of him at that time when I come back."

9

¹ Then Jesus said, "Listen to this true word I'm telling you now. Some of you people will see a very special thing. God will show you that he is boss over everything and you will see that he is really strong for his family. You will see this happen before you die."

3 men saw Jesus look different

² 6 days later Jesus got Peter, James and John and they went by themselves up to the top of a big hill. While they were there Jesus started to look different. ³ His clothes got really shiny and white. Nobody could wash them enough to make them properly white like that. ⁴ And Peter, James and John saw 2 men that lived a long time ago. They were Moses, the man that was a leader of God's people, and Elijah, the man that told God's message to people. They were there, and they talked to Jesus.

⁵⁻⁶ Peter, James and John were very frightened and they didn't know what to say, but Peter talked anyway. He said to Jesus, "Teacher, this is great. We have to put up special bush shades, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

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

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

¹⁰ So Peter, James and John kept quiet about it. They didn’t tell anyone, but they talked to each other about the words Jesus said, “I will die and then come back alive again.” They wondered what Jesus meant.

¹¹ And they asked Jesus about the Jewish law teachers. They said, “Those law teachers say that first of all a man from long ago has to come back, that man called Elijah, and after that God will send his special man.”

¹²⁻¹³ Jesus said, “Those law teachers are teaching the true message. A man did come, and he told them God’s message just like Elijah did long ago. That man got things ready for me, but bad people killed him. And they will do the same to me, God’s special man from heaven. They will turn their backs and laugh at me, and they will not listen to my message. All of this is already in God’s book.”

*Jesus forced a bad spirit out of a boy
(Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-43)*

¹⁴ After they came back down the hill they found the other followers of Jesus arguing with the Jewish law teachers. There were lots of people standing around.

¹⁵ They looked up and saw Jesus and they were surprised, and they all ran to him and said hello to him.

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

¹⁷ One of the men there said to Jesus, “Teacher, my son has a bad spirit inside him and it stops him from talking.

¹⁸ It pushes the boy down on to the ground, his body goes stiff and he rubs his teeth together and spit comes out of his mouth. I asked your followers, ‘Please force that bad spirit out of him.’ But they can’t do it.”

¹⁹ Jesus said, “How come you mob that are alive today can’t believe? Do I have to always stay here and do everything for you? Bring the boy here to me.”

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

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has your boy been like this?”

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

²³ Jesus said, “You said to me, ‘If you can.’ Don’t you know that God is strong enough to do anything if you trust him to do it?”

²⁴ That boy’s father yelled out, “I believe God can do it. But please help me believe more.”

²⁵ Jesus looked around and saw a big mob of people coming to watch, so he growled at the bad spirit. He said, “Hey. You bad spirit that stops people from talking and hearing, I’m telling you now, come out of this little boy, and stay out of him. You can never go back into him.”

²⁶ Then the bad spirit screamed and forced the boy to take another bad fit and fall down on the ground, then it went out of the boy. The boy looked like he was dead, and a lot of people said, “Poor boy, he is finished.” ²⁷ But Jesus just got hold of the boy’s hand and helped him stand up. Then his father took the boy home.

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

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

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

(Matthew 17:22-23; Luke 9:43-45)

³⁰⁻³¹ Later Jesus and his followers left that place and went through Galilee country. As they walked along he was teaching his followers. He didn’t want everyone to know where he was going, so they went along secretly and quietly. He told them about what was going to happen to him. He said, “I’m God’s special man from heaven, but bad men will grab me, and they will kill me. But after 3 days I will come alive again.” ³² The followers of Jesus couldn’t understand what he was talking about, but they felt too ashamed to ask him any more questions.

The followers of Jesus argued about who was the greatest

(Matthew 18:1-5; Luke 9:46-48)

³³⁻³⁴ While they walked along the road Jesus’s followers argued with each other about which one of them was the most important. After they got to Capernaum they went into the house that they were going to camp in, and Jesus

asked them what they were arguing about on the road. His followers were ashamed and said nothing.

³⁵ Jesus sat down and said, “If anyone wants to be the leader, that person has to think to himself, ‘I’m not important at all.’ And he has to be a workman for everybody else.”

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

A man used the name of Jesus to force bad spirits out of people

(Luke 9:49-50)

³⁸ John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw a man using your power by saying your name to send bad spirits out of people. He’s not one of our mob, so we told him to stop.”

³⁹ But Jesus said, “No. Don’t stop him. If somebody uses my power by saying my name to do good and powerful things for people, he can’t soon turn around and say bad things about me. ⁴⁰ You see, if somebody is not trying to block us, well really, he is on our side. ⁴¹ And if somebody knows you are my follower, and so he tries to help you, even if he just gives you a drink of water, God will be sure to pay him with something good for that good thing he did.

The right way to live

(Matthew 18:6-9; Luke 17:1-2)

⁴² But, if a little one trusts me and somebody gets him to do something bad, God will properly punish that person.

Suppose somebody will get a big rock and tie it to that person's neck and throw him into the sea and drown him, that will be bad for him, but not as bad as the trouble God will give him for getting that little one to go wrong.

⁴³ And if there is something that gets you to go wrong, you have to do something about it. If your hand gets you to do something bad you have to stop it, like as if you cut off your hand. It is better for you to live for ever with only one hand than go to hell with 2 hands. That fire in hell never goes out. ⁴⁵ Just the same, if your foot takes you the wrong way, to get you to do something bad, you have to stop it, like as if you cut off your foot. It is better for you to have only one foot and live for ever than go to hell with 2 feet. ⁴⁷ It is the same for your eye. If your eye looks at the wrong things and gets you to do something bad, you have to stop it, like as if you dig your eye out. It is better for you to go to be with God with only one good eye than go to hell with 2 eyes. ⁴⁸ Hell is a really bad place and people that go there will have bad pain all the time. It will be like maggots are eating them all the time, and like a fire is burning them all the time. Their pain will never stop.”

⁴⁹ Jesus also said to them, “God will let you have a little bit of trouble. He wants to test you to see if you are walking straight for Him.”

⁵⁰ And Jesus said, “You know that salt is good. Food tastes better with salt. But if that salt loses its salty taste it is no good any more and you can't fix it up. This is a picture of you mob. You have to be like good salt for people. You have to try to make their lives better, and don't fight with anyone but live and quietly together.”

10

*Don't split up married people
(Matthew 19:1-12; Luke 16:18)*

¹ Jesus left Capernaum in Galilee and went down south. They walked all through Judaea and the country on the east side of the Jordan River. A lot of people gathered around him and he taught them God's word, the same as he always did.

² Some of the Jewish law men called Pharisees went to Jesus and tried to trick him with a hard question. They said, "Is it all right for a man to break up his marriage and send his wife away?"

³ Jesus answered, "What did Moses write down in the law part of God's book?"

⁴ The Jewish law men said, "Moses wrote down a law like this, 'A man can split up from his wife. That man has to write on a paper that she is not his wife any more. He has to give that paper to his wife, and then he can force her to go away.'"

⁵ Jesus said to them, "You people have closed ears and you will not listen to God, so Moses had to write those words for you like that. ⁶ But God's book tells us that God made everything, and it says that he made a man and a woman at that time. ⁷ It tells us, 'A man and woman will each leave their father and mother and join up to each other.' ⁸ Then they are not 2 people any more. They are like just one body. ⁹ You see, God joined them together like that, so don't let anyone split them up."

¹⁰ After that Jesus went back to their house with just his followers and they asked him to explain this a bit more.

¹¹ Jesus said to them, "If a man divorces his wife and then marries another woman, he is sleeping with the wrong woman. She is not his proper wife. He is breaking God's

law and doing wrong to his proper wife. ¹² And if a woman divorces her husband and then marries another man, she is sleeping with the wrong man. Hei is not her proper husband. She is breaking God's law and doing wrong to her proper husband."

Jesus held kids in his arms
(Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17)

¹³ Some time later some people took their kids to Jesus. They wanted him to put his hand on them and ask God to be good to them. But Jesus's followers growled at those people and told them to take their kids away.

¹⁴ Jesus saw his followers block the kids from coming to him and he got angry. He said, "Don't block those kids. Let them come to me. They are the kind of people God wants. If you are like these little kids, God will have you in his family. ¹⁵ I'm telling you straight. Just look at the way kids trust their father and mother. You mob have to trust me just like those kids trust their parents. If you can't trust like that, you can't be in God's family."

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

A rich man asked Jesus how to live for ever
(Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30)

¹⁷ After that Jesus started to leave that place. Then a man ran up to him and got down on his knees, to show him respect, and said, "Good teacher, what can I do so that I will live a good life for ever?"

¹⁸ Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? You know that only God is good. What are you thinking about me? ¹⁹ You know God's laws,
– Don't murder anyone.

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

²⁰ That man said, "Teacher, I have always done all those things. I started to live that way while I was a little boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him, loved him, and felt sorry for him. Jesus said, "There is still one more thing you have to do. Go and sell all your things to get some money and give all that money to people that have nothing. After you do this, God will be really happy with you and later, in heaven, he will give you lots of other good things. So go and do what I told you, then come with me, and follow me."

²² That man heard what Jesus said and he got really sad. He was a rich man, but Jesus told him to give all his things away. He got very sad and just walked away with his eyes looking down.

²³ After that man left Jesus looked around at his followers and said, "Rich people don't like to join God's family and let God be their boss. It is really hard for them."

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

²⁶ The followers of Jesus got more shock, and they said to each other, “Is there anyone that God will save and take into his family? Maybe nobody.”

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

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

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus said, “If anyone leaves anything so that they can tell people God’s good news, they will get back more than they leave. If somebody leaves their home, or brothers and sisters, or mother and father, or kids, or land, so that they can follow me and tell people God’s good news, they will get a much better life. They will get many more homes, many more brothers and sisters, lots more mothers, lots more kids and lots more land. But I have to tell you this too, if they do this work for me they will get trouble from other people. But later they will live for ever with God in heaven.

³¹ People that are important leaders today will find out later that they are nothing. God will change their job and they will be working men for everybody. And people that are just working men today will be the important leaders later.”

Jesus told his followers, “They will kill me.”

(Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34)

³² Jesus and his followers kept going along the road to Jerusalem. Jesus went ahead of all the others. His close followers were shocked. They knew that they could get big trouble in Jerusalem. The other followers were frightened too. Jesus stopped walking and took his 12 close followers away from the other people and told them what was going to happen to him later.

³³ Jesus said, “We are all going to Jerusalem and there somebody will change sides and help the other mob catch me. That other mob are the leaders of the Jewish ceremony and the law teachers. I’m God’s special man from heaven, but the Jewish leaders will grab me and take me to the Roman bosses. They will say that I’m guilty and tell them to kill me. ³⁴ The Roman soldiers will rubbish me and spit on me. They will hit me with whips, and then they will kill me. But 3 days later I will get up alive again.”

*James and John asked Jesus to make them important
(Matthew 20:20-28)*

³⁵ James and John (the sons of Zebedee) asked Jesus to do something good for them. ³⁶ Jesus asked them, “What do you want me to do?”

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

³⁸ Jesus said, “You 2 don’t understand what you are asking me. Do you reckon you can go through the really hard time that I will go through? I will have really bad pain. It’s like I will have to drink really bad drink, like poison. I will go through a really hard time.”

³⁹ James and John said, “We reckon we can.”

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

⁴¹ The other 10 close followers heard what James and John asked for, and they got angry. ⁴² So Jesus called them all together and said, “You know what government

people are like here in this world. They like to be bosses over everybody. It is like that everywhere in this world, the leaders boss everyone around and the big bosses like to show everyone that they are strong. ⁴³⁻⁴⁴ But I don't want you to be like that. If you want to be a leader of my people you have to really want to help them, so you will work hard for them and not think about pay. And if you want to be the most important person you have to be a workman for everyone. ⁴⁵ You see, all the leaders of my people have to be like that, just like me. I'm like that too. I'm God's special man from heaven, but I didn't come here to be bossy and get people to work for me. I came to work for other people. And I came here to take the payback from God for people that did bad things. I came to die for big mobs of people."

*Jesus made a blind man see again
(Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43)*

⁴⁶ Jesus and his followers kept going to Jerusalem, and they walked through a town called Jericho. As they left Jericho a big mob of people walked with them along the road. A blind man was sitting at the side of that road, asking people to give him money so that he could buy some food. He was called Bartimaeus (his father's name was Timaeus).

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

⁴⁸ A lot of people growled at him and told him to shut up, but he kept yelling out even louder, "Jesus, you belong to David's family and I know you will become our boss like he was. So please be good to me and help me."

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Tell him to come to me.” So they called out that blind man, “Bartimaeus, you can be happy now. Get up. Jesus is calling out for you.”

⁵⁰ That blind man jumped up and walked to Jesus. He even left his coat behind. ⁵¹ Jesus asked him, “What now? What can I do for you?”

That blind man said, “Oh, Teacher, I just want to see again.”

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

11

Jesus went into Jerusalem

(Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19)

¹ Jesus and his followers kept walking and got near to Jerusalem. They came to the 2 towns called Bethany and Bethphage, on the hill called Olive Trees.

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

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

⁷ They took the donkey back to Jesus. They put their coats on top of the donkey, then Jesus sat on their coats on the donkey and started to ride him into Jerusalem. ⁸ A lot of people laid their coats down on to the track in front of the donkey and other people went to the gardens and cut leaves from trees and put these leaves on the track for the donkey to walk on. ⁹ Some of the people walked in front of Jesus and some walked behind him. They all kept on yelling out,

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

¹⁰ God, please make this man boss over everyone, just like his grand-father, the big boss called King David. God in heaven, you are very great and powerful.”

¹¹ Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into God’s ceremony house. He looked around at everything that was going on there. The sun was starting to go down, so Jesus left God’s ceremony house and went back to Bethany with his 12 close followers.

Jesus cursed a fruit tree
(Matthew 21:18-19)

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

Jesus cleaned out God’s special house
(Matthew 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22)

¹⁵ Jesus and his followers came into Jerusalem, and they went to God's ceremony house. Inside that house people were buying and selling animals and birds to use in the ceremonies, and other people were changing Roman money to Jewish money to give to the bosses of God's ceremony house. But they did these things inside that house. They didn't respect God's house, so they were wrong. And sometimes those men, that sold things and swapped the money, they cheated people. So Jesus hunted all those men out of God's ceremony house. He hunted out all those men that sold things, and the people that bought things, and those that changed money. He knocked over the tables with their money on them, and he knocked over the chairs of the men that sold birds. ¹⁶ He wouldn't let anyone carry these things through God's ceremony house, not even through its yard.

¹⁷ Jesus then taught everyone this way, he said, "God got one of his men to write these words, and they are in God's book, 'God wants his special house to be a place for people from every tribe to come and pray in.' But you mob have turned God's house into a place where crooks steal from people."

¹⁸ The Jewish law teachers and ceremony leaders were very upset about this. But all the people were really happy with Jesus and they were excited whenever they heard him teaching, so the Jewish leaders were afraid of him. After they heard what Jesus did at God's house they started to work out a way to kill him.

¹⁹ That night Jesus and his followers went back out of Jerusalem.

*The fruit tree died
(Matthew 21:20-22)*

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

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

²⁴ Listen to me now. If you believe God properly you can ask him for anything, and if you trust him all the way, like you believe that he already gave you that thing, then God will answer your prayer and make it happen. ²⁵ And whenever you pray, first think about this. If somebody did a wrong thing to you, you have to let it go. Don’t think about payback but make it all clear for that person. If you do that, then God will let go all the wrong things you have done too. He will make you all clear from blame and payback. So you first make it all clear for other people, then you can pray to God.”

The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus
(Matthew 21:23-27; Luke 20:1-8)

²⁷ After that Jesus and his followers went into Jerusalem and walked into the yard of God’s ceremony house. As Jesus walked along some Jewish leaders came up to him. They were the leaders of the Jewish ceremonies, and the law teachers, and the elders. ²⁸ They asked Jesus straight, “Who told you to hunt all those people out of

God's ceremony house? What big boss said you can do that?"

²⁹ Jesus said back to them, "You answer my question first. If you answer me then I will tell you which big boss said I can hunt those men out of God's ceremony house.

³⁰ Here is my question. You remember John? Well, who told him to do that washing ceremony for people? Who told him to baptise them? Did people tell John to do it, or did God tell him to do it?"

³¹ Those Jewish leaders talked together to work out their answer. They said to each other, "If we say that John did what God told him to do, then we will be in trouble. He will say to us, 'So why didn't you mob listen to him?' ³² But we can't say that people made up that washing ceremony." They knew that the people believed that John was a special man that told God's messages, and those people might hit them if they said he wasn't. The leaders were frightened of those people.

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

Then Jesus said, "If you will not answer me, I will not answer you. I will not tell you which big boss said I can do these things."

12

Jesus told a story about some farmers

(Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-19)

¹ After that Jesus told them all a picture story. He said, "A man wanted to grow fruit trees in a good garden. He made a strong fence around it and he built a high place where men could watch over that garden. He made all the things needed to look after those trees. Then that man got some other people to look after those trees for him.

Those men agreed to give him some of the fruit from that garden instead of paying rent money for it. After that, the owner went to another country.

² The time came for the men to pick the fruit, and the owner sent a workman to get his share of the fruit from the garden. ³ The men in the garden grabbed the owner's workman, beat him up and threw him out of the garden with nothing to take back for the owner.

⁴ The owner sent another man to the garden, but the men hit him with whips too, and they hit him on the head. ⁵ The owner sent another workman to the garden and this time the men killed him. Again and again the owner sent workmen to get his share of the fruit, but the men in the garden killed some of them and beat up the others.

⁶ The owner of the garden had one more person to send to get the fruit from the garden. The owner said to himself, 'I will try one more time. I will send my son. I love him and those men in the garden will respect him too.' So he sent his son to that garden.

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

⁹ What do you reckon the owner of the garden will do? He will go to the garden and kill all those men there. Then he will get other people to look after the garden for him.

¹⁰ You mob have to remember this message in God's book,
'Some workmen built a house out of rocks, but the workmen thought one of the rocks was rubbish, so they chucked it away.'

They were wrong. That rock was the properly good one, but they didn't understand about it.

¹¹ God made that rock the best one, and we are really happy about it, and we reckon he did something great.' ”

¹² The Jewish leaders heard that story and they knew that it was a picture of themselves, that they were the bad workmen in the story. They got upset and wanted to grab Jesus and take him to jail. But they were frightened of the big mob of people there, so they just walked away and left him alone.

*Some people tried to trick Jesus
(Matthew 22:15-22; Luke 20:20-26)*

¹³ Some time later, some Jewish leaders got some people together. They got some of the law men called Pharisees and the other men that were good friends with the big boss called Herod. The leaders sent these people to try to trick Jesus. They tried to get him to say something wrong, so they could make trouble for him.

¹⁴ They said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know you always want to do the right thing and say true words. You talk to everyone the same way, whether they are big bosses or not. You always teach God's words the right way. So tell us, is it right or wrong for us Jews to pay tax money to the Roman government bosses of our country?”

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

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

Those men said, “That is Caesar, the big boss of the Roman government.”

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

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

*Other people asked Jesus a tricky question
(Matthew 22:23-33; Luke 20:27-40)*

¹⁸ There were some Jewish people that believed that after somebody dies they will stay dead and they will never come alive again. They were called Sadducees. They tried to trick Jesus too. ¹⁹ They said to him, “Teacher, Moses wrote down God’s law like this, ‘If a man is married but dies with no kids, then his brother has to marry that woman. That man and that woman have to have a kid for that dead brother.’

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

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

will have that woman as his wife? All 7 brothers had her as wife before she died.”

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

²⁶⁻²⁷ You mob reckon that the dead people will not come alive again one day. But think about the story about Moses. You have read it, in God’s book. Moses saw a little tree on fire, and God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and I am the God of Isaac, and I am the God of Jacob.’ He didn’t say that at one time he used to be the God of those men. He said that he is their God now. That means those men are still alive, they aren’t dead. They are living now with God. You mob are really wrong.”

The most important laws

(Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-28)

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

²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The most important of God’s laws is this one, ‘Listen to me, you Israel people, God is the one biggest boss over everybody. He is the only one you have to take notice of.

³⁰ You have to love God properly, not just a little bit. You have to love God from right inside yourself. You have to love God in the way you feel and in the way you think.

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

³¹ The 2nd most important of God's laws is this one, 'You have to love other people just as much as you love yourself.'

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

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

³⁴ Jesus heard the man's words and knew this man was thinking the right way. Jesus said, "You are thinking the right way now. You are nearly ready to let God be your boss."

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

*Jesus taught people in God's special house
(Matthew 22:41-46; Luke 20:41-44)*

³⁵ Then Jesus taught people in the yard of God's ceremony house. He said, "You know that David lived a long time ago, and now our law teachers tell us that God's special person will be the grand-son to come of David. What do they mean by that? ³⁶ Think about this. God's Holy Spirit told David to write down these words, he wrote,

'God said to my boss, "Come here and sit down beside me until I make you boss over all your enemies." '

³⁷ David was talking about that special man from God, and David called him boss, so how can that man be David's grand-son?"

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

³⁸ Jesus kept on teaching the people. He said, "Look out for those law teachers. They think they are great. They wear long coats and want people to look at them. They like people to say hello to them whenever they go shopping. ³⁹ Those law teachers want everyone to respect them, so they want to have special chairs at a meeting house, and if they go to a party they want to get special places to sit. ⁴⁰ But they trick old ladies that have nobody to look after them. They take everything off those ladies, their houses and all their things, and then those law teachers go to the meeting house and say long prayers so that everyone will think they are good. They just pretend to live God's way. God will punish them more than other people that do wrong things."

A poor lady gave money to God
(Luke 21:1-4)

⁴¹ Then Jesus sat down near the money box at God's house. He watched the people put money in the box to give it to God. Some rich people put in a lot of money ⁴² but then a poor lady came in. She had no husband. He was dead. She put 2 very little coins into the money box.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Jesus called his close followers to him and said, "I'm telling you straight, this poor lady gave more than those rich people. Those rich people look like they gave a lot of money, but they still have lots more back at home. But that poor lady gave all the money she had. She kept nothing for herself, not even money to buy herself some food."

13

*Jesus talked about the way everything will finish up
(Matthew 24:1-2; Luke 21:5-6)*

¹ Jesus and his followers left God's ceremony house and walked along outside it. One of them said, "Hey, Teacher, look at these lovely buildings. And look at these big stones. This is a really good house that they made for God."

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

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

⁵ Jesus said, "Look out. You have to be careful. Don't let anybody trick you. ⁶ A lot of people will come and use my name and say, 'I'm Christ, the one God sent,' and they will trick a lot of people. ⁷ You will hear stories about big fights, and somebody might tell you stories about big fights that will happen later. Don't let these stories frighten you. These fights will happen, but the world will not finish up yet. ⁸ There will be a lot more fights. People from some tribes will fight against people from other tribes, and people from some countries will get up and fight against people from other countries. And in lots of different places the ground will shake in earthquakes, and sometimes there will not be any food. People will be really hungry. These bad things will happen, then after that, more big trouble will come. You know about women, when they have babies. At first a woman has some pain,

then later her pain gets really bad. Listen. The trouble I just told you about is like the first pain for a mother. After that the trouble will get really bad.

⁹ You have to be careful and look after yourselves properly. You follow me, but people that don't like me will not like you. They will grab you and take you to court and bash you in public places. They will put you on trial so that you will stand up in front of big leaders and big government bosses. This will be your chance to tell everyone about me, ¹⁰ so that people everywhere will hear about me. Before the world finishes up, people in every tribe have to hear the good news about me.

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

¹² There will be so much trouble that people will fight their own families. Some brothers will help people catch their other brothers and kill them. And some fathers will do that to their own kids. And some kids will turn against their fathers and mothers and get people to kill them.

¹³ And everybody will know that you follow me, so they will hate you. But if you stay strong and don't give up, God will save you."

¹⁴ Jesus kept talking (and everyone that reads this story has to try hard to understand what it means). Jesus said, "Somebody will put a really bad thing inside God's house in Jerusalem. That bad thing shouldn't be in God's house. There will be a lot of trouble. When you see this happen you mob that live in Judea have to get up quickly and run away to the hills. ¹⁵ If you are outside your house, don't go back into it to get anything. ¹⁶ Or if you are in a paddock, don't go back to your house to get something,

not even your coat. Just run away quick. ¹⁷ It will be hard for women that are carrying babies inside them, and for mothers with little kids at that time. ¹⁸ You have to pray to God so that this trouble doesn't come at the time when the weather is bad and it's hard to go anywhere. ¹⁹ This trouble will give people really bad pain. People have always had pain, right from the beginning when God made everything, but their pain from this trouble will be the worst, and nobody will have as much pain again after this hard time. ²⁰ If God lets that trouble keep going everybody will die. But God has picked out some people and he doesn't want them to die, so he will make this trouble time a bit short so that they will not die.

²¹ And then if anyone says, 'We have found Christ, that special man from God. Here he is,' don't believe them. Or if they say, 'There he is over there,' don't believe them. ²² There will be a lot of people that will tell lies and say they are the special man from God called Christ, but they will be trying to trick you. Other people will tell lies and say they are talking God's words, and they might do all kinds of clever things. These people will be thinking, 'Maybe we can trick the people that God picked out for himself.' But really, they can't do that. ²³ So Look out. I'm telling you about it now so that later, when it happens, you can be ready for it. ²⁴ After that time of trouble the sun will go dark and the moon will stop shining. ²⁵ The stars and the other powerful things in the sky will all shake about and fall out of the sky. (That is all in God's book.) ²⁶ Then everybody will see God's special man come back from heaven in the clouds. People will see that he is really strong, and powerful, and shining really bright. ²⁷ Then he will send God's angel messengers out to every place all over the world, and all across the sky, to get those

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

²⁸ Think about this. Whenever you see new leaves on a bush tucker tree, you know that hot weather time will come soon. Those new leaves show you that. ²⁹ It's the same with all these things that I'm telling you about now, they will show you something too. You will see these things happen and you will know that I'm properly close up, and I will come really soon. ³⁰ I'm telling you straight. All these things I talked about will happen while you mob here are still alive. ³¹ Everything will finish up. The sky and the ground and everything will finish up, but not my words. My words stay true for ever. They will never will finish up."

*Stay awake and keep looking out
(Matthew 24:36-44)*

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

³⁴ Listen to this picture story. A man left his house and went on a trip. He told his workmen to look after everything and do their own jobs. He said to the guard at the gate, 'Keep looking out to see me coming back.'
³⁵⁻³⁶ Those workmen didn't know what time the boss of that house was going to come home. He might come after the sun goes down, or he might come in the middle of the night, or he might come as the birds call out in the

morning, or might come back after the sun comes up. You are like those workmen. You don't know what time I will come back here and you have to be ready for me. So you have to keep looking out for me, like that guard at the gate has to keep looking out. Don't get tired and sleepy.

³⁷ I'm telling you mob, like I tell everybody else. You've got to stay awake, and keep watching."

14

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1-5; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-53)

¹⁻² Every year Jewish people came to Jerusalem for a special ceremony called Passover. They ate flat damper at that time. Well, Jesus was in Jerusalem 2 days before that ceremony was going to start. The leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers wanted to kill Jesus, so they met together to work out a way to sneak up on him and grab him. But they said to each other, "Everybody likes Jesus so we have to wait a bit. We can't grab him while there are lots of people here for the ceremony. They will get angry with us and we will have a very big fight."

A woman put special perfume on Jesus's head

(Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8)

³ Jesus went to the town called Bethany. A man called Simon lived there. (Before that time Simon was sick with skin sickness but then he got better again.) Jesus went to Simon's house and was eating dinner there. A woman came into the house with some special perfume in a pretty bottle. That perfume smelled really good and it cost a lot of money. ⁴ She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus's head. Some of the people there growled at her. They said, "Why did you spill out that

perfume? ⁵ Why didn't you sell it and get a lot of money, and give that money to poor people?"

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

Judas agreed to sell Jesus

(Matthew 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6)

¹⁰ Judas Iscariot was one of the 12 men that Jesus picked out. He changed sides and went to the Jewish leaders. He said, "I can help you catch Jesus." ¹¹ They heard him say this and they were very happy. They promised to pay him money. So Judas kept thinking about this and waited for the right time to help them catch Jesus.

Jesus and his friends ate the Passover dinner

(Matthew 26:17-25; Luke 22:7-14,21-23; John 13:21-30)

¹² The day came for people to kill a young sheep to cook it and eat it. That was the start of the ceremony time called Passover. They ate flat damper too at that time. On that day some of his followers came to him and asked him, "Where do you want us all to eat this dinner. We can go and get that place ready."

¹³ Jesus said, "All right. You 2 go over there into Jerusalem, and after you get there you will meet a man. He will be carrying a big jug of water. Follow him, and he

will go into a house, ¹⁴ You talk to the boss of that house. You tell him, 'Our teacher wants you to show us the room you have for visitors. He wants to eat the Passover dinner there with his followers.' ¹⁵ Then that boss will take you upstairs to a big room that he's got set up and ready. You can get the dinner ready for us there."

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

¹⁷ When the sun went down, Jesus and his close followers came to that house to eat the Passover dinner. ¹⁸ While they were eating, Jesus said to them, "One of you men that is eating with me here right now, will help the people that want to kill me."

¹⁹ His 12 followers were sad, and each of them said to him, "Not me. You didn't talk about me did you?"

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

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

²³ Then he picked up the cup of wine and said thank you to God for it, and he gave it to them and they passed it around and each one drank a little bit of wine. ²⁴ He told them, "This wine is my blood. I will die and pour out my blood for many people. It's like this, God has agreed to save people, and I will die so he can do that. My blood will come out, and it is like I'm using my blood to sign God's new agreement with everyone. ²⁵ I'm telling you straight, I will not drink any wine again until the day that

I sit down with God and all his family, and he will show everyone that he is the biggest boss.”²⁶ After Jesus said this, they all sang a song to God, and then they went out of that house to go to the hill called Olive Trees.

Jesus talked straight To Peter

(Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)

²⁷ As they walked along the road, Jesus talked to them. He said, “All you mob will run away and leave me. A long time ago God got one of his men to write about this in his book. He wrote, ‘God will knock down the man that looks after the sheep and all his sheep will run away.’

²⁸ I will die, like that man wrote, but after that God will make me alive again. Then I will go ahead of you to Galilee country and wait for you there.”

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

³⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Listen to me, Peter. Tonight you will talk and you will lie to people. You will say that you don’t know me. A chook will yell out tonight, just like it always does before the sun comes up. But people will hear you say 3 times that you don’t know me before that chook yells out 2 times.”

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

All the other followers talked the same way.

Jesus prayed in the place called Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46)

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

³³ He asked Peter, James and John to go with Him, and they walked away from the others. As they walked, ³⁴ he said to them, “I feel really sad right now. I feel so sad, it’s like I’m dying. Stay here and keep looking out for trouble.”

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

³⁷ Jesus went back to his 3 friends and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Wake up, Simon. Can’t you stay awake with me for just one hour? ³⁸ Stay awake and pray to God so that the devil will not get you to go wrong. I know you want to do the right thing, but your body is weak and wants to sleep.”

³⁹ Jesus left them again, and prayed again. He kept asking God the same thing. ⁴⁰ The 3 friends of Jesus were very tired and just couldn’t stay awake. Then Jesus came back to them again and they were asleep again. After they woke up they were so ashamed they didn’t know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Jesus went away and prayed to God again. Then he came back to his friends and said, “Are you still asleep? You can’t sleep any more now. Look. I’m God’s special man from heaven, but those bad men will soon come and get me. ⁴² Hey, get up, we have to go now. See, here is the man that is helping them catch me.”

A mob of men grabbed Jesus

(Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:3-12)

⁴³ At that same time, the leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers and the Jewish elders were back in the town, and they told a big mob of men to go with Judas to grab Jesus. Those men all had long knives and fighting sticks. Judas was one of the 12 close followers of Jesus, and he went to Gethsemane with this mob of men. Jesus was still talking to his friends ⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ when the mob got there, and Judas walked up to Jesus and said, “Teacher. Teacher,” and kissed him on the cheek, to show those men which one they had to grab. ⁴⁶ So they grabbed Jesus. ⁴⁷ One of the friends of Jesus was standing right there and he pulled out his long knife. He cut off the ear of a man that worked for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to the mob, “Why have you got all these long knives and fighting sticks? I’m not a dangerous man. No way. ⁴⁹ I was in God’s ceremony house and I taught the people there every day, but you didn’t grab me then. But you can grab me now. A long time ago the men that told God’s message said that you will do this. They wrote about it in God’s book.”

⁵⁰ Then Jesus’s followers got frightened and ran away and left him there.

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

They took Jesus to court

(Matthew 26:57-68; Luke 22:54-55,63-71; John 18:13-14,19-24)

⁵³⁻⁵⁴ The mob took Jesus to the big house of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. That house had a yard with a wall around it. Peter followed a little bit behind the mob, then he walked into the yard of that house and sat down

with that mob near their fire. All the other leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and elders and law teachers sat down together at that house.

⁵⁵ Those bosses tried to get witnesses to say, “We saw him do wrong things,” so they could kill him, but nobody told a strong story against him. ⁵⁶ Lots of people stood up and told lies about Jesus, but they didn’t agree with each other. Their stories were all mixed up.

⁵⁷ Some men stood up and told this lie. ⁵⁸ They said, “We heard this man say, ‘I will knock down God’s house and build another one in 3 days. Lots of men built this one, but I will build the new one just by myself.’” ⁵⁹ But even these men had their stories mixed up and they didn’t agree with each other.

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

Then that boss said, “All right, tell us this. Are you the special one called Christ, that God promised to send? Are you the son of God?”

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

⁶³⁻⁶⁴ Then that big boss of the Jewish ceremonies got so angry that he tore his clothes and said to them, “Did you hear that? He said that he is the same as God. We don’t need anyone to say anything more. We heard it ourselves. So what do you reckon, did he break our law or not?”

They all said, “He did that. He broke our law. He’s got to die.”

⁶⁵ Some of the people in that meeting spat on him. They tied a rag across his eyes so that he couldn't see, then they hit him with their hands and said, "Hey. You reckon that God has made you clever, do you? All right, tell us, who hit you?" Then the guards got Jesus and bashed him.

Peter said, "I don't know Jesus"

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

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

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

⁷⁰ But again Peter said, "No, not me."

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

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

⁷² Straight away that chook yelled out again. Then Peter remembered what Jesus said to him before, when Jesus said, "People will hear you say 3 times that you don't know me before that chook yells out 2 times." When Peter remembered these words, he was so sad he cried. He could not stop himself.

15

*The Jewish Council men took Jesus to the judge
(Matthew 27:1-2,11-14; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38)*

¹ Early in the morning the Jewish council men talked about what they will do with Jesus. That council mob were the leaders of the Jewish ceremonies, and the law teachers, and the elders. They tied Jesus up and made him walk over to the big government boss, whose name was Pilate. They asked Pilate to judge Jesus. ² So Pilate asked him, “Are you the big boss of the Jewish nation?”

Jesus answered, “Those are your words.”

³ Those leaders of the Jewish ceremonies blamed Jesus and told Pilate he did a lot of bad things, but Jesus didn’t say anything. ⁴ Then Pilate said to him, “Listen to what they say. Why don’t you say something for yourself?”

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

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

⁷⁻⁸ At this Passover time some of the Jerusalem people came to Pilate and asked him to let one prisoner go. They came up to Pilate while Jesus was still there. At that same time there was a murderer called Barabbas in jail there. Before this time Barabbas and his gang fought against the government and killed some of the government people, so the soldiers grabbed him and put him in jail.

⁹⁻¹¹ Pilate knew that the leaders of the Jewish ceremonies were jealous of Jesus and that was why they brought him to Pilate. They wanted Pilate to kill him. So when those Jerusalem people asked Pilate to let one prisoner go, he said, “All right. How about I let Jesus go, this man you say is your big boss. What do you reckon?”

But the ceremony leaders stirred up all those people, and the people told Pilate, “No. Not him. We want you to let Barabbas go out of jail.”

¹² Pilate said, “So what do you want me to do with this man you call the big boss of you Jewish people?”

¹³ They all yelled, “Kill him. Nail him to a cross and leave him to die.”

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

But they didn’t listen, they yelled even louder, “Kill him. Nail him to a cross.”

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

The soldiers rubbished Jesus

(Matthew 27:27-31; John 19:2-3)

¹⁶ The soldiers took Jesus outside into the yard of the big house where Pilate lived. They called out to the rest of the soldiers there to come out into that yard. ¹⁷ They put a purple coat on Jesus. They found some prickly branches and made those branches into a thing that looked like a crown. Then they put it on his head ¹⁸ and rubbished him. They got down on their knees in front of Jesus and said, “Hey. Your Majesty. You are the big boss of the Jews.” ¹⁹ And they kept on hitting him on the head with a stick, and they spat on him.

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

²¹ A man called Simon came walking along at that time. He was coming into the town from the bush. (Simon is from a country called Cyrene and he is the father of those

2 men Alexander and Rufus.) The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus. ²² Then they came to the place called Golgotha in their language. That name means Skull Place.

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

²⁴⁻²⁶ The soldiers nailed his hands and feet to the cross, then they stood it up, and left him to die like that. They put up a piece of wood above his head with writing on it to say why they killed him. The writing on it said, "The big boss of the Jews." It was 9 o'clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to that cross. After that the soldiers gambled with each other to get his clothes.

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

³¹ The leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and law teachers joined in and laughed at Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved other people, but he can't save himself. ³² So he thinks he is the one that God sent. He reckons he is the big boss of us Israel nation. No way. We will not believe him unless we see him come down off that cross."

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

Jesus died

(Matthew 27:45-56; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-30)

³³ In the middle of the day, about 12 o'clock, the whole country got dark, like it was night time. It stayed dark for about 3 hours, till 3 o'clock in the afternoon. ³⁴ Then Jesus yelled out loud in his language, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" That means, My God, my God, why did you go away and leave me all by myself?

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

³⁷ Jesus yelled out again, and then he died.

³⁸ Over there in God's house in Jerusalem there was a big curtain that blocked off the sacred place. At the same time when Jesus died, that curtain just ripped into 2 pieces, right down the middle from the top to the bottom. ³⁹ At the cross, the boss of those Roman soldiers stood near Jesus, and saw the way he died, then that soldier said, "I reckon this man really was the son of God."

Some women saw everything that happened

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ Before this time there were some women that walked everywhere with Jesus in Galilee country. They looked after him there, and after that they came with him to Jerusalem. While Jesus was dying they stood looking from a long way off. They were Mary Magdalene, and Salome, and that other Mary that was the mother of young James and Joses, and some other women.

Joseph buried Jesus

(Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

⁴² Jesus died on the day when the Jewish people got everything ready for their special rest day, called Sabbath. When it was nearly night time, ⁴³ a man went to Pilate. His name was Joseph and he came from a place called Arimathea. Everyone said he was a good man and he was one of the Jewish Council, too. He was waiting for the time when God will get all his family together and show everyone that he is the biggest boss. He stood up strong and wasn't afraid to go to Pilate. He asked him, "Can I get Jesus's body to take care of it our way?"

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

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

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

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

⁴⁶ So Joseph bought a good sheet. He took Jesus's body down from the cross and wrapped it in that sheet. Some time before this Joseph cut a cave in the side of a hill to make a place to bury a body in. So he took Jesus's body and put it in that cave to bury it. Then he rolled up a big rock to block up the cave. ⁴⁷ Those women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, they saw where Joseph put Jesus's body.

16

God made Jesus alive again

(Matthew 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)

¹ The next day was Saturday. It was their special rest day. When the sun went down, that special rest day was finished. Then Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James bought some perfume to put on Jesus's

body, so they could bury him the right way. ² On Sunday morning when the sun was just starting to come up they went to that cave to find Jesus's body. ³ As they walked along they said to each other, "Who will roll away that big rock to open up the cave for us? It's way too big for us."

⁴ But when the women got there they looked up and saw that rock wasn't blocking the cave any more. Somebody already came before them and rolled that rock away.

⁵ So they walked into the cave and saw a young man sitting there on the right-hand side, wearing really white clothes. They got a big surprise. ⁶ He said to them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for the body of Jesus, the man from Nazareth that they killed on a cross. God made him alive again. He isn't here. Look, see this place just here. They put his body here, but it isn't here now." ⁷ And he said to them, "Go back to his followers and tell them, 'You mob have to go back to Galilee. Jesus will go ahead of you mob to that country, and when you go back there you will see him. You remember, he told you about that some time ago.' Make sure you tell this message to Peter too."

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

*Jesus sent his followers to tell everyone about him
(Matthew 28:9-10; John 20:11-18)*

⁹ Jesus came alive again early on Sunday morning. At first he let Mary Magdalene see him. (A long time before this, Jesus forced 7 bad spirits out of her.) ¹⁰ After Mary saw Jesus she went to his friends, the people that used to

walk around with him. When she got there, they were all very sad and crying. ¹¹ Mary told them, “Jesus is alive again. I have just seen him.” But they didn’t believe her.

¹² A little while after that 2 of the other followers of Jesus were walking from Jerusalem to another place out in the bush. Jesus came to them and let them see him, but he made himself look like a different person, so at first they didn’t know it was him. ¹³ Then, after they found out it was him, straight away they went back to Jerusalem and they told the other followers of Jesus that they saw him. But those others didn’t believe them.

¹⁴ After that, the 11 close followers of Jesus were eating food and Jesus came to them, and he let them see him alive. He growled at them and said, “Why didn’t you listen to those that said they saw me? What they said was true, but you didn’t believe them.”

¹⁵ After that Jesus said to his followers, “You have to go out to everywhere in the world and tell everybody the good news about me. ¹⁶ Some people will believe your message. You have to take them through that special washing ceremony and baptise them with water, and God will save them. But God will not save people that don’t believe that message. He will blame them and say they are guilty. ¹⁷ And the people that believe in me will do great things to show they are God’s people. They will use my power to do these things, like they will force bad spirits out of people, they will talk in different languages that they never learned, ¹⁸ and if they pick up a cheekey snake, it will not hurt them, and if they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them, and they will put their hands on sick people, and God will make those sick people better.”

Jesus went up to heaven
(*Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11*)

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

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

Nobody knows for sure the words that Mark wrote at the end of his story about Jesus. We don't have the actual book that he wrote. We only have copies of it. Some of those copies end the way it is above, from verse 9 to verse 20, and others have just a short ending. This is the short ending to Mark's story, after verse 8.

⁽⁹⁾ Then those women went to Peter and his friends and quickly told them what happened.

⁽¹⁰⁾ After that Jesus came to them and sent his followers out everywhere, toward the sunrise and toward the way the sun goes down. They told people everywhere the good message about Jesus, that he can save them so that they will never die but will keep on living for ever. That message is really dear, and it always works. It is never wrong.

Plain English Version
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