

Mark wrote this good news about Jesus

About this book

A man called Mark wrote this book. We don't know a lot about him but he was sometimes called John Mark, and we know that his mother had a house in Jerusalem. When Jesus went back to heaven, his followers sometimes had meetings in the house that belonged to Mark's mother. You can read about this in the book of Acts 12:12.

Mark had a cousin called Barnabas. Sometimes Mark went with him and another missionary, Paul, when they went to communities to tell people about Jesus. You can read about those trips in the books called Acts 13:5, Acts 15:36-39, Colossians 4:10, and 2 Timothy 4:11.

Mark wrote this book about 20 or 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven. Everything that Mark wrote in this book happened about 2,000 years ago, and most of them happened in the country we now call Israel.

When Jesus was living on earth, the people that lived in Israel were called Jews and they had 2 leaders. The main leader was a Roman man who was called See-zar (Caesar). He lived in a country called Rome that was a long way from Israel. See-zar sent some of his soldiers to make sure that the Jewish people followed Roman laws. The second leader was a Jewish man called King Herod. He was like a little boss over the Jewish people.

God sent a man to get people ready for Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 3:1-12, in Luke 3:1-18 and in John 1:19-28

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

²⁻³ A very long time before Jesus was born, there was a man who gave God's messages to people. His name was Isaiah and this is one of the messages that Isaiah wrote down.

“I will send a messenger to get everything ready for you.

That man will talk about you, so that people can listen to what you say.

That man will go out into the dry country, and he will call out and say to people,

‘The Lord is coming to this country, so get everything ready for him.’ ”

The words that Isaiah wrote down came true

⁴⁻⁶ At the right time, God sent a man named John to get people ready to meet Jesus. John's clothes were made out of camel hair and his belt was made from animal skin. He ate grass-hoppers and bush honey.

John went all over the Judean country talking to people. And this is what he said to them, “If you are really sorry for the wrong way you are living, God will forgive you. That means God will forget about all the wrong things you did and he will say that you are not guilty. And if you tell me that you are truly sorry, we will have a special washing ceremony called baptism.”

All the people in Jerusalem and other towns in Judea heard stories about John and so they went out into the dry country to find him. They listened to what John said and some of the people told John that they were really sorry for not living God's way. So John took them down into the Jordan River and he baptised them. From that time he was called John the Baptist.

⁷ And John told them this message, "A man is coming soon. He is more powerful than me. He is so important that I cannot even get down on my knees and touch his foot.

⁸ I baptised you, I washed you with water. But this new man will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."*

John baptised Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 3:13-17 and in Luke 3:21-22

⁹ At that time, Jesus was living in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. Galilee was in the north part of Israel. One day Jesus left his home and walked down south to where John was baptising people in the Jordan River. When he got there, Jesus went down into the water and John baptised him.

¹⁰ When Jesus came up out of the water, he looked up and saw right into heaven. It was like the sky split open and God's Holy Spirit came down onto Jesus like a pigeon.

* **1:8** That means he will make you clean on the inside and make you right for God. God will put the Holy Spirit inside you.

¹¹ And God said to Jesus, “You are my son. I love you very much, and I am very happy with you.”

The Devil tested Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 4:1-11 and in Luke 4:1-13

¹² Straight away, the Holy Spirit made Jesus go out into the dry country.

¹³ Jesus stayed out there for 40 days, and the Devil, the *Cheeky One*, tried to get Jesus to turn away from God, but Jesus didn't take any notice. There were wild animals in that place, but God's angels looked after Jesus.

Jesus went back to Galilee

And you can read this story in Matthew 4:12-22 and Luke 4:14-15

¹⁴ One day King Herod sent some men to arrest John and put him in jail. Then Jesus went back north to Galilee to tell people God's good news.

¹⁵ He said to them, “The time has come for God to do something new. Very soon God will show that he is the king over everything. So, believe this good news and turn back to God.”

Jesus told some fishermen to leave their job and follow him

And you can read this story in Matthew 4:18-22 and in Luke 4:1-11

¹⁶ One day, Jesus was walking along next to the water of Lake Galilee and he saw 2 men throwing a net into the water to catch fish. The men were Simon and his brother Andrew.

17 Jesus said to them, “Come and follow me. You know how you catch fish and bring them into your boat, well, I will teach you how to bring people into God’s family.”

18 Straight away, Simon and Andrew put down their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Jesus was still walking next to the water when he saw an old man named Zeb-ed-dee (Zebedee) and his 2 sons, James and John. They were in a boat getting their nets ready to go fishing.

20 Jesus called out to them and said, “Come and follow me.” So they left their father and the other workmen in the boat and they followed Jesus.

Jesus made a bad spirit go out of a man

And you can read this story in Luke 4:31-37

21 Jesus and his followers went to a town called Cap-per-ni-um (Capernaum). The next Saturday, on the day that the Jewish people had their rest day[†], Jesus and his followers went to the Jewish meeting house[‡]. At that meeting, Jesus started to teach the people about God.

22 When the people heard him, it was like they were listening to God himself talking to them. Jesus said strong and straight words, and the people were amazed. The Jewish law teachers did not teach like that.

23 Straight away, a man with a bad spirit in him shouted out,

[†] 1:21 The Jewish rest day is called Sabbath. [‡] 1:21 A Jewish meeting house is called a Syn-a-gog (Synagogue) 1:22 Matthew 7:28-29

²⁴ “Jesus from Nazareth, leave us alone. Why do you make trouble for all of us spirits? Are you going to finish us up? We know who you are. You are God's special man.”

²⁵ Jesus growled at the bad spirit and said, “Be quiet. Come out of him.”

²⁶ That bad spirit made the man shake like he was taking a fit, and the spirit made a loud noise as it came out of the man.

²⁷ All the people were looking, and they were really shocked. They said to each other, “What's going on? This man is teaching us something new, and he has so much power. He tells the bad spirits to get out of people, and the spirits do what he tells them.”

²⁸ Those people went out and told everyone what they saw and from that time all the people in Galilee knew about Jesus.

Jesus made a lot of sick people better

And you can read this story in Matthew 8:14-17 and in Luke 4:38-41

²⁹ At the end of the meeting, Jesus, James, and John went to Simon and Andrew's house.

³⁰ When they got there, someone told Jesus that Simon's mother-in-law was really sick and lying on her bed.

³¹ Jesus went to see her. He helped her stand up and straight away she was better. Then she went out and got food ready for them.

³²⁻³³ That night, all the people from the town came to Simon's house. They took all the sick people and people that had bad spirits in them to see Jesus. Then they waited outside the house.

³⁴ Jesus made the sick people better and he sent a lot of bad spirits out of people. Those spirits knew that Jesus was God's son, and so Jesus told them to be quiet. He didn't want them to tell everyone who he was.

Jesus prayed

And you can read this story in Luke 4:42-44

³⁵ The next day just before the sun came up, Jesus walked out of the town to a quiet place to pray by himself.

³⁶ When Simon and the others got up, they looked everywhere for Jesus.

³⁷ When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸ But Jesus said, "Come on, let's go. I have to go to the other towns around here too and tell people my good news. That is why I came here."

³⁹ So Jesus went to all the Jewish meeting places in Galilee. He told people about God and sent many bad spirits out of people.

A man had a bad skin sickness, but Jesus made him better

And you can read this story in Matthew 8:1-4 and in Luke 5:12-16

⁴⁰ A man with a bad skin sickness walked up to Jesus. He got down on his knees and said, "I know that if you want to, you can make me better."

⁴¹ Jesus was feeling really sorry for him and said, "I do want to make you better." Then Jesus touched the man with his hand and said, "You are better now."

⁴² Straight away, that skin sickness was gone.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Then Jesus spoke really straight to the man and said, “I do not want you to tell anyone what I did. I want you to go right now and show your skin to the Priest (Jewish ceremony man), so that he can see that you are better. Moses, that leader from a long time ago, gave us Jewish people a ceremony to say thank you to God, so go and do that ceremony. Then everyone will know that you are better.”

⁴⁵ But the man did not do what Jesus said. He went away and told everyone what Jesus did for him, and so people came from everywhere to see Jesus. So many people came to see him that he could not walk in the towns anymore. He tried to stay out in the dry country, but the people still found him.

2

Some men carried their sick friend to Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 9:1-8 and in Luke 5:17-26

¹ Jesus went back to stay in a house in Cap-per-ni-um (Capernaum). Some time later when people found out that Jesus was there, they went to see him.

²⁻³ There were so many people inside the house, a lot of them had to stand outside.

While Jesus was telling the people about God, some men came to the house carrying a crippled man on a mat.

⁴ There were too many people blocking the door and so the men carried the crippled man up the stairs onto the flat roof of the house. Then they cut a hole in the roof. They picked the man up on his mat and put the man down to where Jesus was teaching.

⁵ Jesus saw that these men really trusted him to make their friend better, and so he said to the crippled man, “You know all the bad things you have done? I say that God will forget about what you did and he will not punish you.”

⁶⁻⁷ But some of the Jewish lawmen didn't like what Jesus said. They were thinking, “Hey, he can't say that! God is the only one who can say that people are not guilty. That man thinks he is God!”

⁸⁻⁹ Straight away, Jesus knew what those men were thinking, so he said, “Why are you thinking like that? I might say to this man, ‘You are forgiven for doing those bad things.’ Or I might say, ‘Pick up your mat and walk home!’ I can say both of those things, so which one is easier for me to say?”

¹⁰ Alright, I will show you that I am God's special man sent from heaven. I am powerful and I am allowed to say that people are not guilty.”

Then Jesus looked at the crippled man and said,

¹¹ “Stand up, pick up your mat and go home.”

¹² Straight away, the man got up onto his feet. Then he rolled up his mat and walked out of the house. Everyone saw what happened, and they were really shocked. But they started to say good

things about God. They said to each other, “We have never seen anything like this before.”

¹³ Then Jesus left the house and went for a walk next to the lake. All the people followed him, so he kept on teaching them.

Jesus told a tax man to follow him

¹⁴ There was a Jewish man who worked for the Romans. The man's name was Levi and his father's name was Al-fay-us (Alphaeus). One day Jesus was walking along and he saw Levi sitting in his office taking tax money from people. Jesus walked up to him and said, “Come and follow me!” And straight away Levi got up and followed Jesus.*

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Later on, Levi asked Jesus and his followers to come to his house. Levi wanted them to eat with him. There were other people there too, tax men and some people that didn't live God's way. A lot of people like this followed Jesus.

Some Jewish lawmen saw Jesus eating in Levi's house, and they said to Jesus' followers, “Why does Jesus eat with tax men and those people that do not live God's way?”

¹⁷ Jesus was listening and said to them, “Listen, sick people need help from a doctor. People that are well do not need that help. I tell you, I am like a doctor for those people that do not live God's way. I want to help them change up their lives. I

* **2:14** At that time, the Romans were the boss over all of Israel, and they made all the Jewish people pay tax money. They used some Jewish men to take the tax money from their own countrymen and give it to the Roman government. And so the Jews hated taxmen.

have not come to help people that are right with God.”

Jesus talked about not eating food

And you can read this story in Matthew 9:14-17 and in Luke 5:33-39

¹⁸ At that time, the Jewish lawmen and the followers of John the Baptist, sometimes stopped eating food for a while to show that they were serious about living God's way. Some people came to Jesus and said to him, “The lawmen and John's followers stop eating for a while to show God that they respect him. How come your followers keep on eating all the time?”

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Jesus said to them, “Listen to this story. At a wedding ceremony everyone is happy, and they all eat food together with the man that is getting married. But one day someone will take that man away. Then all the people at the party will stop eating food for a while.” †

²¹ Then Jesus told the lawmen 2 stories to help them understand what he was saying. He said, “Listen to this story. You can't fix a hole in an old coat by sewing a new piece of cloth into it. When you wash the coat, the new cloth will get smaller and it will tear away. Then that old coat will have a bigger hole in it and it will be useless.” ‡

† **2:19-20** Jesus was saying that he is like the man getting married. Jesus was still with his friends, and so they are happy and are still eating food. But one day Jesus' enemies will take him away. Then his friends will stop eating food for a while. ‡ **2:21** Jesus was saying that his new teaching didn't go with the old way of living for God.

²² And what about this story? If you put new wine into a bottle that has a hole in it, the wine will leak out and it will be wasted. You have to put new wine into a new bottle. §

Jesus talked about the Jewish rest day

And you can read this story in Matthew 12:1-8 and in Luke 6:1-5

²³ On one of the Jewish rest days, Jesus and his followers were walking in a paddock. In that paddock there were plants that had seeds growing on them. Jesus' followers picked some of the seeds and ate them as they walked along.

²⁴ Some Jewish lawmen saw what Jesus' followers were doing, and they got upset. They said to Jesus, "Today is our rest day and our law says you cannot work on God's rest day. Your followers are doing work, they are picking seeds off those plants and so they are doing the wrong thing!"

²⁵⁻²⁶ Jesus said back to them, "Have you forgotten the story about King David and his men? Do you remember what happened a long time ago when Abi-a-thar (Abiathar) was the High Priest (leader for all the Jewish ceremony men)*. One day, David and his men were really hungry, so David went into God's house and ate some of the special ceremony bread. The leaders of the Jewish ceremony were the only ones that

§ **2:22** Jesus was saying that his teaching had to go into people that were made new by God. **2:23** Deuteronomy 23:25 * **2:25-26** In Jesus' day, the Jewish ceremony men were called Priests. The leader of those ceremony men was called the *High Priest*

were allowed to eat that bread. And David gave some of the bread to his men too. So David and his men were breaking God's law, but no-one growled at them for doing that!"

²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Listen to me. God gave us our rest day to help us. He did not make people just so that they could follow special laws about his rest day.

²⁸ I am God's special man from heaven and so I am even the Lord of the Jewish rest day. I am not worried about what my followers are doing."

3

Jesus made a man better on a Jewish rest day

And you can read this story in Matthew 12:9-14 and in Luke 6:6-11

¹ On another Jewish rest day, Jesus went to a meeting house* and saw a man with a crippled hand.

² Some lawmen wanted to make trouble for Jesus. So they watched him to see if he would make the man better on the Jewish rest day. If Jesus made the man better, then those lawmen would say that Jesus was doing work and that he was breaking their law.

³ Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, "Come here so that everyone can see you."

⁴ Then Jesus said to the lawmen, "What does our law say about our rest day? Is it right to do good things, or is it alright to do really bad

2:25-26 1 Samuel 21:1-6; Leviticus 24:9

* **3:1** A Jewish meeting

house is called a Syn-a-gog (Synagogue)

things? Is it alright to save someone or is it alright to kill them?”

But the lawmen said nothing.

⁵ Jesus looked at those men. He could see that they didn't want to change and so Jesus was sad and angry. Then he said to the man with the crippled hand, “Hold out your hand.” The man put out his hand and straight away his hand was better. It was not crippled anymore.

⁶ The lawmen went away and had a meeting with another group of Jewish men that were good friends with King Herod. King Herod was the government boss of Israel. At that meeting, they tried to work out a way to kill Jesus.

A crowd followed Jesus to the big lake

⁷ Jesus and his followers left the town and walked down to Lake Galilee, and a big crowd of people went with them.

⁸ Those people came from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem and Id-you-me-a (Idumea). Id-you-me-a is a long way south from Jerusalem. Some other people came from the towns called Tyre and Sidon that were near the sea, and some people even came from the country that is on the other side of the Jordan River. All these people had heard what Jesus was doing and so they came to listen to him.

⁹⁻¹⁰ On that day, Jesus made a lot of people better, and even more people wanted to touch him so that they could be made better too. There were too many people pushing close to Jesus, so

he said to his followers, “Can you get a boat ready for me? I will get into it if I need more room.”

¹¹ Some of the people had bad spirits inside them. And every time those spirits saw Jesus, those bad spirits made the person fall down on the ground and shout out, “You are God's son.”

¹² And every time they shouted out like that, Jesus growled at them and told them to be quiet. He said in a strong way, “Do not tell anyone who I am.”

Jesus picked 12 men to be his close followers

And you can read this story in Matthew 10:1-4 and in Luke 6:12-16

¹³⁻¹⁵ One day Jesus walked up a hill and a group of people were following him. Jesus stopped and picked 12 of them to be his close followers. Then those men went to stand closer to Jesus. He said to them, “I want you to live with me and follow me everywhere I go. Later on, I will send you to other places so that you can tell people God's story. And I will give you the power to send bad spirits out of people.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ These are the names of the 12 men that Jesus picked to be his close followers.

Simon. Jesus named him Peter.

James and John. Zebedee the fisherman was their father.

James and John were angry men, so Jesus called them “Men that sound like thunder.”

Andrew.

Philip.

Bar-thol-o-mew (Bartholomew).

Matthew.

Thomas.

James. Al-fay-us (Alphaeus) was his father.

Thad-e-us (Thaddaeus).

Simon the Zealot. †

Judas Iscariot. Later on, he was the one that turned against Jesus and helped the Jewish leaders arrest him.

Jesus is stronger than the Devil

²⁰ Then Jesus went into a house, and a big crowd of people went to listen to him. Jesus and his followers were so busy they did not have time to eat.

²¹ Someone went and told his family what Jesus was doing. Jesus' family listened to that news and they thought that Jesus had gone mad, so they went to take him home to look after him.

²² Some Jewish law teachers came from Jerusalem. They were watching Jesus too. They said, "We think that Jesus has the Cheeky One, called the Devil, living inside him, and Jesus is using the Devil's power to send bad spirits out of people."

²³ Jesus knew what they were saying, so he called them to come and listen to some stories. He wanted them to understand what he was saying. He said, "Do you think that the Devil would fight against his own mob of spirits?"

²⁴ If a tribe splits up into 2 groups and they fight each other, that tribe will get weak and finish up.

† **3:16-19** Simon and other people called Zealots wanted to fight the Romans all the time.

25 In the same way, if people in a family fight each other all the time, they will split up and they will stop being a family.

26 So, if the Devil is fighting against his own workers, he will get weak and he will have no power.

27 Listen to another story. If someone wants to steal what is in a strong man's house, he has to tie up that strong man first. And after he has tied up that strong man, he can take whatever he wants from the house.‡

28 Listen, people might turn away from God. They might do bad things and say bad things against God, but if they are sorry for everything they have said and done, God will say they are not guilty. He will forgive them and he will not punish them.

29 But if anybody keeps on saying bad things about the Holy Spirit, those people will always be guilty, and God will punish them forever for saying those things. Saying bad things about the Holy Spirit is a sin that can never be forgiven.”

30 Those Jewish lawmen thought that Jesus got all his power from the Devil and that is why Jesus talked to them like that.

Jesus talked about his true family

‡ **3:27** What Jesus is saying in this story. He is saying that the strong man in his story is a picture of the Devil, and he is like the man that tied him up. Jesus is saying that he has more power than the Devil and that he, Jesus, is taking the people that the Devil has locked up.

3:29 Luke 12:10

³¹ Jesus' mother and brothers came to the house where he was teaching, and they sent someone in to get him.

³² There were a lot of people sitting there listening to Jesus, and the messenger said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you!"

³³⁻³⁴ Jesus looked around at the people sitting there and said, "Do you want to know who my real family is? The people sitting here, they are my real family.

³⁵ My real family are those people that listen to God and do what he says. They are my brothers, my sisters, and my mothers."

4

Jesus told a story about seeds and ground

And you can read this story in Matthew 13:1-9 and in Luke 8:4-8

¹ Jesus went down to the lake again and started to teach the people. There were so many people standing there, that Jesus got into a boat and his friends pushed it away from the land. From there, the people standing next to the water could see him and hear him.

² Jesus used picture stories that have special meanings inside them to teach the people about God.

³ He said, "Listen, a man wanted to grow some food plants.

⁴ So he got the paddock ready and then he spread the seeds out all over the ground.

Some seeds went too far and fell on the road. The birds saw the seeds and ate all of them.

⁵⁻⁶ Some seeds went another way and fell onto ground that had too much stone in it. The seeds grew into plants really quickly but the stones in the ground blocked the roots from going down deep. When the sun came up, it burnt the plants and they died.

⁷ Another lot of seeds fell into prickly grass growing next to the paddock. Those little plants tried to grow but the prickly grass blocked them so that they could not grow any new seeds.

⁸ But some of the seeds fell onto the really good ground, and those seeds grew and became strong plants. At the end of the growing time, the man went to the paddock to pick all the new seeds from the plants. There were plants that had some seeds but other plants had a lot more seeds.”

⁹ Then Jesus said to the people, “You all have ears, so listen to what I say.”

Jesus told his followers what his stories were all about

And you can read this story in Matthew 13:10-17 and in Luke 8:9-10

¹⁰ Later on, Jesus was sitting down with his 12 close followers, and there were other people sitting with them. His close followers said to Jesus, “We don't understand the stories that you tell us. Can you tell us what they mean?”

¹¹ Jesus said, “These stories have a secret meaning. The stories are all about how God will be the king over everything in a new way. You men follow me, so I will tell you what those

stories mean. People that are not in God's family will hear the stories but they will not understand them.

¹² That way, what God told Isaiah to say a long time ago will come true.”

This is what Isaiah said,
People will look with their eyes, but they will not understand what they see.

People will hear with their ears, but they will not understand what they hear.

If people did look and listen properly, they would turn around and come back to God, and he would forgive them.

This is the meaning of the story about seeds and ground

And you can read this story in Matthew 13:18-23 and in Luke 8:11-15

¹³ Jesus said to them, “Why can't you understand the story I just told you? If you can't understand this easy story, you will not understand the other stories that I am going to tell you.

¹⁴ In my story, the man that spread the seeds out all over the ground is like a person that is telling people about God.

¹⁵ At the start of my story, the seeds are a picture for God's word. The road is a picture of some people and the birds are a picture of the Devil. And so when the seeds fell onto the road, the birds came and took the seeds away. That means God's word is given out to people, but the Devil comes along and takes those words away so

that people cannot take them deep into their lives.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ In the next part of my story, some of the seeds fell onto ground that had too much stone in it. That is a picture of people that are happy to listen to God's word. They start to take notice of it, but they do not let that message go down deep into their life. When they have trouble or other people rubbish them, they get weak for God and they walk away from him.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ In the next part of my story, some seeds fell into prickly grass, and that grass blocked the seeds so that the plants could not grow properly. The prickles are a picture of the things that people think about all the time. They worry about money, and they always want something new. All sorts of things fill their minds and these things block God's words from helping them live the right way. They cannot grow strong for God.

²⁰ In the last part of my story, the seeds that fell onto good ground, grew into strong plants with lots of new seeds. This is a picture of people that are like that good ground. They are ready to listen to God's word, and they do what it says. They learn more and more of God's story and grow strong for him.”

Jesus told a story about light

And you can read this story in Luke 8:16-18

²¹ Then Jesus said, “Do you reckon someone might light a candle, and then put a billycan over it? Would they put the candle under their bunk bed? No! People always put candles up high, so

that everyone can see clearly. ²² There are a lot of things that are hidden and there are things that God has not told us yet. God's light will show all the hidden things and God will tell us what he wants us to know at the right time.

²³ You all have ears, so listen to what I say.”

²⁴⁻²⁵ Then Jesus said, “You should listen carefully and think deeply about what I say. When you take notice of my words, God will help you understand more and more. But if you do not listen and believe what I say, God will stop you from understanding the little bit you do hear.”

How God's family grows

²⁶⁻²⁹ Jesus kept on teaching and said, “Let me tell you another story about how God is growing a family for himself. He is doing that so that he can look after his family forever. A man wanted to grow some food, so he got the ground ready and spread the seeds all over that ground. When he finished, he walked away and left those seeds to grow. The man did not know what made those seeds grow, but day and night for many months, the seeds grew and became plants. First the seed went into the ground and then the plants grew out from those seeds. At the right time, the plants grew new seeds, and when those seeds had finished growing, the man cut those plants. He hit the plants so that the seeds fell off, then he picked up all the seeds and put them into his shed.”

Jesus talked more about God's family

And you can read this story in Matthew 13:31-32, 34 and in Luke 13:18-19

³⁰ Then Jesus said, “I have been thinking about another story to help you understand how God's family is growing.

³¹⁻³² God's family is like a really little seed. You know, like that mustard seed. It is the smallest seed, but when someone plants it in the ground, it grows and grows until it is the biggest tree in your garden. It is so big, birds sit in its shade and they make their nests in it.”

³³⁻³⁴ Jesus knew how much the people could understand and so he always used picture stories to tell them about God. But when he was sitting down with his close followers, he told them the deeper meaning for those stories.

Jesus told the wind to stop and the water to be quiet

And you can read this story in Matthew 8:23-27 and in Luke 8:22-25

³⁵ Later that day, as the sun started to go down, Jesus stopped teaching and asked his close followers to take him across the lake.

³⁶ They left all the other people behind on the land, and his followers took Jesus across the lake in their boat. But some of the other people got into their boats and followed them.

³⁷ A little bit later, the wind started to get really strong, and it made the waves come up over the sides of the boat so that it was nearly full of water.

³⁸ Jesus was sleeping in the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. His followers were so

frightened they woke him up and said, “Teacher, don't you care that we are all going to die?”

³⁹ Jesus opened his eyes and then he got up. He growled at the wind, and said to the water, “Stop. Sit down and be quiet.” Straight away, the wind stopped and the sea went flat. And everything was quiet.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to his followers, “Why are you so frightened? You really don't trust me, do you?”

⁴¹ But they were still frightened and they said to each other, “Who is this man? How come the wind and the water listen to him and do what he says?”

5

Jesus sent bad spirits out of a man

And you can read this story in Matthew 8:28-34 and in Luke 8:26-39

¹ When the storm was finished, Jesus and his followers went to the other side of the lake where the Ger-a-zeen (Gerasene) people lived.

²⁻⁵ In that place there was a man that had a bad spirit in him, and he lived in the cemetery. He was really strong and no-one could hold him or make him sit down quiet. People tried to tie him up with chains, but he just broke them. He was so mad that all day and all night he walked around the cemetery and all over the hills screaming and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ That cemetery was a long way from the water, but when the man saw Jesus getting out of the

boat, he ran to him and fell down on his knees in front of Jesus.

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

But the spirit inside the man made him yell out, “Why did you come here? I know who you are. You are Jesus. You are the son of the Most Powerful God, so please do not hurt me.”

⁹ Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

The bad spirit said, “I am called the Big Mob. There are a lot of us bad spirits living inside this man.”

¹⁰ The bad spirit asked Jesus again and again saying, “Please do not send us away from this country.”

¹¹ At that time there were a lot of pigs feeding on a hill next to the water.

¹² Those bad spirits said to Jesus, “Just send us into that big mob of pigs over there.”

¹³ So Jesus sent the bad spirits out of the man and they went into the pigs. Straight away the pigs ran down the hill into the water and drowned.

¹⁴ The men who looked after the pigs ran back to the town and to all the farms in that part of the country to tell everyone what had happened to the pigs. All the people ran to find out what had happened.

¹⁵ When they came to where Jesus and his followers were standing, they saw the man that used to have bad spirits in him sitting down quiet. He was not mad anymore and he was wearing clothes. They were all frightened.

¹⁶ When the men that looked after the pigs told everyone what had happened again,

¹⁷ they asked Jesus to go away from their country and leave them alone.

¹⁸ Jesus listened to them, but as he was getting into the boat, the man that used to have the bad spirits said to Jesus, “Can I come with you?”

¹⁹ Jesus said, “No, I want you to go home to your community and to your family, and tell them all the good things God has done for you. Tell them that God was sorry for you and wanted you to be free from those bad spirits.”

²⁰ The man went all over that country called Ten Towns and he told everybody what Jesus did for him, and everyone was really amazed.

Jesus made a dead girl come alive again and he made a sick woman better

And you can read this story in Matthew 9:18-26 and in Luke 8:40-56

²¹ Jesus and his followers got into the boat and went back to the other side of the lake. When Jesus was standing on the dry ground a really big crowd of people came to him. They were standing all around him next to the water.

²² There was a man in the crowd whose name was Jairus. Jairus was one of the leaders for the Jewish meeting place near there. When Jairus saw Jesus, he went and fell down on his knees in front of him.

²³ He cried and asked Jesus to help him. He said, “My little girl is really sick and I think she will die. I know you can make her better, so

please come and put your hands on her so that she will get better and live.”

²⁴ Jesus listened to the man, and started to go with him. A lot of people went with them too and they were all walking close to Jesus.

²⁵⁻²⁸ In that crowd there was a woman that had been bleeding for 12 years. She had gone to see every doctor but none of them helped her. She had spent all her money trying to get better, but it was no good, she only got worse! One day someone told her about Jesus and she said to herself, “If I can just touch his coat, I will get better!” So she came up behind Jesus and touched his coat.

²⁹ Straight away her bleeding stopped and she knew that she was better.

³⁰ Jesus knew that some power had gone out from him, so he stopped walking, and turned around. He said, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ Jesus' followers said, “There is a big crowd of people around you. Why do you ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

³² Jesus kept on looking around to find the person that had touched him.

³³ And the woman that had touched Jesus' coat was so frightened, she was shaking. She knew that she was the one that Jesus was looking for, and so she went to him and got down on her knees in front of him. Then she told him everything that had happened to her.

³⁴ Jesus said to her, “Dear woman, I can see that you trust me and so now you are better. Go home and stop worrying. You are not sick anymore.”

35 While Jesus was talking to the woman, some people from Jairus' house came to him with bad news. They said, "I am sorry, it's too late. Your little girl is dead, and the teacher does not need to come now."

36 Jesus listened to what the people said, but he took no notice. He said to Jairus, "Do not be frightened, just trust me."

37 Jesus said to the crowd, "Stay here, I don't want all of you to come with me." He left most of the crowd behind and went with the girl's father. The only people allowed to go with him were Peter, James and his brother John.

38 When they got to the house, Jesus saw a lot of people crying and shouting out loud.

39 He went inside, and he asked them, "Why are you so upset, and why are you crying so much? That little girl is not dead. She is just sleeping."

40 When the people laughed at him, he sent them all outside. Then Jesus and the girl's mother and father went into the girl's room. Peter, James and John went with them.

41 Jesus held the girl's hand and said to her in her own language, "Get up little girl."

42 Straight away, the girl got up and started to walk around the room. Her mother and father were really shocked to see their 12 year old daughter alive again.

43 Jesus said to them, "You must not tell anyone what I did here today, but now, give her something to eat."

6

Jesus' own countrymen rubbished him

*And you can read this story in Matthew
13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30*

¹ Then Jesus and his followers left that place and went back to his home town called Nazareth.

²⁻³ On the next Jewish rest day, Jesus went to the Jewish meeting house and started to teach the people about God*. A lot of people were really amazed when they heard his words and they said, "Hey, we know this man and we know where he comes from. His mother Mary lives here with his brothers James, Joses and Judas. And his sisters live here too. He just makes things with wood and stone. So where did he learn all these things about God? And who was his teacher? And how come he can do such powerful things for people?" The people in the meeting got really angry with Jesus and would not believe anything he said.

⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "If God sends a man to give a message to people that don't know him, those people will respect him. But if God tells a man to give his own countrymen a message, they will not respect him. Even his close family and relations will not listen to him."

⁵ The people in his home town did not believe in Jesus, so he could not do any really powerful things for them. But he did touch a few sick people and make them better.

* **6:2-3** A Jewish meeting house is called a Syn-a-gog (Synagogue).
6:4 John 4:44

⁶ He was really shocked that his own people did not trust him, so he left Nazareth, and went to other communities in that country to teach them about God.

Jesus sent out his 12 close followers

And you can read this story in Matthew 10:5-15 and in Luke 9:1-6

⁷⁻¹¹ Jesus called his 12 close followers to come to him. He said to them, “I want you to go to all the towns and tell the people my message. Do not take a bag, or food, or money, or spare clothes with you. Just take your shoes and a walking stick. When you get to a town, let the people look after you. If the people are happy for you to be there, stay there in one of the houses. Don't move from house to house.

But if the people in that town do not want you to stay, or they will not listen to you, then I want you to leave that town. And when you are leaving that town, shake the dirt off your foot as a warning that they did not take notice of God's words.”

And Jesus said to his followers, “I am giving you my power to send bad spirits out of people.” Then Jesus split his followers up into 6 teams with 2 men in each team, and he sent them out to do God's work.

¹² So they went all over that country, telling everyone to turn around, change their lives and live God's way.

¹³ The followers sent a lot of bad spirits out of people, and they put olive oil on anyone that was sick and those sick people got better.

Herod killed John the Baptist

And you can read this story in Matthew 14:1-12 and in Luke 9:7-9

¹⁴⁻²⁹ This is the story of what happened to John the Baptist.

Before this time, King Herod's brother Philip was married to a woman whose name was Her-road-ias (Herodias). But Her-road-ias left her husband and married King Herod. So John said to Herod, "You should not be with your brother's wife. You are breaking God's law!"

Her-road-ias hated John for saying this and she wanted to kill him. But to stop Her-road-ias from hurting John, Herod sent some men to arrest John and keep him safe in jail. King Herod knew that John was a man that told God's messages and he liked talking to him. He respected John but he did not always understand what John was talking about and he was a little bit frightened of him too.

On his birthday, Herod had a party. He invited all the leaders of his army, all the important government workers and community leaders from Galilee. At this party Her-road-ias got her chance to get back at John.

Her-road-ias' daughter came in and danced at the party. Everyone liked her dancing so much that Herod said to her, "You have danced really well, and I want to give you a present. I promise

you that you can ask for anything you want, even if I have to give you half of my country.”

The girl did not know what to ask for, so she went outside and said to her mother, “King Herod wants to give me a present. What will I ask for?”

Her mother said, “Go back in and ask for the head of John the Baptist.”

Straight away the girl went back to the party and said to Herod, “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a big plate and I want it right now!”

Herod was really sad to hear these words. But he did not want to break his promise and be shamed in front of all the people at the party. So he sent a man to cut off John's head and bring it back on a big plate.

The man went to the jail. He cut off John's head and then he took it back to the party. Herod gave it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

When John's friends heard the bad news, they came and took his body away and buried it.

Herod was worried about Jesus

Everywhere in that country, people were talking about Jesus and all the powerful things he was doing. Some people said Jesus was that old man from a long time ago named Elijah. Other people said that Jesus was like those men from a long time ago who told people God's messages. But some people reckoned that Jesus was really John the Baptist come back to life.

When King Herod heard these stories he said, “I got a man to cut off John's head. So Jesus must

be John the Baptist come back to life again! That is how he does all those powerful things.”

Jesus gave more than 5,000 people something to eat

And you can read this story in Matthew 14:13-21 in Luke 9:10-17 and in John 6:1-14

³⁰ Some time later, Jesus' 12 close followers came back from teaching people in the towns they visited. They were standing around him and they told him all the things they had done.

³¹ While they were talking, a lot of other people were coming to see Jesus too. Jesus and his followers were so busy that they did not get a chance to eat anything, so Jesus said, “Let's go away from everyone to a quiet place, and have a rest.”

³²⁻³³ So they got into a boat and started to go across the lake to that quiet place. But a lot of people saw them leave, and they knew where they were going. The people ran around the side of the lake, and got there first.

³⁴ When Jesus and his followers got out of the boat, Jesus looked at all the people waiting for him on the sand, and he was sad for them. They looked like a mob of sheep that had no-one to look after them. So he started to teach them a lot of things about God.

³⁵ At the end of the day, Jesus' followers went to him and said, “It's nearly time for the sun to go down, and nobody lives here.

6:34 Numbers 27:17; 1 Kings 22:17; 2 Chronicles 18:16; Ezekiel 34:5; Matthew 9:36

³⁶ We think you should send the people away so that they can go to a farm or to a town, to buy some food.”

³⁷ Jesus said to them, “No. I want you to give them something to eat.”

But they said, “What? We would have to work for more than half a year to feed this mob!”

³⁸ Jesus said to them, “Go and see how much food you've got.”

They came back and said, “We have 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.”

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Jesus said to his followers, “Tell the people to sit down on the green grass.”

The people sat down in groups of 50 and 100.

⁴¹ When everyone was sitting down, Jesus picked up the bread and the fish. He looked up to the sky and said, “Thank you God for this bread and for this fish.” He broke up the bread and the fish, and gave the food to his followers to share with all the people.

⁴²⁻⁴⁴ All the 5,000 men and their families had a good feed that day, and later on Jesus' followers picked up all the food that was left over and they filled 12 big baskets.

⁴⁵ Straight away, Jesus said to his followers, “I want you to get into the boat and row across the lake to Beth-say-da (Bethsaida). I will see you later.”

Then he said to the people, “It is time for you to go home now.”

⁴⁶ He said goodbye to them and then he went up into the hills to pray.

Jesus walked on the water

⁴⁷ When night time came, the boat was only half-way across the lake, and Jesus was still back on the land.

⁴⁸ A strong wind was blowing across the lake and Jesus saw that the men were having a hard time rowing the boat. Just before the sun came up, Jesus walked to them on the water, but it looked like he was going to walk past them.

⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰ When they saw Jesus walking on the water, they thought he was a ghost. They were so frightened that they screamed. But Jesus said to them, “Don't be frightened, it's me, Jesus.”

⁵¹⁻⁵² Jesus got into the boat and straight away the wind stopped blowing. The men were shocked. They had seen what Jesus did with the bread and the fish the day before, but they still did not understand. It was too hard!

Jesus made a lot of sick people better

⁵³ They came to the country called Gen-ez-a-ret (Gennesaret), and they tied up the boat. ⁵⁴ As soon as the people saw them get out of the boat, they knew that it was Jesus.

⁵⁵ So everywhere Jesus went in that country the people ran to get all the sick people, and then they carried them on mats to Jesus.

⁵⁶ Jesus went to little towns, and to big towns. And everywhere he went, the people carried their sick friends and put them on the ground in the middle of the town. The sick people asked Jesus if they could touch his clothes, and everyone that touched his clothes got better.

7

Rules that did not come from God

And you can read this story in Matthew 15:1-9

¹⁻⁴ One day, some Jewish law teachers and some other lawmen came from Jerusalem to check up on what Jesus was doing. Those men that came from Jerusalem were really strong for the Jewish law, and they saw that Jesus' followers did not follow that law. Those Jewish lawmen had lots of rules about washing. One of those rules was about how people had to wash their hands in a special ceremony way before they ate food. And they had to wash their hands in that same way after they came home from the shops. There were other rules too. There was a rule about how to wash cups, billycans, cooking pots and how to wash the chairs they sat on to eat their food.

So, when the men from Jerusalem saw that some of Jesus' followers did not wash their hands the right way,

⁵ they said to Jesus, "Your followers are not keeping the rules that our old leaders gave us a long time ago. They did not wash their hands the right way before they started to eat their food."

⁶ Jesus said to them, "Isaiah lived a long time ago and told people God's messages. He wrote about people that think 2 ways, just like you. The words he wrote about you are in God's book.

Isaiah wrote,
"Those people show respect for me with their mouths,
but really they think another way.

⁷ They do ceremonies to show me respect,

but those ceremonies are rubbish.
And they teach people to follow rules that men made up

and they say those rules come from God.'

⁸ You mob are just like that. You have turned your back on God's law, and you love keeping the rules that you have made up."

⁹ Then he said, "And you have worked out ways to get around God's laws and follow the rules your leaders made up.

¹⁰ God told Moses that he wanted everyone to look after their old people.

Moses said,
'You have to respect your father and mother.'

And,
'If anyone rubbishes their father or mother, you have to kill them.'

¹¹ But you teach people that they can say to their parents, 'I know that you need help and I would like to give you something, but I promised to give it to God. I am sorry, I cannot help you.'

¹² You reckon that if a person says that to their father or mother, they don't have to help them.

¹³ When they do this to their old people, they are rubbishing God and his law. And you do wrong things like this all the time. You think that your own rules are better than God's laws."

¹⁴ Then Jesus called out to all the people and said,

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ "I tell you this so that you know. People might not wash their hands before they eat food,

7:7 Isaiah 29:13
Deuteronomy 5:16

7:10 Exodus 20:12; 21:17; Leviticus 20:9;

but that doesn't make the food wrong for God. And if they eat that food, it doesn't mean that they have turned away from God. It is the things people say and the things they do that show that they are not right with God.”

¹⁷ Then Jesus left the people and went into a house. His followers went with him, and they asked him what he was talking about.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus was surprised, and said, “Why can't you understand what I am saying? Listen, when you eat something, it goes into your stomach and later on, it goes out of your body and into the toilet. It is not what you eat that makes you not right with God.”

When Jesus said this, he was saying that all food is good to eat.

²⁰ Then Jesus said, “People show that they are not right with God by the bad things they say and do.

²¹⁻²² These are some of the things people do.

They think really bad things.

They do things with their bodies that God says are wrong.

They steal things.

They kill people.

They go to bed with another person's husband or wife.

They are greedy and try to get lots of money and things.

They are mean.

They trick people.

They do bad things all the time.

They are jealous and want other people's things.

They say rubbish words about God and other people.

They are proud and think they are great.

They do stupid things that show that they are not thinking straight.

²³ Yes, when people do these bad things, it shows that they are thinking the wrong way and they are not right with God.”

A woman who was not Jewish trusted Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 7:21-28

²⁴ Jesus took his followers north to a place called Tyre that was next to the sea. They stayed inside a house so that no-one would know they were there, but people soon found them.

²⁵⁻²⁶ There was a Greek woman who lived in Tyre. Her family came from Phone-ee-sha (Phoenicia) in a nearby country called Syria. She was not a Jewish person, and her daughter had a bad spirit in her. As soon as the woman heard that Jesus was in Tyre, she went to him and got down on her knees in front of him. She asked him to send the bad spirit out of her daughter.

²⁷ Jesus said to her, “Listen to me. You do not take your children's food and give it to your dogs, do you? You let your children eat as much as they want to and then you give the rest to the dogs.”*

* **7:27** Jesus said this to tell her that it was right for him to do good things for the Jewish people first, and after that he would do good things for other people.

28 The woman said, “Yes, Teacher, you are right about that, but while those children are eating, they drop bits of food on the ground and the dogs eat it.”†

29 Jesus said, “That is a good answer. You can go home now, that bad spirit has gone out of your daughter.”

30 When the woman got home, she found her daughter lying quietly on a bed. What Jesus said was true, the bad spirit was gone.

Jesus made a deaf man better

31 Jesus left Tyre and went to a town called Sidon. Then he went around the top of Lake Galilee and down to a country that everyone called Ten Towns.

32 There was a man in that country that could not hear anything, and he could not talk properly. His friends were worried about him and so they took him to Jesus. They asked Jesus to put his hand on their friend, and make him better.

33 Jesus took the man away from all 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 breathed out as he prayed for the man. And he said in their language, “Open up!”

35 And straight away, the man could hear, and he could talk properly.

36 Jesus went back to the crowd and said to them, “Do not tell anyone what I did for your friend.” But they would not listen, and

† 7:28 The woman said this to ask Jesus to help her a little bit.

everywhere they went they said to people, “Jesus made our friend better!”

³⁷ Everyone was really amazed and they said to each other, “Jesus does everything properly. He makes people who cannot listen hear again. And people that cannot talk, he makes them better too.”

8

Jesus gave food to 4,000 people

And you can read this story in Matthew 15:32-39

¹⁻² Another time, Jesus was teaching a group of people for 3 days. At the end of the 3 days the people had nothing to eat. So Jesus called his followers to come to him and he said, “These people have nothing to eat and I feel sorry for them.

³ Some of them are a long way from home and now they are hungry. If I send them away now, they will get weak and fall down.”

⁴ His followers said, “No-one lives in this country. Where can we get food for all these people?”

⁵ Jesus said, “How much bread have you got?”
They said, “7 loaves.”

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

⁷ Someone had some little fish and gave them to Jesus, and again he said thank you to God for

the fish. Then Jesus told his followers to give the fish to the people.

⁸ All the people ate as much bread and fish as they wanted. When they had finished eating, Jesus' followers picked up so much food they filled up 7 big baskets.

⁹ Then Jesus told the people that it was time to go home. There were about 4,000 people in that crowd.

¹⁰ Straight away, Jesus and his followers got into a boat and went across the lake to Dal-man-oo-tha (Dalmanutha).

The Jewish lawmen asked Jesus to show them a sign

¹¹ Some Jewish lawmen went to Jesus. They wanted to trick him and so they asked him a question. They said, "Show us a powerful sign that comes from heaven."

¹² Jesus was upset. He took a deep breath and said, "Why do people always want to see a powerful sign? No! I will not give you any signs!"

¹³ Then Jesus and his followers got into their boat and went back across to the other side of the lake.

Jesus told his followers to be careful

And you can read this story in Matthew 16:5-12

¹⁴ As they went across the lake in the boat, Jesus' followers looked in their food bag and saw that they had forgotten to get more bread. They only had one loaf.

¹⁵ Then Jesus gave his close followers a warning. He said, “You know how you stir baking powder into the flour to make a damper. That baking powder changes the flour. The Jewish lawmen and King Herod are like that baking powder. So look out for them!”*

¹⁶ His followers did not understand what Jesus was talking about, and they started to argue with each other. They said, “We forgot to bring the food we need for the trip and that is why he said that.”

¹⁷ Jesus knew what they were talking about and so he said, “Why are you worrying about the bread? Can't you understand what I am trying to teach you? Have you closed your minds so that you can't learn?”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ You've got eyes, but you do not look properly. You've got ears, but you do not listen properly. Do you remember the time we had 5 loaves of bread and I gave food to 5,000 people? How many big baskets did we fill with the food that was left on the ground?”

They said, “12.”

²⁰ Then Jesus said, “Do you remember the time we only had 7 loaves of bread and we gave food to 4,000 people? How many big baskets did we fill with the food that was left on the ground?”

They said, “7.”

8:15 Luke 12:1 * **8:15** What Jesus was saying was, “If you take notice of what they say, you will change, you will get mixed up and you will not live God's way.” **8:18-19** Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2; Mark 4:12

21 Then Jesus said to them, “You don't understand what I am trying to teach you, do you?”

Jesus made a blind man see again

22 When Jesus and his followers got out of the boat at Beth-say-da (Bethsaida), some people took a blind man to Jesus. The people asked Jesus to touch the man and make him better.

23 Jesus held the man's hand and took him outside the town. Then Jesus spat on the man's eyes. Then Jesus put his hands on the man 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, and when the man opened his eyes, his eyes were better and he could see properly.

26 Jesus told the man to go home and said, “Do not go into your town, go straight home.”

Peter said to Jesus, “You are The Christ, the special man God promised to send”

And you can read this story in Matthew 8:27-30 and in Luke 9:18-21

27 Then Jesus and his followers left Galilee, and went north to some towns around See-za-ree-a Filip-pie (Caesarea Philippi). As they walked along, Jesus said to his followers, “When people talk about me, what do they call me? Who do they think I am?”

28 The followers said, “Some people call you John the Baptist come back to life. Some other

people think that you might be that old man Elijah or one of those men from a long time ago that gave people God's messages.”

²⁹ Then Jesus asked them, “But, who do you think I am?”

Straight away, Peter said, “You are The Christ!”†

³⁰ Jesus told them strongly, “Do not tell anyone what you just heard Peter say. Do not talk to anyone about me.”

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

And you can read this story in Matthew 16:21-28 and in Luke 9:22-27

³¹ Then Jesus told his followers about all the bad things that were going to happen to him very soon. He said, “I am God's special man from heaven, but the Jewish elders, the Chief Priests (Jewish ceremony leaders) and the law teachers are against me. They will really hurt me in different ways and they will kill me, but I will come alive again after 3 days. This is God's plan for me, and so it has to happen.”

³² Jesus talked really straight, but Peter did not like it. He took Jesus away from the other followers and growled at him for saying those things.

³³ Jesus turned around and looked at the other followers, and then he growled at Peter. He said, “Go away from me Peter, you are just like the Devil. Peter, you don't understand and you are

8:28 Mark 6:14-15; Luke 9:7-8 **8:29** John 6:68-69 † **8:29** You are the special man that God promised to send to save us.

thinking the way people think. You are not thinking God's way.”

³⁴ Then Jesus called out to his followers and all the other people standing there, to come close to him. He said, “If anyone wants to be my follower, that person must be ready to give up their old life and live just like me. They must do what I do and be ready to die in the same way that I am going to die, yes, even die on a cross.

³⁵ I tell you, if anyone wants to live their own way and not have any trouble here on earth, they will lose their life, and they will not live with me forever. But if anyone stops living their own way and follows me, that person will save their life and live with me forever.

³⁶ Think about this. You might get everything that you think will make you happy in this world, but all those things are useless if it means that you miss out on living with me.

³⁷ If you are dead, what can you use to buy back your life?

³⁸ You live in a world with a lot of people that live their own way and do not respect God. I am God's special man from heaven. One day I am going to come back with God's angels. When that happens, everyone will see me with all the great power that comes from my father. So, if anyone is ashamed of me and my message now, when I come back again, I will be ashamed of them.”

9

¹ Then Jesus said to them, “Listen carefully. Some of you will see a very special thing happen. God will show you that he is the Lord over everything and you will see his great power. You will see this thing happen before you die.”

Jesus talked to Moses and Elijah on a big hill

And you can read this story in Matthew 17:1-9 and in Luke 9:28-36

² Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the top of a big hill, and while they were standing there, Jesus started to look really different.

³ His clothes were so white they were shining like the sun. Nobody could wash clothes to make them look so white.

⁴ Then Peter, James and John saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah, those men that lived a long time ago. ⁵⁻⁶ Straight away Peter called out, “Teacher, this is great and it is good for us to be here with you. We should put up 3 shade shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Peter, James and John were really frightened and that is why Peter called out like that.

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 what he tells you.”

⁸ When the cloud had gone away, Peter, James and John looked around for those 2 old men, but they were gone. Only Jesus was standing there.

⁹ When Jesus, Peter, James and John were walking back down the hill, Jesus said to them, “I am God's special man from heaven and you must not tell anyone what you just saw. I will die and I will come back alive again. When that happens, you can tell people what you saw today.”

¹⁰ So Peter, James and John kept quiet and they did not tell anyone what they had seen up on the hill. But they did talk to each other about the words that Jesus said about him dying and coming back alive again. They did not understand that part.

¹¹ And so they asked Jesus, “Why do our law teachers say that Elijah must come before God's special man can come?”

¹²⁻¹³ Jesus answered, “Those law teachers are right. Elijah did come to make everything right and people did bad things to him.* I am God's special man from heaven, and they will do bad things to me too. They will not listen to me, they will turn against me, and they will give me a lot of pain. All this was written down in God's book a long time ago.”

Jesus sent a bad spirit out of a boy

And you can read this story in Matthew 17:14-21 and in Luke 9:37-43

¹⁴ When they got down the hill, they saw a big crowd of people standing around the other followers. Those followers were arguing with some Jewish lawmen.

9:11 Malachi 4:5; Matthew 11:14 * **9:12-13** Jesus was talking about John the Baptist being like Elijah.

¹⁵ When the crowd saw Jesus, they were surprised and happy, so they ran to welcome him.

¹⁶ Jesus said, "What are you arguing about?"

¹⁷ One of the men said, "Teacher, I have my son with me, and he has a bad spirit inside him that stops him from talking.

¹⁸ The bad spirit makes the boy take a fit whenever it wants to, so that the boy falls to the ground. Spit comes out of his mouth, he grinds his teeth together and his body goes hard like a stone. I asked your followers to make that bad spirit go out of the boy, but they can't do it."

¹⁹ Jesus said, "O, you people! You just cannot believe, can you? How long do I have to stay here and do everything for you? Bring the boy here to me."

²⁰ The people took the boy to Jesus, and as soon as that bad spirit saw Jesus, it made the boy have the biggest fit. He fell to the ground and as he rolled around, a lot of spit came out of his mouth.

²¹ Jesus said to the boy's father, "How long has your boy been like this?"

The man said, "O, a long time, right from when he was a little boy.

²² Lots of times, the bad spirit makes him fall into the fire and into water. That bad spirit is trying to kill him. Please feel sorry for him and help us if you can."

²³ Jesus answered the man, "You said, 'If you can'. Don't you know that God can do anything if you believe in him?"

²⁴ The boy's father shouted out, "I do believe in God. But please help me believe in him more!"

²⁵ Jesus saw that a lot of people were coming to watch. So he growled at the bad spirit and said, “Listen to me you bad spirit that stops people talking and listening. I am telling you to come out of this little boy right now, and you stay out of him. You are not allowed to go back into him.”

²⁶ The bad spirit screamed as it came out of the boy, and made him take another big fit so that he fell down on the ground. The boy looked like he was dead, and a lot of people said, “Poor thing, he is finished.”

²⁷ But Jesus held the boy's hand and helped him to stand up, and the boy's father took him home.

²⁸ Then Jesus and his followers went into a house, and his followers asked him quietly, “Why couldn't we make that bad spirit go out of the boy?”

²⁹ Jesus told them, “There is only one way to make that kind of bad spirit go out of a person. You have to pray and ask God to help you do it.”

Jesus told his followers that he was going to die

And you can read this story in Matthew 17:22-23 and in Luke 9:43-45

³⁰ Later, Jesus and his followers quietly left that place and went across the country of Galilee. Jesus did not want everyone to know where they were going.

³¹ He wanted to have time alone with his followers so that he could teach them. He said, “I am God's special man from heaven, but somebody is going to turn against me and help my enemies to arrest me. They will kill me, but I

will only be dead for 3 days, and then I will come alive again.”

³² His followers did not understand what he said, but they were too frightened to ask him about it.

Jesus' followers argued about who was the most important person in their group

And you can read this story in Matthew 18:1-5 and in Luke 9:46-48

³³⁻³⁴ While they walked along the road to Cap-per-ni-um (Capernaum), Jesus' followers argued with each other about which one of them was the most important person in their group. When they arrived and went into the house where they were going to stay, Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” His followers did not answer him. They were too shamed.

³⁵ Jesus sat down and called his followers to come and listen to him. He said, “A real leader is a person that says to themselves, ‘I am not more important than anybody else.’ So if anyone wants to be a leader, that person has to think that they are not important. They have to work to help everyone else.”

³⁶ Jesus found a little boy and put him in the middle of the group. He picked the boy up and said,

³⁷ “When a person loves me and is kind and friendly to a little child, then that person is being kind and friendly to me. And if that person is

kind and friendly to me, they are being kind and friendly to my father too. And he is the one who sent me.”

A man used Jesus' name to send bad spirits out of people

And you can read this story in Luke 9:49-50

³⁸ John, one of the followers, said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw a man using your name to send bad spirits out of people. He is not one of our group and so we told him to stop.”

³⁹ But Jesus said, “No! Don't stop him. If he uses my name to do good and powerful things for people, it means that he respects me. And if he respects me, he will not say bad things about me later on.

⁴⁰ Anybody that is not against us, is really on our side.

⁴¹ And if anybody sees that you belong to me and gives you a drink of water, God will do something good for them and no-one can take that good thing away from them.”

Jesus told some stories about the right way to live

And you can read this story in Matthew 18:6-9 and in Luke 17:1-2

⁴² Jesus was still holding the child when he said, “Listen, there might be a young child that believes in me. If anyone makes that child turn away from God, I tell you, it would be better if a really heavy stone was tied to the person's neck. And then, that person was pushed into the sea.

Drowning in the sea would be better than God punishing them for making that child turn away from God.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ And if there is something that makes you go against God then you have to do something about it. If you want to do something bad with your hand, cut it off. It is better for you to live with God forever with only one hand, than to go to hell with 2 hands, where the fire never goes out.

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ In the same way, if you want to do something bad with your foot, cut it off. It is better for you to live with God forever with only one foot, than to go to hell with 2 feet.

⁴⁷ And it is the same for your eye. If you are looking at something and it makes you do the wrong thing, dig your eye out. It is better for you to be in God's family with only one eye, than to go to hell with 2 eyes.

⁴⁸ People that go to hell will feel like they are being eaten by worms that never die. And they will feel like their bodies are being burnt by a fire that never goes out.

⁴⁹ You know how you put a little bit of salt on your food, well just like that, God sends little bits of trouble to people. And those troubles are like small fires.

⁵⁰ And listen to this other story about salt. You know how you put salt on your food to make your food taste better? I tell you, if salt loses its salty taste, it is useless and you cannot make it

good again. Think about this. You have to be like good salt for everybody. Yes, be like that salt so that you can all live quietly together.”

10

Jesus gave teaching about marriage

And you can read this story in Matthew 19:1-12 and in Luke 16:18

¹ Jesus and his followers left Galilee and walked down south. They walked all across Judea and went into the country on the other side of the Jordan River. Crowds of people came to listen to Jesus and just like he did in other places, he kept on teaching them about God.

² Some Jewish lawmen wanted to trick him and so they came to Jesus and said, “Is it alright for a married man to split up with his wife and send her away?”

³ Jesus said, “What did Moses write in God's book?”

⁴ The lawmen said, “Moses wrote that if a man wanted to split up from his wife, he had to write a special letter. That letter said that they were not married anymore. Then he could give that letter to his wife and send her away.”

⁵ Jesus said to them, “Moses knew that you Israelite people are really hard, and that is why he had to write those words. You have closed your ears and you have not listened to God!

⁶ God's book says, that when God made the world, he made a man and a woman.

⁷ God's way is for a man to leave his father and mother and marry a woman so that they can join up together and make a new family.

⁸ So then, they are not just 2 people anymore. It is like they have become one body.

⁹ And so, if God has joined them together like that, no-one should try and split them up.”

¹⁰ Later on, when Jesus and his followers were sitting down in a house, his followers asked him, “What did you say to those Jewish lawmen?”

¹¹ Jesus said, “If a man leaves his wife and marries another woman, he is sleeping with the wrong woman and he is breaking God's law.

¹² And if a woman leaves her husband and marries another man, then she is sleeping with the wrong man and she is breaking God's law.”

Jesus held children in his arms

And you can read this story in Matthew 19:13-15 and in Luke 18:15-17

¹³ Some people took their children to Jesus. They wanted him to put his hand on them, and pray for them. But Jesus' followers growled at the parents and tried to block them.

¹⁴ Jesus got angry when he saw what they were doing and said, “No! Don't stop those children. Let them come to me. God's family is full of people like them.

¹⁵ I tell you straight, if you don't come into God's family like a little child, you can't be in God's family.”

10:7 Genesis 2:24 **10:11** Matthew 5:32; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

10:15 Matthew 18:3

¹⁶ Then Jesus held those children in his arms. He put his hands on them and prayed, and asked God to be good to them.

A rich man asked Jesus how to live forever

And you can read this story in Matthew 19:16-30 and in Luke 18:18-30

¹⁷ When Jesus and his followers started to leave that place, a man ran up to Jesus and got down on his knees. He said, “Good teacher, what can I do to live with God forever?”

¹⁸ Jesus said, “Why do you say that I am good? God is the only one who is good!

¹⁹ You know God's laws.
Do not murder anyone.

Do not go to bed with anyone that is not your wife.

Do not steal things.

Do not tell lies.

Do not trick people to get anything from them.

You have to respect your father and your mother.”

²⁰ The man said, “Teacher, I have followed those laws all my life.”

²¹ Jesus looked at him, and was worried for him. Then Jesus said, “There is still one more thing you have to do. Go and sell everything you have and give all the money to people who have nothing. Then come and follow me and God will give you better things when you get to heaven.”

²² Straight away the man looked really sad. He walked away with his eyes looking down. He was

a rich man and he did not want to give everything away.

²³ Jesus watched the man walk away. Then he turned and looked at his followers and said, “Rich people have a lot of trouble letting God be the Lord of their lives.”

²⁴ When the followers heard this, they were shocked. But Jesus kept on talking and said, “My little children, it is hard for anyone to come into God's family.

²⁵ You know how a sewing needle has a little hole in it. Do you reckon that a camel can fit in that little hole? No, it can't. But it is easier for a camel to fit in that little hole than for a rich person to get into God's family.”

²⁶ When Jesus' followers heard this, they were even more shocked, and they said to each other, “Might be, no-one can get into God's family!”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “Nobody can get themselves into God's family. God is the only one who can do that. God can do anything!”

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

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus said, “I tell you straight, people might leave their land, their house, their brothers, or sisters, or their mother or father so that they can follow me, and live my way. God will give them more land, more houses, more fathers and mothers, and more brothers and sisters. But I have to tell you, the people that follow me will get a lot of trouble. Then, later on, those people will live with God forever.

³¹ And there will come a time when people who are important today will stop being important. And people that are not important today will become the important ones.”

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

And you can read this story in Matthew 20:17-19 and in Luke 18:31-34

³² Jesus was in front of his followers while they were walking along the road to Jerusalem. His close followers were really shocked that he was going there, and the rest of the people following Jesus were frightened.

Jesus stopped, and talked just to his 12 close followers. He told them what was going to happen to him later on.

³³ He said, “We are all going to Jerusalem and someone is going to turn against me. That person will help the Chief Priests and law teachers arrest me. I am God's special man from heaven and the Jewish leaders will take me to their court. Those leaders will say that I am guilty of breaking God's law, and they will say that I have to die. Then those leaders will take me to the Romans.

³⁴ Those Roman soldiers will rubbish me and spit on me. They will flog me with a whip and then they will kill me. But after 3 days I will come alive again.”

James and John asked Jesus to make them important

And you can read this story in Matthew 20:20-28

³⁵ Then James and John, the 2 sons of Zebedee, went to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to do something for us.”

³⁶ Jesus asked them, “What do you want?”

³⁷ They said, “When you are the Lord over everything and sitting on your special seat in heaven, can we 2 brothers sit down next to you? Can one brother sit on your right hand side and the other brother on your left hand side?”

³⁸ Jesus said, “You do not know what you are asking me. People are going to hurt me and give me a really hard time. It will be like I am drinking a cup of poison and I will have too much pain. Do you think that you can have the same troubles and pain that I am going to have?”

³⁹ James and John said, “Yes. We can do that.”

So Jesus said, “You are right, you will get the same pain and trouble that I will get.

⁴⁰ But I cannot give you what you want. My father in heaven is the one that says who will sit on my right hand side and who will sit on my left hand side.”

⁴¹ When the other 10 followers heard what James and John asked for, they got really angry.

⁴² So Jesus called all his followers together and said, “You know the leaders of this world like to be the boss over everyone and tell them what to do all the time.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ I do not want you to be like that. If you want to be an important person in my family, then you have to be like a workman for the rest of

my family. And if you want to be the leader of the family, you have to work hard for everyone else.

⁴⁵ Just like that, I am God's special man that came from heaven, and I did not come here to be the boss and make people work for me. I came here to do a special job for people. I came to give up my life for them and pay for all the wrong things people have done. That way they will be free from blame."

Jesus made a blind man see again

And you can read this story in Matthew 20:29-34 and in Luke 18:35-43

⁴⁶ On their way to Jerusalem, Jesus and his followers came to a town called Jericho. When they left Jericho, a big crowd of people followed them. A blind man was sitting on the side of the road and he was waiting for people to give him money. The blind man's name was Bart-i-may-us (Bartimaeus) and his father's name was Tim-ay-us (Timaesus).

⁴⁷ When Bart-i-may-us heard that Jesus from Nazareth was coming along the road, he shouted out, "Jesus from King David's family, please help me!"

⁴⁸ A lot of people growled at the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he would not be quiet, he shouted even louder, "Jesus from King David's family. Please help me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Tell him to come to me." So the people called out to the blind man

and said, "Old man, you can be happy now. Jesus is calling for you. Get up and go to him."

⁵⁰ That old man jumped up, he dropped his coat and walked to Jesus.

⁵¹ Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I just want to see."

⁵² Jesus said to him, "You believe in me and so I will make you better." Straight away Bart-i-may-us could see again and then he followed Jesus as he walked along the road.

11

Jesus went into Jerusalem

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:1-11 in Luke 19:28-40 and in John 12:12-19

¹ When Jesus and his followers got near to Jerusalem they stopped on the side of a hill called *The Mount of Olives*. There were 2 towns there and they were called Bethany and Beth-far-gee (Bethphage). Jesus told 2 of his followers to go into one of those towns.

² He said, "When you get there, you will see a donkey tied to a post. Nobody has ever sat on that donkey before, but I want you to untie it and bring it to me.

³ If somebody wants to know why you are taking that donkey, you can say, 'The Lord needs it for a while, but don't worry, later on he will send it back to you.' "

⁴ The 2 men went into the town. They found the donkey tied up outside the door of a house, and they started to untie it.

⁵ Some people standing there said to them, “What are you doing? Why are you untying that young donkey?”

⁶ Jesus' followers said, “The Lord needs it for a while, but don't worry, later on he will send it back to you.” So the people let the followers take the donkey away.

⁷ The men took the young donkey back to Jesus and put their coats onto the donkey's back. Then Jesus sat on the donkey and started to ride into Jerusalem.

⁸ A lot of people put their coats down on the road in front of the donkey, and other people cut leaves from trees and put them on the road too.

⁹ Some of the people walked in front of Jesus, and some people walked behind him.

They shouted,
“Say good things about the God who will save us.
The man that came from God is strong and powerful.

¹⁰ God's nation is coming and it will be strong and powerful again like it was in King David's time.

Yes, say good things about the God who lives in heaven. He will save us.”

¹¹ Jesus went into Jerusalem and walked into the Jewish ceremony house called the *Temple* to have a good look at what was going on in there.

But it was late and the sun was starting to go down, so Jesus left Jerusalem, and went back to Bethany with his 12 followers.

Jesus cursed a fruit tree

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:18-19

¹² The next morning, Jesus was hungry. He left Bethany and started to walk back to Jerusalem with his followers.

¹³ As they walked along, Jesus saw a fruit tree in front of him and so he went to see if there was any fruit. But it was the wrong time of year, and so he did not find any fruit, he just found leaves.

¹⁴ His followers heard him say to the fruit tree, “No-one will ever eat any fruit from you again.”

Jesus forced some people out of the Temple

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:12-17 in Luke 19:45-48 and in John 2:13-22

¹⁵ Jesus and his followers went back to Jerusalem and walked into the Temple yard. In the yard there were people buying and selling animals and birds that were going to be killed and used in the Temple ceremonies. There were other men too that swapped Roman money for Temple money so that people could pay their Temple tax. Those men were called money changers. Jesus forced them out of the yard and pushed over their tables and chairs.

¹⁶ He would not let anyone use the Temple yard as a shop.

¹⁷ Then Jesus started to teach the people. He said, “A long time ago God told 2 men to write down these words in his book. They wrote,

‘I want my house to be a place where people from every tribe can come and pray.’ But you have made my house to be like a place where robbers hide.”

¹⁸ When the Chief Priests (Jewish ceremony leaders) and the law teachers heard what Jesus said, they were very angry. They started to think about how they could kill Jesus but they were frightened of him. They could see how happy and excited the people were when Jesus was teaching them.

¹⁹ Later that day, when the sun started to go down, Jesus and his followers left Jerusalem and went back to Bethany.

The fruit tree died

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:20-22

²⁰ In the morning, Jesus and his followers walked past the fruit tree again. They saw that it was dead right down to the ground.

²¹ Peter remembered the words Jesus said to the fruit tree the day before. So he said, “Teacher, that tree you cursed is already dead.”

²² Jesus said, “You should really trust God.

²³ I tell you, someone might ask God to make this big hill jump into the sea. That person must not say, ‘Might be God will do it.’ That person has to truly believe with all their heart that God will do it and God will force that hill to jump into the sea.

²⁴ So if you ask God for anything, you have to believe that God will give it to you.

²⁵⁻²⁶ And when you are praying, if someone has done something bad to you, you have to forgive them. If you forgive that person, your father in heaven will forgive you for all the bad things you have done.”*

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus a question

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:23-27 and in Luke 20:1-8

²⁷ When Jesus and his followers got to Jerusalem, they walked into the Temple yard again. Some of the Chief Priests, law teachers and Jewish elders walked up to Jesus.

²⁸ They said, “Who told you to force all those people out of this yard? Who said that you are allowed to do that?”

²⁹ Jesus said to them, “First, you answer my question. If you answer my question, then I will tell you who said that I was allowed to force those men out of the yard.

³⁰ This is my question. Who told John to do that washing ceremony called baptism in the Jordan River? Did someone here on earth tell John to do that, 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 God told John to baptise people, then we will be in trouble. Jesus will say to us, ‘If God told

11:25-26 Matthew 6:14-15 * **11:25-26** Some other Bibles have these words as well. “But if you don't forgive other people, then your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins. He will not forgive you for the bad things you have done.”

John to baptise people, why didn't you listen to him?'

³² And if we say that someone here on earth told John to baptise people, we will still be in trouble." All the people believed that God sent John and so those Jewish leaders were frightened of them.

³³ The Jewish leaders went back to Jesus and said, "We do not know who told John to baptise people in the river."

Then Jesus said, "You don't want to answer me, and so I don't want to answer you. I will not tell you who said that I can do these things."

12

The story about men that looked after a garden

And you can read this story in Matthew 21:33-46 and in Luke 20:9-19

¹ Then Jesus started to teach the people with picture stories. He said, "A man wanted to grow fruit trees in a garden. He made a strong fence around it, and got everything ready. Then he rented the garden to some men and went away to another country.

² The workers did not pay the owner any rent money, but they promised to pay him with a share of the fruit that was picked from his garden. When the time came for the workers to pick the fruit, the owner sent a man to get his share.

³ But the workers in the garden grabbed the man, they bashed him, and then they sent him away with nothing.

⁴ The owner sent another man to the garden, but the workers hit him on the head and rubbished him.

⁵ Then the owner sent another man, and this time the workers killed him. Again and again the owner sent his men to get his share of the fruit. But every time, the workers in the garden would not give anything to the owner's men. They bashed some of them and they killed others.

⁶ The owner of the garden had one more person to send. He 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.'

⁷ But when the workers in the garden saw the owner's son, they said to each other, 'When that old man dies, this son will get everything. Why don't we kill him so that we can have the garden for ourselves?'

⁸ So they grabbed the young man, killed him and dumped his body out of the garden."

⁹ Then Jesus asked the people that were listening to him, "What do you think the owner will do? I tell you, the owner will go to the garden and kill all the men that worked there. Then he will get other people to work in the garden for him.

¹⁰ Here is another story for you to think about, it is in God's book for you to read.

'Some workmen built a house out of big stones,

but those workmen thought one of those stones was rubbish,

so they would not use it. But they were wrong.

God has made that stone the most important stone in the building.

¹¹ Yes, God did that, and we think he has done a really great thing.’ ”

¹² The Jewish leaders knew that Jesus was talking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they were frightened of the people, so they left him and walked away.

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus about paying tax money to the Romans

And you can read this story in Matthew 22:15-22 and in Luke 20:20-26

¹³ Later on, the Jewish leaders sent some lawmen and some other people who were good friends with King Herod to talk to Jesus. They wanted to trick him and get him to say something wrong.

¹⁴ They said, “Teacher, we know you always want to do the right thing. You are not frightened of anyone and you do not worry about what people say about you. We know that you always speak the same way to everybody, and you always teach people about God the right way. So, can you answer this question? Is it right for us Jewish people to pay tax money to the Romans? Or is it wrong for us Jewish people to pay tax money to the Romans?”

¹⁵ So Jesus said, “You are trying to trick me. Show me a piece of Roman money.”

¹⁶ They gave Jesus a coin, and after he looked at it, he said, “This money has a man's face on it. Who is he, and what is his name?”

They said, “That is See-zar (Caesar). He is the boss of the Roman people.”

¹⁷ So Jesus said, “Give See-zar what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God.” All the people were really amazed.

Other people asked Jesus a trick question

And you can read this story in Matthew 22:23-33 and in Luke 20:27-40

¹⁸ There were some Jewish people called Sad-you-sees (Sadducees) who believed that after someone died, that person would stay dead. They believed that God would never make a dead body come alive again. Some of those people went to Jesus and tried to trick him by asking another question.

¹⁹ They said to him, “Teacher, Moses wrote one of God's laws like this, ‘If a man gets married but dies before his wife has a baby, then his brother has to marry that woman. Then if they have a baby, it is like that baby belongs to her first husband and so his family line can keep going.’

²⁰ But what about this story? There were 7 brothers. The oldest one got married, but he died before his wife had a baby.

²¹ So the next brother married the woman to follow God's law, but he died too before they had

children. Then the next brother married the woman and he died before they had a baby.

²² The same thing happened to all of those 7 brothers. They all followed God's law and married the woman, but each one of them died before they had any children. And then last of all, the woman died.

²³ Well, on the day when God makes everyone come alive again, which one of the brothers will be married to the woman? She had been married to all of them."

²⁴ Jesus said, "You men are wrong, and this is why you are wrong. You do not know God's word properly, and you do not know about God's power!

²⁵ When God makes all the dead people come alive again, no-one will be married, and no-one will be promised to anyone. Everyone will be like the angels in heaven, and they never get married.

²⁶⁻²⁷ You people think that God will never make dead people come alive again. But don't you remember how God spoke to Moses from inside a burning bush. The story is written in God's book. God said to Moses, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'

*God is the God of people who are alive, not the God of people that are dead. Your thinking is all wrong!"

* **12:26-27** God did not say, "At one time, I used to be the God of those men." No, God said "I am their God." That means those men are not dead, they are still alive and they are living with God.

12:26-27 Exodus 3:6; 15

The most important laws

And you can read this story in Matthew 22:34-40 and in Luke 10:25-28

²⁸ One of the Jewish law teachers liked what Jesus said to those men and so he said to Jesus, “Which one of God's laws is the most important one?”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “The most important law is, ‘Listen to me, you people of Israel, the Lord our God is the one and only God.

³⁰ You have to love God with all your heart. Yes, love God with everything inside you.

You have to love God with all your soul, which is that part of you that will live forever.

You have to love God with all your mind. That is, love God in the way you think.

And you have to love God in everything that you do.’

³¹ And the second most important law is this one, ‘You have to love other people as much as you love yourself.’

These 2 laws are the most important laws.”

³² The Jewish lawman said, “Teacher, that is a good answer. God is the one and only God.

³³ We have to love God properly. With all our heart, and with all our mind. Yes, we have to love God with every part of us in a really strong way. Loving your neighbour is much more important than doing the ceremonies God told people to do.”

12:30 Deuteronomy 4:35; 6:4; Isaiah 45:21 **12:31** Leviticus 19:18 **12:32** Deuteronomy 4:35; 6:4; Isaiah 45:21 **12:33** 1 Samuel 15:22; Psalms 40:6-8; Isaiah 1:11-15; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8

³⁴ Jesus knew that this man was thinking the right way, and so he said, “You are right. I tell you, you are nearly ready for God to take you into his family.”

From that time, everyone was too frightened to ask Jesus any more tricky questions.

Jesus was teaching people in the Temple

And you can read this story in Matthew 22:41-46 and in Luke 20:41-44

³⁵ Then Jesus kept on teaching the people in the Temple. He said, “Everybody knows that David was our king a long time ago. And we know that our Jewish law teachers say that a grandson for David will be the special man God promised to send from heaven. That man from heaven is going to save us, and we call him *The Christ*. So why do you think our law teachers say that *The Christ*, is a grandson for King David?

³⁶ Think about this.

God's Holy Spirit told King David to write down these words in God's song book.

“The Lord said to my lord, “Come here and sit down beside me until I make you boss over all your enemies.” ’

³⁷ David called *The Christ*, ‘My Lord’. And so, if David said that *The Christ* was his Lord, how can *The Christ* who came from heaven be David's grandson?

Why do the law teachers say that?”

The big crowd of people were really happy with what he said.

³⁸ Jesus kept on teaching and said, “You have to look out for those law teachers. They wear really flash clothes so that people will think they are better than everyone else. And they like people to say hello and show them respect when people see them in the shops.

³⁹ And when they go to the Jewish meeting houses[†] and important parties, they want to have special chairs ready for them.

⁴⁰ But some of those law teachers do bad things to other people. They trick old women that have lost their husbands. They take everything from those women and then try to make themselves look good by saying long prayers. They just pretend to live God's way. But I tell you, God will say that they are guilty and will punish them more than he punishes other people.”

Jesus talked about giving money to God

And you can read this story in Luke 21:1-4

⁴¹ Then Jesus sat down near the money box that was in the Temple, and he watched people put their money in the box. Some rich people put in a lot of money.

⁴² But then an old woman that had lost her husband and did not have much money walked up to the money box and put in 2 very little coins.

⁴³ Jesus called his followers to him and said, “I tell you, this old woman gave more money than those rich people.

⁴⁴ Those rich people look like they gave a lot of money, but they still have lots more back at

[†] **12:39** A Jewish meeting house is called a Syn-a-gog (Synagogue)

home. That old woman gave all the money she had to God, and now she has nothing.”

13

Jesus talked about what was going to happen to the Temple

And you can read this story in Matthew 24:1-2; and in Luke 21:5-6

¹ Jesus and his followers left the Temple, and one of the followers said, “Teacher, look at these lovely buildings, and see how big those stones are.”

² Jesus said, “Yes, take a good look at this big building. Later on, it will not be here, it will be just a pile of broken stones on the ground.”

³ Then Jesus and his followers went out of Jerusalem, and they sat down on the hill called the Mount of Olives. They could see the Temple from there, and so, as they looked at it, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Jesus quietly,

⁴ “When will that building be just a pile of stones? Will there be a sign to show us when it is going to happen?”

⁵ Jesus said, “Yes, these are the signs to look out for, but people will try to trick you and so you have to be careful.

⁶ A lot of people will come and say, ‘I am the man sent from God called *The Christ*’, and a lot of people will get tricked up.

⁷ You will hear stories about wars that are happening now, and you might hear stories about wars that will happen later. Do not let

those stories make you frightened, it is not the right time for the world to finish up yet.

⁸ I am telling you straight. People from different countries are going to fight each other and people from different tribes are going to fight each other too. There will be earthquakes everywhere. There will not be much food and everybody will be really hungry.

You know how a woman starts to have pain when she is going to have a baby, it is a sign that the baby will be born. Like that again, when all these bad things start to happen, they are the signs to look out for. And you will know that there will be even bigger trouble coming.

⁹ Be careful how you live. You have followed me, and so people are going to arrest you and take you to court. They will flog you in their meeting houses. You will have to stand in front of kings and government leaders. And when that happens, you can tell them about me and what I did.

¹⁰ Before the world finishes up, people in every country and every tribe must be told the good news about me. And you can tell people how they can be made right with God.

¹¹ Yes, you will be arrested, but when you go to court do not worry about what to say. At the right time, the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say to the judge.

¹² The trouble will get so bad that some men will get their brothers arrested and killed. Some

fathers will do the same to their children, and some children will turn against their parents and have them killed.

¹³ You follow me and that is why everyone will hate you. But if you stay strong and do not give up, God will keep you safe in his family.”

¹⁴ And then he said, “Later on, you people who live in Judea will see a really bad thing that someone put in the wrong place.* That thing will make a lot of trouble. When that happens, run away to the high hills! Anyone reading this story should take notice of my warning.

¹⁵ You might be outside your house, or you might even be up on your roof. Do not try to save anything from inside your house.

¹⁶ You might be working in a paddock, but do not go back into your house to get your coat, just run away quickly.

¹⁷ At that time it will be really hard for women that are waiting for babies to be born, and it will be just as hard for mothers that are still feeding their babies with their milk.

¹⁸ You should pray and ask God not to let this trouble happen in winter time when it's hard to travel in the country.

¹⁹ Right from the beginning when God made everything, there has always been trouble, but the trouble that is coming will be the worst kind. And it will never be this bad again!

13:13 Matthew 10:22; John 15:18-19 * **13:14** Some people think that this bad thing was an altar for a wrong god that was put inside the Temple in Jerusalem. **13:14** Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 **13:15** Luke 17:31 **13:19** Daniel 12:1; Revelation 7:14

²⁰ If God lets that trouble keep on going, everyone will die. But God has picked some people to be in his family and so he wants them to stay alive. That is why he will not let that trouble keep on going.

²¹ Like I said before, do not believe people that say, 'We have found *The Christ*, the special man from God. Here he is.' Or if they say, 'There he is over there,' do not believe them.

²² There will be a lot of people that will tell lies and try to trick you. Some will say that they are *The Christ*, the special man from God. Other people will say they are talking for God, and they might do all kinds of clever things. Yes, they will try and trick the people that God has picked to be in his family.

²³ So be careful. I am telling you about it now so that later on, when it happens, you can be ready.

²⁴ When that time of trouble finishes, more things will happen that God tells us about in his book. He said, '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 and fall down.'

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 he will be just like God.

13:25 Isaiah 34:4; Joel 2:10; Revelation 6:13 **13:25** Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:10,31; 3:15; Revelation 6:12 **13:26** Daniel 7:13; Revelation 1:7

²⁷ He will send God's angels out to every place all over the world. Those angels will get all the people that God picked to be in his family and bring them to God.

²⁸ Think about this. Whenever you see new leaves on a fruit tree, you know that the weather is going to change soon.

²⁹ It's the same with all these things that I am telling you about now, they will show you that something is about to happen. You will see these things happen and you will know that I will come soon.

³⁰ Listen, there are some people alive now that will still be alive when these things happen.

³¹ One day the sky and the ground will both finish up, but my words will never finish up.”

Stay awake and be careful

And you can read this story in Matthew 24:36-44

³²⁻³³ Then Jesus said, “Be careful, nobody knows the time or the day when God will do these things. God's angels in heaven do not know. I don't even know. My father in heaven is the only one that knows. You do not know when God will do these things, and so you have to be ready all the time.

³⁴ Listen to this story. A man wanted to go and stay in another place for a while. So he told his workmen to look after everything at his house while he was away. He told each one of them to do their own jobs. And he told the man that opens and closes the gate, to keep watching the road for when he would come back.”

35-36 Then Jesus said, “You do not know what time the owner of the house is going to come home. He might come after the sun goes down, or in the middle of the night. He might come back after the sun comes up or in the middle of the day. Do not let him come back and find you sleeping when you should be watching.

37 And so, I am telling you all to be careful, just like I tell everybody else. Keep watching! You have to be ready for me to come.”

14

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:1-5 in Luke 22:1-2; and in John 11:45-53

¹ Every year the Jewish people went to Jerusalem for the Passover and Flat Bread ceremonies.*

But 2 days before the ceremonies started, the Chief Priests (Jewish ceremony leaders) and the law teachers made plans to arrest Jesus in a

14:1 Exodus 12:1-27 * **14:1** In God's book called Exodus, you can read how God's people were prisoners in Egypt. About 400 years later, God sent a man called Moses to save God's people and lead them to the land that God promised them. God said that all the Jewish people had to have ceremonies every year to remember how he got them free. The Jewish people called that ceremony time, “Passover and Flat Bread ceremony.” In those ceremonies the people picked a lamb or a young goat to kill and cooked it in a special way. And they made bread that has no baking powder in it. Then they had supper and ate the beef and bread together. They did this to remember what happened back in Egypt.

sneaky way and then kill him. But they were worried.

² They said, “We have to kill this man, but if we do it at our ceremony time all the people will fight us.”

A woman put nice smelling oil on Jesus' head

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:6-13; and in John 12:1-8

³ At this time Jesus and his followers were staying in a town called Bethany, and they stayed with a man who was called *Simon the Leper*.[†] Jesus and his followers were eating supper when a woman walked into the room with a stone bottle that had special oil in it. That oil smelled really nice and it cost a lot of money. She broke the top off the bottle and poured the oil on Jesus' head.

⁴ Some of the people that were eating supper were very angry with the woman and said, “Why did she waste all that oil?”

⁵ We could have sold that bottle for more than 300 pieces of silver money and then given that money to people that have nothing.” And they growled at the woman.

⁶ But Jesus said, “Stop it! Why are you giving her trouble? Leave her alone! She has done a very good thing for me.

⁷ You will always have people that have no money living in your community, and you can be kind to them any time you like. But I will not be with you much longer.

[†] **14:3** At one time Simon had a bad skin sickness called Leprosy but now he was better. **14:3** Luke 7:37-38 **14:7** Deuteronomy 15:11

⁸ This woman has poured that oil on my body to get it ready to be buried.

⁹ What I say now is true. People will go everywhere in the world and wherever they go they will tell my story. And they will talk about what this woman has done for me today, and people will remember her.”

Judas Iscariot turned against Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:14-16 and in Luke 22:3-6

¹⁰ Later on, one of Jesus' close followers whose name was Judas Iscariot went to the Chief Priests and said, “I can help you arrest Jesus.”

¹¹ Those leaders were very happy to hear what Judas said, and promised to give him some money. And so Judas started to work out how he could get Jesus arrested.

Jesus and his followers ate the Passover Supper

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:17-25, in Luke 22:7-14, 21-23 and in John 13:21-30

¹² The first day of the Flat Bread ceremony was the same day that the lambs were killed for the Passover ceremony. On that day, Jesus' followers asked him, “Where do you want us to get our Passover supper ready?”

¹³ Jesus said to 2 of his followers, “Go into the town, and when you get there, you will meet a man carrying a billycan full of water. I want you to follow him.

¹⁴ He will go into a house, and there you will meet the man who owns the house. Say to him, ‘The teacher wants to eat the Passover supper

with his followers in the room you keep for visitors. Can you show us where it is?’

¹⁵ That man will take you up some stairs to the visitor's room. It is a big room and it is ready for you. That is where you can get our supper ready.”

¹⁶ The 2 men did as Jesus said. They met the man with the billycan and followed him to the house. They talked to the owner, and he showed them the room. Then they got the Passover supper ready.

¹⁷ Later that night Jesus and his 12 followers went up to the supper room.

¹⁸ As they ate their supper, Jesus said, “One of you eating this supper with me is going to turn against me and help my enemies arrest me.”

¹⁹ All the followers were really sad when Jesus said this, and they all said, “No, not me!”

²⁰ But Jesus said, “Yes, one of you eating this supper is going to do that.

²¹ In God's book it says that God's special man from heaven will be arrested and killed. But I tell you, God will punish the man who turns against God's special man and gets him arrested. That man will say to himself, ‘I wish I had never been born!’ ”

²² While they were eating their supper, Jesus picked up some bread and prayed. He said, “Thank you,” to God, and then he broke the bread and gave it to his followers. As he gave the bread to them he said, “Take this bread, this is my body.”

²³ Then he picked up a cup of wine and prayed again. He said, “Thank you” to God, then he gave

the cup to his followers and they all drank some of the wine.

²⁴ When they all had a drink, Jesus said, “This wine is my blood. My blood is going to spill out of my body, and when it does, it will be a sign that God has made a new promise for lots of people.

²⁵ And what I tell you is true, I will not drink any wine until the day when all of God's family sits down together. And we will all drink a new kind of wine.”

²⁶ When the supper was finished, they all sang a song to God. Then they left the house and walked to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus talked straight to Peter

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:31-35, in Luke 22:31-34 and in John 13:36-38

²⁷ Jesus said to his followers, “All of you are going to be frightened and run away from me. Someone wrote in God's book these words, ‘I will kill the man that looks after the sheep, and the sheep will run away everywhere.’

²⁸ Those words will come true. I am going to die and then come alive again, and after that I will go in front of you and meet you in Galilee.”

²⁹ But Peter said, “All the other followers might run away from you, but not me.”

³⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “What I am going to say to you is true. Tonight, before the rooster calls out 2 times, you are going to say 3 times that you do not know me.”

³¹ Peter said in a strong way, “No. I am ready to die with you, and I will never say that I do not know you!” And all the other followers said the same thing.

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Geth-sem-a-nee (Gethsemane)

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:36-46 and in Luke 22:39-46

³² Jesus and his followers went to the Garden of Geth-sem-a-nee‡. That garden was on the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to his followers, “I want you to wait here. I am going to pray to God.”

³³ But Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and as they walked together, he started to feel very sad and upset.

³⁴ He said to them, “I am very sad and upset, I feel like I am dying inside. I want you to sit here and stay awake.”

³⁵⁻³⁶ Jesus left them, and walked away a little bit. He fell down onto the ground and started to pray. He said, “Father, is there any chance that I can miss out on this trouble? You can make anything happen. This trouble is like a cup of poison that I have to drink. You can take it away from me, but I know that you want me to have this trouble, and so I will do it.”

³⁷ Jesus went back to where he left Peter, James and John, and he found that they were asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, how come you can't stay awake for one hour?”

‡ **14:32** Geth-sem-a-nee was a place where olives were crushed to get olive oil.

³⁸ Stay awake and pray. Ask God to keep you from doing the wrong thing. I know that you want to do what is right, but you are weak.”

³⁹ Jesus left his followers there and went away to pray again. He said the same words to God that he said the first time.

⁴⁰ Again, Jesus went back to his followers and found them sleeping. They just could not stay awake, and they did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Jesus left them and prayed some more, and after he finished praying he went back and found them sleeping again. He said, “You just can't stay awake can you? You have had a rest now, and now it is time for my trouble to start. I am God's special man from heaven and look, the men that are going to arrest me are here.

⁴² Here comes the man that turned against me. Let's go and meet him.”

A big crowd of men arrested Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:47-56, in Luke 22:47-53 and in John 18:3-12

⁴³ Straight away they saw Judas, one of Jesus' 12 followers, leading a big crowd of men. The Chief Priests, the law teachers and the Jewish elders had sent those men to arrest Jesus. All the men with Judas had long knives/swords and fighting sticks in their hands.

⁴⁴ Before Judas and the crowd found Jesus, Judas had said to the men with him, “I will kiss a man on the side of his face. Arrest him. Tie him up and make sure he does not get away.”

⁴⁵ So, when Judas saw Jesus, he walked up to him and said, “My teacher” and kissed him on the cheek.

⁴⁶ And so the men with Judas arrested Jesus and tied him up.

⁴⁷ But one of Jesus' followers pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of one of the men that worked for the High Priest.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to the crowd of men, “You have all got long knives/swords and fighting sticks. It is like I have done something really bad.

⁴⁹ I was teaching in the Temple every day, but you did not arrest me there. What you are doing to me now was written in God's book and it has to come true.”

⁵⁰ All Jesus' followers were frightened and they all ran away and left him behind.

⁵¹ There was a young man that was wearing a long calico coat. Someone grabbed his coat,

⁵² but it ripped and the young man ran away with nothing on.

The men took Jesus to the Jewish court

And you can read this story in Matthew 26:57-68, in Luke 22:54-55, 63-71 and in John 18:13-14, 19-24

⁵³ The men that arrested Jesus took him to the house where the High Priest lived. He was waiting with all the other Chief Priests, lawmen and Jewish elders for the men to bring Jesus to them.

⁵⁴ Peter followed the crowd. He followed them right inside the High Priest's yard and then he sat

down next to the fire with all the men that worked there.

⁵⁵ Inside the High Priest's house, all the other Chief Priests met with the members of the Jewish council. They were trying to find somebody to say that Jesus was going against God. But they could not find anybody.

⁵⁶ There were some men that told lies about Jesus but their stories were all mixed up.

⁵⁷ Some men got up and told this lie.

⁵⁸ They said, "We heard this man say, 'I will knock down God's Temple and build another one in 3 days. A lot of men built this Temple, but I will build a new Temple and I will not use my hands.' "

⁵⁹ But even those men had their stories mixed up.

⁶⁰ Then the High Priest got up in the meeting and said to Jesus, "All these men have told us what you have done. What are you going to say?"

⁶¹ But Jesus said nothing. He just kept his mouth shut.

Then the High Priest said, "All right, tell us this. Are you *The Christ*, the special man that God promised to send to us? Are you the son of God?"

⁶² Jesus said, "Yes, I am. I am God's special man from heaven. And one day you will all see me sitting there in heaven on the right-hand side of God the Powerful One. And one day you will see me come again in the clouds."

⁶³⁻⁶⁴ The High Priest got so wild that he ripped his clothes and said to the Jewish council, "Did

you hear that? This man said that he is the same as God. We do not need anyone to say anything more. We have all heard what he said. So what do we say, did Jesus break our law?"

And they all said, "Yes, he broke our law. He has to die."

⁶⁵ Some of the men at that meeting spat on Jesus. They tied a rag across his eyes so that he could not see, then they hit him with their hands and said, "Hey. You reckon that God gives you power to know things, so tell us, who hit you?" Then the guards grabbed Jesus and they hit him too.

Peter said, "I do not know Jesus"

⁶⁶⁻⁶⁷ While Jesus was inside the house, Peter sat outside next to the fire.

One of the girls that worked in the High Priest's house came along and saw Peter sitting there. She looked at him and said, "I think you were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

⁶⁸ But Peter said, "No. I don't know what you are talking about." Then he went to stand next to the gate, and a rooster called out.

⁶⁹ That working girl saw Peter at the gate and again she said to people, "This man is one of Jesus' followers."

⁷⁰ But again Peter said, "No! I am not."

Later on, the people at the gate said to Peter, "You talk like the people from Galilee. Jesus comes from Galilee, so you must be one of his followers."

⁷¹ Peter got really wild, and he said, “I don't know what you are talking about! I am telling you, I do not know that man! I promise you. What I say is true, and if I am telling a lie, then I want God to put a curse on me!”

⁷² Straight away, the rooster called out again.

Then Peter remembered the words that Jesus said to him, “Before the rooster calls out 2 times tonight, you are going to say 3 times that you do not know me.” Peter was really sad and started to cry.

15

The Jewish Leaders took Jesus to the Roman court

And you can read this story in Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14, in Luke 23:1-5 and in John 18:28-38

¹ Early in the morning, the Chief Priests (Jewish ceremony leaders), the lawmen, the Jewish elders and all the members of the Jewish council had a meeting. At that meeting they made up their minds to tie Jesus up and take him to the Roman leader in Jerusalem. The Roman leader's name was Pilate.

² When they got there, Pilate started to ask Jesus some questions. He said, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said, “You can call me that.”

³ Then the Chief Priests said to Pilate, “This man has done a lot of bad things.”

⁴ So Pilate said to Jesus, “The Chief Priests are saying lots of bad things about you. Why don't you say something for yourself?”

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

⁶⁻⁸ At that time there was a man in jail called Bar-abbas (Barabbas). He was one of the men that were always fighting against the Romans to try and make them leave the Jewish country. He had killed a man in one of those fights, and that is why he was in jail.

Every year at Passover time, Pilate let one Jewish prisoner go free. But he let the Jewish people pick that prisoner.

And so just before the Passover ceremony began, a big crowd of people went to see Pilate and they said, "This is the time for you to let one of our people go free."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Pilate knew that the Chief Priests were jealous of Jesus and that was why they had arrested him. So Pilate said to the crowd, "Do you want me to let the King of the Jews go free?"

¹¹ But the Chief Priests told the crowd to ask for Bar-abbas, and so the crowd called out, "No! Not him! Give us Bar-abbas."

¹² Pilate said, "So what do you want me to do with this man you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³ All the people shouted, "Nail him to a cross."

¹⁴ Pilate said, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But the crowd did not listen. They shouted out even louder, "Nail him to a cross."

¹⁵ Pilate wanted to make the crowd happy and so he told his soldiers to let Bar-abbas go free from jail. Then Pilate said to his soldiers, "Take Jesus outside and flog him and then take him away and nail him up on a cross to die."

The soldiers made fun of Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 27:27-31; and in John 19:2-3

¹⁶ The soldiers took Jesus into the yard outside where Pilate lived, and they called out to all the other soldiers to come and watch.

¹⁷ First they put a purple coat on Jesus, so that he looked like a king. Then they found some prickly sticks and made them into a headband so that it looked like a king's crown, and they pushed it onto Jesus' head.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Then they started to tease him. They got down on their knees in front of Jesus and said, "Hey, you King of the Jews. You are so great!" And they kept on hitting Jesus on the head with a stick, and they spat on him.

²⁰ When they finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the long purple coat and put his own clothes back on him. Then they took him out of the town to nail him up on a cross.

²¹ On the way, they met a man called Simon from Sy-reen (Cyrene). He was the father of Alexander and Rufus, and he was coming back into town from the farm lands outside Jerusalem. The soldiers grabbed Simon and made him carry the cross for Jesus.

²² The soldiers took Jesus to a place called Golgotha. In their language it means *Skull Place*.

²³ And they tried to make Jesus drink some wine that had a drug called Merr (Myrrh) in it. But he would not drink it.

²⁴⁻²⁶ It was 9 o'clock in the morning when the soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. They wrote *The King of the Jews* on a piece of wood and nailed it to the cross above his head. Then they gambled for Jesus' clothes.

²⁷ And there were 2 men that had broken Roman laws, so the soldiers nailed them onto crosses and put them up next to Jesus. They put one man on Jesus' left-hand side and they put the other man on Jesus' right-hand side.

²⁹ There were people walking by and as they looked at Jesus they rubbished him. They shook their heads and said, "You think you can knock down the Temple, and then build it up again in 3 days.

³⁰ Why don't you save yourself? Go on, get down from that cross!"

³¹ The Chief Priests and the law teachers teased Jesus too. They said to each other, "He saved other people, but he cannot save himself.

³² If he really is the man God promised to send and if he really is the King of the Israel nation, he has to prove it. If he comes down from that cross, we will believe in him."

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

Jesus died

And you can read this story in Matthew 27:45-56, in Luke 23:44-49 and in John 19:28-30

³³ In the middle of the day, at about 12 o'clock, the sky went dark like it was night time. And it

stayed dark for about 3 hours until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

³⁴ At 3 o'clock Jesus called out in their language, and said, "My God, my God, why did you go away and leave me all alone?"

³⁵ Some of the people standing there heard what Jesus said, and they thought that he was calling out for Elijah to come from heaven to help him.

³⁶ One man ran and put sour wine on a rag. Then he put the rag on a stick and held it up to Jesus' mouth for him to have a drink. And then the man said, "Ok, leave him alone now. Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and get him down from the cross."

³⁷ Jesus called out again, and then he died.

³⁸ Inside the Temple in Jerusalem, there was a big curtain. When Jesus died, that curtain ripped into 2 pieces, from the top of the curtain to the bottom.

³⁹ And back at the cross, the leader of those Roman soldiers was standing near Jesus. He saw the way Jesus died, and he said, "It is true. This man really was the son of God."

Some women saw everything that happened

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ While Jesus was on the cross, some women were watching from a long way off. These women had come with Jesus and his followers to Jerusalem. They were Mary Mag-da-lean (Magdalene), Sal-o-me (Salome), and another Mary who was the mother of young James and

Josefs. And there were some other women too. Before this time, these women had looked after Jesus and went everywhere with him and his followers in Galilee.

Joseph buried Jesus

And you can read this story in Matthew 27:57-61, in Luke 23:50-56 and in John 19:38-42

⁴² The day that Jesus died was the day when the Jewish people got everything ready for their Sabbath rest day. That rest day started after the sun went down.

⁴³ There was a man called Joseph who came from Ari-ma-thee-a (Arimathea). He was an important man in the Jewish council and everyone said that he was a good man. Joseph was waiting for the time when God was going to be the King over everybody in the world.

Joseph was not frightened of Pilate and so when it was dark, and nearly time for the Jewish rest day to start, he went to see Pilate. Joseph asked Pilate if it was alright for him to take Jesus' body down from the cross and bury it.

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

He sent somebody to get the leader of the soldiers and said, "Is it true? Is that man really dead?"

The leader of the soldiers said, "Yes, it is true."

And so Pilate told Joseph that he was allowed to take Jesus' body down from the cross and bury it.

⁴⁶ Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross and wrapped it in a sheet. He put Jesus' body in a

cave that somebody had cut inside a stoney hill. Then he rolled a very big stone in front of the cave to block the door.

⁴⁷ Mary Mag-da-lean and Mary the mother of Joses, saw where Joseph put Jesus' body.

16

God made Jesus come alive again

And you can read this story in Matthew 28:1-8, in Luke 24:1-12 and in John 20:1-10

¹ When the Jewish rest day was over, Mary Mag-da-lean (Magdalene), Sal-o-me (Salome), and Mary the mother of James went to buy some nice smelling oil. They wanted to put the oil on Jesus' body to bury him the right way.

² Early on Sunday morning, when the sun was just starting to come up, the women went to the cave.

³ While they were walking along the road, they said to each other, "Who will roll that big stone away so that we can get into the cave?"

⁴ But when the women got there, they looked up and saw that the really big stone was already rolled away from the door.

⁵ When they went into the cave, they saw a young man wearing really white clothes sitting on the right-hand side. The women were amazed and frightened.

⁶ The man said to them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, the man that died on the cross. God has made him come alive again. Look, his body was here, but it is not here now."

⁷ And then the young man said, “Go back and see Peter and the other followers and say to them, ‘Jesus is going to Galilee. Go there, and you will find him. Remember, before he died, he told you that you would see him in Galilee.’”

⁸ The women were so amazed and so frightened they were shaking. They ran out of the cave, and did not talk to anyone.

We think that this is the end of Mark's story about Jesus. There is more to this story but we are not sure who wrote it. In those days people wrote their stories on long pieces of special paper. We do not have the paper that Mark wrote, we only have copies of it. Some copies have a short extra ending that have verses 9 and 10. But other copies have a longer extra ending that goes from verse 9 to verse 20.

This is the short extra ending to Mark's story

⁹ Those women went and told Peter and the other followers what had happened.

¹⁰ Then Jesus met his followers and sent them out everywhere. He sent them towards the east, and towards the west. His followers told people in all those places the good news about Jesus. They said, “Jesus can save you so that you can live with him forever.” That message is really special, and it is true.

This is the long extra ending of Mark's story

Jesus sent his followers to tell everyone about him

And you can read this story in Matthew 28:9-10; John 20:11-18.

⁹ Early on the day that Jesus came alive again, Mary Mag-da-lean was the first person to see him. She was the one that used to have 7 bad spirits in her but Jesus sent them all away.

¹⁰ Mary saw Jesus and then she went to see his followers. They were all very sad and they were crying.

¹¹ Mary said to them, “Jesus is alive. I have just seen him.” But they did not believe her.

¹² Later on, 2 of Jesus' other followers were walking out from Jerusalem into the country. While they went along the road, Jesus started to walk with them, but the men did not know that it was Jesus. He looked really different.

¹³ Then, after they found out that it was Jesus, they turned around and went back to Jerusalem to tell the other followers. They said, “We met Jesus on the road.” But again, the followers did not believe them.

¹⁴ Later on, the 11 close followers were eating food together, and Jesus came into the room. He growled at them and said, “You mob have got hard hearts. Why didn't you listen to those people that said I was alive again? What they said was true. Why didn't you believe them?”

¹⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You have to go everywhere in the world and tell people the good news about me.

¹⁶ I tell you, anybody that believes my good news and has that special washing ceremony called baptism will be saved and they will be in my family forever. But God will not save people

that do not believe my good news. He will say they are guilty and he will punish them.

¹⁷ And the people that believe in me will do great things with the power that I will give to them. They will send bad spirits out of people, and they will talk in different languages that they never learned.

¹⁸ When they pick up a cheekey snake, it will not hurt them. And if they drink deadly poison, it will not kill them. They will put their hands on sick people, and those people will get better.”

Jesus went back to heaven

And you can read this story in Luke 24:50-53 and in Acts 1:9-11

¹⁹ When Jesus had finished telling his followers all those things, he went up into heaven and sat down at the right-hand side of God.

²⁰ Then his followers went everywhere and told people the good news about Jesus. And the Lord was with them as they used his power to do great things. When the people saw those powerful signs, they knew that everything the followers said was true.

Barkly Bible Portions
The Holy Bible in the Barkly dialect of English, spoken
in Australia

copyright © 2024 Bible Society of Australia

Language: Barkly English (English)

Dialect: Barkly

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivatives license 4.0. You may share and redistribute this Bible translation or extracts from it in any format, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

You do not sell this work for a profit.

You do not change any of the words or punctuation of the Scriptures. Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

2026-04-14

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 29 Apr 2026 from source files dated 14 Apr 2026

a970e1a9-7059-592c-b481-cf954f658c46