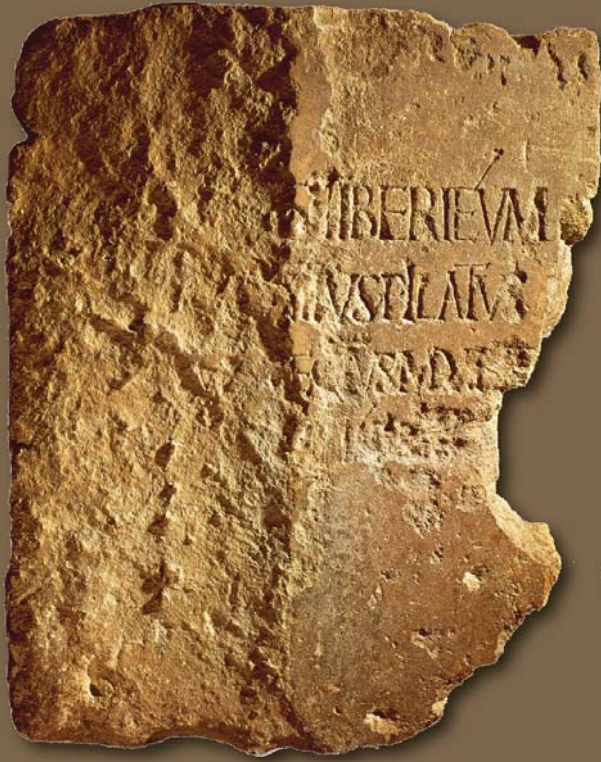


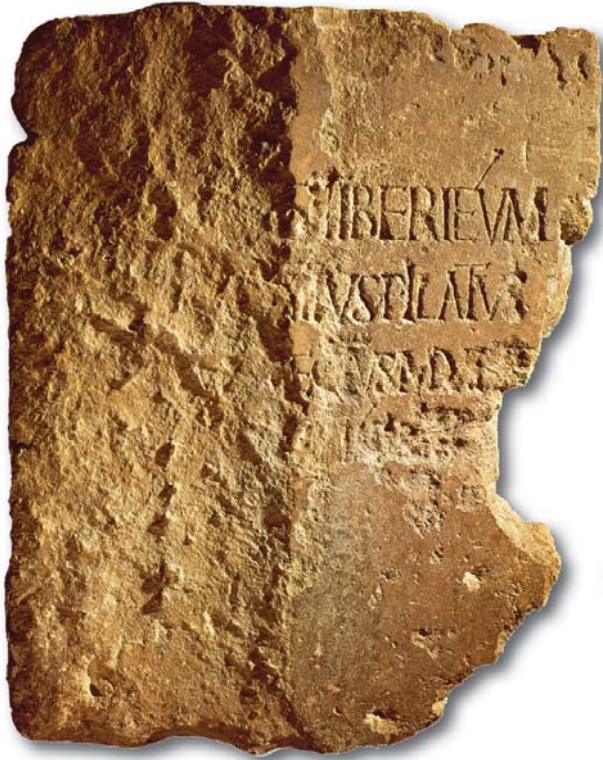
Matthew.

A translation.



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The cover exhibits an inscription mentioning Pontius Pilatus. The inscription is a dedication to some building in honor of the Roman emperor Tiberius. The dedication stone is located at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Israel, accession number IAA 1961-529. The stone was discovered in 1961 while excavating the site of Palestinian Caesarea on the coast. Caesarea was the first-century capital of the Roman province of Judea.

The damaged stone is composed of hard limestone. The partially reconstructed Latin inscription states: [dis Avgvsti]s Tiberiév[m [... Po]ntivs Pilatvs [... preaf]ectvs Ivda[ea]a [... fecit d]e[dicavit] 'to the divine Augustus this Tiberium ... Pontius Pilatus ... prefect of Judea ... has dedicated it'.

Pontius Pilatus was the fifth prefect (tenure 26-36) of the Roman province of Judea. Pilatus struggled to maintain control of the populace. He was deposed by Lucius Vitellius and returned to Rome.

Pilatus is mentioned numerous times in the gospel of Matthew: the trial of Jesus (27:1-2, 27:11-23, 27:24-31), and the disposition of the body of Jesus (27:57-61, 27:62-66).

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Matthew.

Mary bears Jesus (1:1-2:23).

This is the family of Jesus (1:1-17).

¹ This is the family of Jesus the messiah. He was the son of David. He was the son of Abraham.

² Abraham had Isaac. Isaac had Jacob. Jacob had Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah had Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez had Hezron. Hezron had Ram. ⁴ Ram had Amminadab. Amminadab had Nahshon. Nahshon had Salmon. ⁵ Salmon had Boaz by Rahab. Boaz had Obez by Ruth. Obed had Jesse. ⁶ Jesse had king David.

David had Solomon by Uriah's wife. ⁷ Solomon had Rehoboam. Rehoboam had Abijah. Abijah had Asa. ⁸ Asa had Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat had Jehoram. Jehoram had Ahaziah. ⁹ Ahaziah had Jotham. Jotham had Ahaz. Ahaz had Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah had Manasseh. Manasseh had Amon. Amon had Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah had Jehoiachin and his brothers. This is up to the Babylonian exile.

¹² After the Babylonian exile, Jehoiachin had Salathiel. Salathiel had Zerubabel. ¹³ Zerubabel had Abiud. Abiud had Eliakim. Eliakim had Azor. ¹⁴ Azor had Zadok. Zadok had Achim. Achim had Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud had Eliazor. Eliazor had Mathan. Mathan had Jacob. ¹⁶ Jacob had Joseph. He was Mary's husband.

She bore Jesus. He was called the messiah.

¹⁷ There are fourteen families from Abraham to David. There are fourteen families from David to the Babylonian exile. There are fourteen families from the Babylonian exile to the messiah.

Jesus is born (1:18-25).

¹⁸ This is how Jesus was born.

His mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph. Before they slept together, she became pregnant by the holy spirit.

¹⁹ Joseph was her husband. He was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her. So, he planned to quietly divorce her.

²⁰ While he was considering what to do, an angel appeared to him in a dream, "Joseph, son of David. Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child in her is from the holy spirit." ²¹ She will have a son. Give him the name Jesus, because he will save the people from their sins."

²² This happened to fulfill the word of the lord through the prophet,

²³ Look, a woman will become pregnant. She will have a son. His name will be *Immanu-El*.^a (This is translated, 'God is with us'.)

²⁴ Joseph woke up from his dream. The angel of the lord ordered him to take her as his wife.

²⁵ He was not with her until had her boy. She named him Jesus.

Religious men travel to Jerusalem (2:1-12).

² Jesus was born in Beth-Lehem. This was in Judah during the time of King Herod. Some religious men from the east traveled to Jerusalem.

² They asked, "Where is the one born to become the Jewish king?"

They had followed the eastern star. They came to worship him.

³ When King Herod heard, he and everyone in Jerusalem was afraid.

⁴ He called the high priests and legal experts of the people together. He asked them where the messiah was supposed to be born.

⁵ They told him, "He is born in Beth-Lehem, which is in Judah. It is written in the prophet,"

⁶ Beth-Lehem, land of Judah.

You are not the least among the princes of Judah.

The leader will come from you.

He will shepherd my people, Israel.^b

⁷ Then Herod secretly called the religious men together. He tried to determine from them the exact time that the star appeared. ⁸ So, he sent

a) Isaiah 7:14.

b) Micah 5:2.

them to Beth-Lehem, “Go. Secretly look for the child. When you find him, tell me. Then I will come and worship him.”

⁹ They listened to the king. Then they looked for the star which they saw in the east. They followed it until it lead them to the child. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, it made them extremely happy. ¹¹ They came to the house and saw the child. He was with Mary, his mother. They bowed down and worshipped him. They took out their treasures. They gave him gifts. The gifts included gold, incense, and precious ointment.

¹² They received a warning in a dream, “Do not return to Herod.” So, they went back to their country by another route.

Joseph travels to Egypt (2:13-15).

¹³ After they left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, “Get up. Take the child and his mother. Escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you. Herod is looking for the child so that he can kill him.”

¹⁴ So, he got up. He took the child and his mother at night. He traveled to Egypt. ¹⁵ They stayed there until Herod died.

This happened to fulfill the word of the lord by the prophet, “I called my son out of Egypt.”^a

Herod tries to execute the children (2:16-23).

¹⁶ Herod realized that the religious men tricked him. It made him extremely angry. So, he sent representatives to execute all the children that were two years old and younger in both Jerusalem and the hill country. He used the times that the religious men calculated.

¹⁷ This happened to fulfill the word spoken by Jeremiah the prophet,

¹⁸ I heard a voice in Ramah.

It was crying a loud funeral song.

Rachel was crying for her children.

She could not be comforted, because they were gone.^b

¹⁹ Then Herod died. An angel appeared in another dream to Joseph while he was in Egypt, ²⁰ “Get up. Take the child and his mother. Go back to Israel. The man who wanted to take the life of the child is dead.”

a) Hosea 11:1.

b) Jeremiah 31:15.

²¹ So, he got up. He took the child and his mother. He went back to Israel. ²² He heard that King Archelaus had replaced his father Herod. Joseph was afraid, so he kept going. He was warned in a dream to travel to the district of Galilee.

²³ He found a place to live in the city called Nazareth. This happened to fulfill the word from the prophet, “He will be called a Nazarene.”^a

Dunker John and Jesus start proclaiming (3:1-25)

Dunker John starts preaching (3:1-12).

³ At that time, Dunker John started proclaiming in the wilderness of Judah, ² “Change. The kingdom of heaven is near. ³ This is the word of Isaiah,”

There is the sound of someone
shouting in the wilderness.

‘Prepare the way of the lord!

His path goes straight ahead.’^b

⁴ John’s clothing was made from camel hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist. His meals were locusts and wild honey.

⁵ People came to him from Jerusalem, all over Judah, and from the area around the Jordan. ⁶ He dunked them in the Jordan river. They confessed their sins.

⁷ Even many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came. They wanted to get dunked. He told them, “You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run away from God’s anger? ⁸ You have to bear the fruit of change. ⁹ Do not make the claim about yourself, ‘Abraham is our father.’ I tell you what: God can turn these stones into children of Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe has already struck the root of the trees. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be chopped down. It will be thrown into the fire.”

¹¹ “I dunk you in water so that you will change. The person who comes after me is stronger than me. I cannot even remove his shoes. He will dunk you in the holy spirit and in fire. ¹² He will carry the pitchfork in his

a) Judges 13:5.

b) Isaiah 40:3.

hand. He will clean out the wheat from the floor. He will gather the grain in his barn. He will burn up the waste with a hot fire.”

John immerses Jesus (3:13-17).

¹³ Jesus left Galilee. He came to the Jordan so that Dunker John would immerse him. ¹⁴ John would not let him, “I need you to immerse me. How is it that you came to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus answered, “Let it happen. It is appropriate to fulfill everything righteous.”

So, John gave in. ¹⁶ After he immersed Jesus, they came out of the water. Heaven opened. He saw the spirit of God come down on him like a dove. ¹⁷ A voice spoke from heaven, “This is my loved son. I am pleased with him.”

The Opposer tempts Jesus (4:1-11).

⁴ The spirit brought Jesus into the wilderness. The Opposer tempted Jesus. ² He was fasting for forty days and nights. Afterwards, he drank.

³ The Opposer came to him, “If you are the son of God, then tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written,
Man will not live with only bread.
Instead, he lives by every word
that comes out of God’s mouth.”^a

⁵ Then the Opposer took him to the holy city. He put him on the highest place on the temple. ⁶ He told him, “If you are the son of God, then throw yourself down. For it is written,”

He will order the angels about you.
They will remove you with their hands.
Not one stone will harm your foot.”^b

⁷ Jesus spoke to him, “It is also written, ‘Do not tempt the lord, your God.’”^c

⁸ Once more, the Opposer took him to the top of a really tall mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He showed him how

a) Deuteronomy 8:3.

b) Psalm 91:11-12.

c) Deuteronomy 6:16.

wonderful they were. ⁹ He told Jesus, “I will give all of this to you, if you fall down and bow before me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Opposer. It is written,”
Bow down to the lord, your God.
Worship him alone.^a

¹¹ The Opposer left him. Then an angel took him away. The angel took care of him.

Jesus goes to Galilee (4:12-17).

¹² Jesus heard that John was arrested. So he went to Galilee. ¹³ Then he left Nazareth. He stayed in Capernaum. It is near the lake in the district of Zebulun and Naphtali.

¹⁴ This fulfilled the word through Isaiah the prophet,

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun. Land of Naphtali.
You are near the lake.

You are beyond the Jordan.

You are gentile Galilee.

¹⁶ The people sat in darkness.

They saw a great light.

The light shines on those who sit in darkness.

It shines on those who are in the shadow of death.^b

¹⁷ From this point on, Jesus began to proclaim and speak, “Change. The kingdom of heaven is near.”

Jesus calls some brothers (4:18-22).

¹⁸ He was traveling along lake Galilee. He noticed two fishermen. They were Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake. They were fishermen.

¹⁹ He told them, “Come. Follow me. I will turn you into fishers of men.”

²⁰ They immediately dropped their nets. They followed him.

²¹ He went along further. He saw two brothers standing there. They were Jacob, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. They were repairing their nets.

a) Deuteronomy 6:13.

b) Isaiah 9:1-2.

He called to them.²² They immediately left their boat and their father. They followed him.

Jesus heals (4:23-25).

²³ He traveled all over Galilee. He taught in the synagogues. He proclaimed the good news about the kingdom. He healed lots of diseases and illnesses that people had.²⁴ Rumors about him spread all over Syria.

They brought lots of sick people to him. They had various diseases and pains, including demon possession, seizures, and paralysis. He healed them.

²⁵ Large crowds followed him. They came from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judah, and the other side of the Jordan.

Jesus teaches on the hill (5:1-7:29).

These are blessed (5:1-12).

⁵ Jesus saw the crowds. He went up the hill. He sat down. Then his disciples came to him. So, he opened his mouth.² He began to teach them,

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

⁴ Blessed are the mourners.

They will receive comfort.

⁵ Blessed are the humble.

They will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are the hungry and the thirsty for righteousness.

They will receive satisfaction.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful.

They will receive mercy.

⁸ Blessed are those with pure hearts.

They will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers.

They will call them sons of God.

¹⁰ "They are blessed when they harass them because of righteousness. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them."¹¹ You are blessed when they insult you, harass you, and speak evil about you because of me.¹² Be happy

and rejoice. You have a great reward in heaven. They harassed the prophets before they harassed you.”

You are like salt and light (5:13-16).

¹³ “You are like salt from the earth. If salt loses its flavor, how can it become salty again? It is worthless. Throw it away. People will trample it.”

¹⁴ “You are like a light on the world. You cannot hide a city on a mound.

¹⁵ No one lights a lamp, then puts it under a basket. They set it on a stand. Then it can shine on everything in the house.”

¹⁶ “So, shine your light before men. They will see your good deeds. They will honor your father in heaven.”

Jesus did not come to replace the law (5:17-20).

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to replace the law or the prophets. I did not come to replace. I came to fulfill. ¹⁸ I guarantee you this: Heaven and earth will pass away. Everything will come to pass. However, not even one letter or mark will disappear from the law at all.”

¹⁹ “Suppose someone releases the smallest command or teaches people so. He will be least in the kingdom of heaven. However, suppose someone obeys or teaches it. He will be great in the kingdom of heaven.”

²⁰ “I tell you this: If you are not more righteous than the legal experts and Pharisees, you cannot get into the kingdom of heaven.”

It was said (5:21-48).

Do not murder (5:21-26).

²¹ “You heard that it was said to the ancients: Do not murder.^a If you murder, you are liable to judgment.”

²² “However, I tell you this: Anyone who is even angry with his brother will be liable to judgment. Whoever says to his brother, Dummy! is liable to the Jewish council. Whoever says, Fool! is liable to the fire of hell.”

²³ “Suppose you are carrying your gift to the altar. While you are there, you remember: Your brother has something against you. ²⁴ Leave your gift at the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother. Then go. Present your gift.”

a) Exodus 20:13.

²⁵ “Make friends with your enemy quickly while you are on the way. Otherwise your enemy may hand you over to the judge. The judge may hand you over to the officer. He may throw you into jail. ²⁶ I guarantee you this: You will not get out of there until you make the last payment.”

Do not commit adultery (5:27-30).

²⁷ “You heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery.”^a

²⁸ “However, I tell you this: Anyone that looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery in his heart.”

²⁹ “Suppose your right eye causes you to sin. Pluck it out. Throw it away. It is better to lose one organ than to throw your whole body into hell.

³⁰ Suppose your right hand causes you to sin. Cut it off. Throw it away. It is better to lose one organ than to lose your whole body to hell.”

Divorce your wife (5:31-32).

³¹ “It was said: When you divorce your wife, give her a certificate.”^b

³² However, I tell you this: Anyone who divorces his wife commits adultery, unless it is because of immorality. Anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Do not break your oath (4:33-37).

³³ “You also heard that it was said to the ancients: Do not break your oath.^c Keep the oaths you make with the lord. ³⁴ However, I tell you this: Do not swear at all. Do not swear by heaven. It is God’s throne. ³⁵ Do not swear by the earth. It is a stool for his feet. Do not swear by Jerusalem. It is the city of the great king. ³⁶ Do not swear by your head. You cannot make one hair turn white or black.

³⁷ Say ‘Yes.’ Let it mean ‘Yes.’ Say ‘No.’ Let it mean ‘No.’ Anything other than this comes from the evil one.”

Take an eye for an eye (5:38-42).

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said: Take an eye for an eye. Take a tooth for a tooth.^d ³⁹ However, I tell you: Do not resist the evil one. Suppose

a) Exodus 20:14.

b) Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

c) Leviticus 19:12.

d) Exodus 21:4.

someone slaps you on the right cheek. Turn the other toward him.⁴⁰ Suppose someone insists that he take your shirt. Give him your coat.⁴¹ Suppose someone makes you go one mile. Instead go two.⁴² Suppose someone asks you. Give. Suppose someone wants to borrow. Do not refuse.”

Hate your enemy (5:43-48).

⁴³ “You heard that it was said: Love your neighbor.^a Hate your enemy.⁴⁴ However, I tell you: Love your enemy. Pray for those who pursue you.⁴⁵ Then you will become sons of your father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on the good and the bad. He brings rain on the righteous and unrighteous.”

⁴⁶ “Suppose you love those who love you. Will you receive a reward? Do not tax-collectors do the same thing?⁴⁷ If you only greet your brother, then what have you done that is special?⁴⁸ Be complete. Your heavenly father is complete.”

Pay attention to your righteousness (6:1-18).

⁶ “Pay attention to your righteousness. Do not do it in front of men so they will notice you. Otherwise, you get no reward from your heavenly father.”

Give (6:2-4).

² “Suppose you give to charity. Do not blow a horn. The hypocrites do this in synagogues and the streets. They seek praise from men. I guarantee you this: They already received their reward.”

³ “Suppose you give to charity. Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.⁴ Make your donation in secret. Your father can see the secret. He will reward you.”

Pray (6:5-15).

⁵ “Suppose you pray. Do not pray like the hypocrites. They love to pray in the synagogues and on the street corner. They want to show off. I guarantee you this: They already received their reward.”

⁶ “When you pray, go into an interior room. Shut the door. Then pray to your father in secret. Your father can see secrets. He will reward you.”

a) Leviticus 19:18.

⁷ “When you pray, do not blather on like the gentiles. They think that because they use many words, someone will hear them. ⁸ Do not like act like them. Your father knows what you need before you ask him.”

⁹ “Instead, pray like this: Our father in heaven. Your name is holy. ¹⁰ May your kingdom come. May your wishes be done. May it be so in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Give us the bread we need today. ¹² Forgive our debts. We forgive those who owe us. ¹³ Do not lead us toward temptation. Instead, clean the evil from us.”

¹⁴ “Forgive other people’s sins. Your heavenly father will forgive yours. ¹⁵ If you do not forgive men, your father will not forgive your sins either.”

Fast (6:16-18).

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look sad like the hypocrites do. They mess up their faces so that people will notice that they are fasting. I guarantee you this: They already received their reward.”

¹⁷ “When you fast, put lotion on your head. Wash your face. ¹⁸ No one should notice that you are fasting except your father who notices secrets. Your father can see secrets. He will then reward you.”

Do not store up treasures (6:19-21).

¹⁹ “Do not store up treasures on earth. Moths and rust decay. Thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store up treasures in heaven. Moths and rust do not decay there. Thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, your heart will be there, too.”

The eye is a light (6:22-23).

²² “The eye is a light for the body. If your eye is healthy, then your whole body will be clear. ²³ But if you eye is sick, your whole body will be dark. If your light is dark, it is seriously dark.”

Do not worry (6:24-34).

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. He will hate one. He will love the other. Or, he will be devoted to one. He will despise the other. No one can serve both God and wealth.”

²⁵ “Because of this, I have something to say to you: Do not worry about what you eat. Do not worry about what clothes you wear. Is not life about more than food or clothing?”

²⁶ “Look at the birds in the sky. They do not plant, reap, or gather in a barn. However, your heavenly father takes care of them. Aren’t you more important than them?” ²⁷ “Who can add one minute to his life by worrying?”

²⁸ “Why do you worry about clothing? Think about how the lilies in the field grow. They do not work. They do not make yarn. ²⁹ However, Solomon, with all his power, is not dressed as well as them.”

³⁰ “Field hay is here today. It is thrown in the furnace tomorrow. However, God dresses it. Aren’t you worth more than this? You do not have much faith.”

³¹ “Do not worry, ‘What will we drink? What will we eat? What will we wear?’ ³² The gentiles seek these things. Your heavenly father knows everything you need.”

³³ “Instead, seek first the kingdom and righteousness. You will gain all the other things. ³⁴ Do not worry about tomorrow. Let tomorrow worry about itself. Each day already has enough evil.”

Do not judge (7:1-6).

⁷ “Do not judge. Otherwise, you will be judged. ² You will be judged by the same judgment you give. You will get using the same measure that you use. ³ Why do you notice the speck in your brother’s eye? Can’t you see the board in yours?”

⁴ “How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye.’ However, there is a board in yours! ⁵ You hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye. Then you can see clearly. Then remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

⁶ “Do not give what is special to dogs. Do not leave your pearls with pigs. They will stomp on them. Then they will turn on you. They will bite you.”

Seek (7:7-14).

⁷ “Ask. You will get. Seek. You will find. Knock. The door will open. ⁸ Everyone who asks will get. Seekers will find. Knockers will enter.”

⁹ “Suppose your son asks for food. Who will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Suppose he asks for a fish. Who will give him a snake? ¹¹ You are evil. You still know how to give nice gifts to your children. How much more will

your heavenly father give nice things if you ask? ¹² You want people to do things for you. Do the same for them. This is what the law and prophets are about.”

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. The gate leading to destruction is large. The road leading to destruction is wide. Most people go through it. ¹⁴ The gate leading to life is small. The road leading to life is narrow. Only a few find it.”

Obey (7:15-29).

¹⁵ “Beware of fake prophets. They may come dressed like sheep. They are hungry wolves on the inside. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruit.”

“Do you collect grapes from briars? Do you find figs from thorn bushes? ¹⁷ Good trees have good fruit. Rotten trees have bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot have bad fruit. A rotten tree cannot have good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree without good fruit will be chopped down. Then it will be thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So, you can know them by their fruit.”

²¹ “Not everyone will get into the kingdom of heaven just because they say, ‘Lord. Lord!’ Instead, it will be the one who obeys my heavenly father’s will.”

²² “Many will say to me at that time, ‘Lord. Lord! Didn’t we prophesy by your name? Didn’t we cast out demons by your name? Didn’t we do great miracles by your name?’ ²³ I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me. What you do is illegal.’”

²⁴ “Some hear my words and obey them. They are like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵ The rain fell. The rivers rose. The winds blew. They beat on that house. But, it did not fall. It was built on bedrock.”

²⁶ “However, some hear my words but do not obey them. They are like foolish man. He built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell. The rivers rose. The winds blew. They struck that house. It fell down. And it was a big crash.”

²⁸ Jesus finished these words. The crowds was amazed at his teaching. ²⁹ He taught them with authority. He was not like the legal experts.

Jesus heals and teaches (8:1-9:38).

Jesus heals a leper (8:1-4).

⁸ He came down from the hill. Large crowds followed him. ² A leper came. He bowed down to him, “Lord, if you want, you can heal me.”

³ Jesus reached out his hand. He touched him, “I do want to. You are healed.” His leprosy was healed immediately.

⁴ Jesus spoke to him, “Make sure that you do not tell anyone. Go by yourself. Show yourself to the priest. Present the gift that Moses ordered. It is a witness to them.”

Jesus heals the commander's son (8:5-13).

⁵ When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a military commander came to him. He wanted help. ⁶ “Lord, my son is at home. He is paralyzed. He is really uncomfortable.”

⁷ Jesus told him, “I will come. I will heal him.”

⁸ The commander answered, “Lord. I am not worthy for you to be under my roof. Just say the word. That will heal my son. ⁹ I am a man with a lot of authority. I command soldiers. I tell one, ‘Go.’ And he goes. I tell another, ‘Come.’ And he comes. I tell my servant, ‘Do this.’ And he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He told his followers, “I guarantee you this: No one in Israel has faith like this. ¹¹ Many will come from east and west. They will feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² However, the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness. There will be crying and teeth grinding.”

¹³ Jesus spoke to the commander, “Go. May it be done, just like you believe.”

He healed the child at that very moment.

Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (8:14-15).

¹⁴ Jesus came to Peter's house. He saw his mother-in-law. She was lying down because she had a fever.

¹⁵ He touched her. Her fever left. She got up. She took care of him.

Jesus heals people (8:16-17).

¹⁶ In the evening, they brought many demon-possessed people to him. He cast out the spirits by saying a word.

He also healed people with lots of illnesses.

¹⁷ This fulfilled the word of Isaiah the prophet.

He took our sickness.

He carried our diseases.^a

Follow me (8:18-22).

¹⁸ Jesus saw a crowd gather around him. So, he ordered his followers to leave. They went to the other side of the Jordan. ¹⁹ A legal expert came to him, "Teacher. I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰ Jesus spoke to him, "Foxes have holes. Birds have nests. However, the son of man has nowhere to lay his head."

²¹ Another one of his disciples said, "Lord. Allow me first to go and bury my father."

²² Jesus told him, "Follow me. Let the dead bury the dead themselves."

Jesus rebukes the storm (8:23-27).

²³ Jesus got in a boat. His disciples followed him. ²⁴ Large waves kicked up in the lake. The surf was coming over the boat. But Jesus was asleep.

²⁵ They came to him to wake him up, "Lord! Save us! We are going to die!"

²⁶ He spoke to them, "Why are you such cowards? You do not have much faith." He got up. He rebuked the wind and the water. Then it completely calmed down.

²⁷ The men were amazed, "What kind of man is this? Do the wind and the water just obey him?"

Jesus heals two demon-possessed men (8:28-34).

²⁸ Jesus went to the other side of the Jordan. He came to the area called Gadara. Two people who were demon possessed came out of the tombs. They were extremely violent. It was so bad that no one could pass through that place. ²⁹ They called out, "Hey, son of God! What do you think you are doing with us? Are you coming here now to mess with us?"

a) Isaiah 53:4.

³⁰ Way off in the distance, there was a herd of pigs grazing. ³¹ The demons called out to him, “If you are going to cast us out, then send us into the herd of pigs.”

³² Jesus told them, “Go!”

They came out and went into the pigs. The pigs then rushed over the cliff into the lake. They all died in the water.

³³ The men herding the pigs ran away. They went into the city. They told everything that happened to the men who were demon possessed.

³⁴ Everyone came out from the city. They met Jesus. They urged him to leave that area.

Jesus heals a paralyzed man (9:1-8).

⁹ Jesus got in the boat to cross back over. He returned to the same city he was in before. ² They brought a paralyzed man to him. He was lying on a bed. Jesus noticed their faith. So, he spoke to the paralyzed man, “Be courageous, child. Your sins are forgiven.”

³ Now, some of the legal experts said to each other, “This man just committed blasphemy.”

⁴ Jesus observed what they were thinking, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵ Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven?’ Or, to say, ‘Get up. Walk?’ ⁶ However, I want you to see that the son of man has the authority in this world to forgive sins.”

So, he turned back to the paralyzed man, “Get up. Carry your bed. Go to your house.” ⁷ So, the paralyzed man got up. He went his house.

⁸ The crowds saw all this. They were afraid. They honored God because he could give this kind of power to men.

Jesus calls Matthew (9:9-13).

⁹ Jesus left that place. He noticed a man sitting with the tax-collectors. His name was Matthew. He told him, “Follow me.”

Matthew stood up. He followed Jesus. Jesus went with Matthew. ¹⁰ He ate at Matthew’s house. Lots of tax-collectors and sinners came. They were all eating with Jesus and his disciples.

¹¹ The Pharisees noticed this. They spoke to Jesus’ disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?”

¹² Jesus heard them, “Healthy people do not need a doctor. The sick do.
¹³ Go on. Learn what this means, ‘Prefer mercy over sacrifice.’^a I did not come to gather the righteous. I came to gather sinners.”

Why do your disciples not fast (9:14-17)?

¹⁴ Then John’s disciples came to him, “Why is it that we fast, and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?”

¹⁵ Jesus answered, “Are groomsmen allowed to be sad while the groom is with them? A time will come when the groom will be gone. Then they will fast.”

¹⁶ “No one sews a new patch onto an old garment. That patch will come off the garment. The tear will make it worse. ¹⁷ Nor does anyone put new wine in an old leather container. If you do, the container will burst. The wine will spill out. This will ruin the container. Put new wine in a new container. They will both be unusable.”

A ruler’s daughter dies (9:18-19).

¹⁸ After this, a ruler came to him. He bowed down, “Just now, my daughter died. If you came and put your hand on her, she would be alive.”

¹⁹ Jesus got up. He and his disciples followed him.

Jesus heals a woman with a hemorrhage (9:20-22).

²⁰ Then a woman came up to them. She had a hemorrhage for twelve years. She approached from behind. She touch the edge of his clothing.
²¹ She thought to herself, “If I only touch his clothing, then I will be cured.”

²² Jesus turned around. He looked at her, “You are healed, sister. Your faith cured you.”

The woman was cured right then.

Jesus heals the ruler’s daughter (9:23-26).

²³ Jesus arrived at the ruler’s house. He heard the flute player. He saw that the people were upset, ²⁴ “Go away. The little girl is not dead. She is just asleep.”

a) Hosea 6:6.

They laughed at him.²⁵ They brought her out. Jesus came over to her. He grabbed her hand. He lifted her up.²⁶ News about this went all over that area.

Jesus heals two blind men (9:27-31).

²⁷ Jesus left that place. Two blind men started following him. They shouted, "Show us mercy, son of David!"

²⁸ He went to his house. The two blind men followed him. Jesus told them, "Do you believe that I can do this?"

They said, "Yes, lord."

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, "May it be done to you by your faith."

³⁰ Their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them, "Make sure that you do not let anyone know."³¹ They left. Then they told everyone in the area about it.

Jesus casts out a demon (9:32-35).

³² Jesus left. They brought a man to him. He was deaf. He was demon possessed. Jesus cast out the demon.³³ Afterwards, the deaf man spoke.

The crowds were amazed, "There has been nothing like this in Israel."

³⁴ The Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the leader of the demons."

³⁵ Jesus went to all the cities and villages. He taught in their synagogues. He proclaimed the good news of the kingdom. He healed all their sicknesses and diseases.

There is a big harvest (9:36-38).

³⁶ He saw the crowds. He felt sorry for them. They were helpless and troubled. They were like sheep that had no shepherd.³⁷ He told his disciples, "There is a big harvest. However, there are few workers."³⁸ Ask the master of the harvest to send workers for the harvest."

Jesus sends out the twelve (10:1-11:1).

Jesus calls the twelve together (10:1-4).

¹⁰ He called his twelve disciples together. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits so that they could cast them out. They also will heal all the sicknesses and diseases.

² These are the names of the twelve he sent: First, there was Simon who he called Peter. There was Andrew, his brother. There was Jacob, and his brother John. They were the sons of Zebedee. ³ There was Philip, Bartholomew, and Thomas. There was Matthew, the tax-collector. There was Jacob, the son of Alphaeus. There was Thaddeus. ⁴ There was Simon, the Canaanite. Finally there was Judas, from Iscariot. He was the one who betrayed Jesus.

Jesus gives them orders (10:5-14).

⁵ Jesus sent these twelve out. He gave them orders, “Do not go on the road of the gentiles. Do not travel in the cities of the Samaritans. ⁶ Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ When you go, preach, “The kingdom of heaven is near!” ⁸ Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Cast out demons. You received gifts, so give gifts.”

⁹ “Do not take any gold, silver, or copper in your wallet. ¹⁰ Do not take a knapsack. Do not bring two coats, extra shoes, or a walking stick. A worker deserves his pay.”

¹¹ “When you enter a city or village, find out whether anyone there is worthy. If so, then stay with them until you leave. ¹² When you come into a new house, greet them. ¹³ If that house is worthy, let your peace stay with them. However, if it is not worthy, take your peace back with you.

¹⁴ If anyone does not welcome you or listen to you, then leave that house or city. Shake the dust off of your feet.”

Jesus separates (10:15-11:1).

¹⁵ “I guarantee this: It will be better for the lands of Sodom and Gomorrah in the judgment day than for that city. ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep sent among wolves. Be wise like a snake. Be innocent like a dove. ¹⁷ Be careful how you deal with people. They will betray you in the Jewish council. They will beat you in the synagogue.”

¹⁸ “They will bring you in front of governors and kings because of me. Give testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not try to remember what to say or how to say it. At that moment, you will receive the words to speak. ²⁰ It will not be you speaking. It will be your father’s spirit speaking through you.”

²¹ “A brother will betray his brother for execution. A father will betray his child. A child will rebel against his parents. They will give them up for execution. ²² Everyone will hate you because of my name. Anyone who sticks it out to the end will stay safe. ²³ When they chase you into one city, run to another. I guarantee you this: You will not complete all the cities of Israel before the son of man returns.”

²⁴ “No disciple is over his teacher. No servant is over his master. ²⁵ It is enough for a disciple to be like his teacher. A servant should be like his master. If the master of the house is called Baal-Zebul, then they will call the members of the household that too. ²⁶ Do not be afraid of them. There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. There will be no unknown secrets. ²⁷ What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear whispered in your ear, shout on top of the house.”

²⁸ “Do not fear people who can kill your body. They cannot kill your soul. Instead, fear the one who can destroy both your soul and your body in hell.”

²⁹ “Do not two sparrows sell for a coin? Not even one of them will fall to the ground without the consent of your father. ³⁰ He has numbered every hair on your head. ³¹ Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.”

³² “If anyone stands up for me before men, I will stand up for him before my heavenly father. ³³ However, if anyone denies me before men, I will deny him before my heavenly father.”

³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace. I came to bring the sword. ³⁵ I came to separate:”

A man from his father,
A daughter from her mother, and
A daughter-in-law from her mother-in-law.

³⁶ A man's enemies will be
the members of his own house.^a

³⁷ "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. The one who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will destroy it. Whoever destroys his life for me will find it."

⁴⁰ "Whoever receives you, receives me. Whoever receives me, receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of the prophet gets a prophet's reward. Whoever welcomes the just in the name of the just gets the reward of the just. ⁴² Whoever gives a drink of cold water to the least of them as a disciple, then I guarantee you this: His reward will never end."

¹¹ Jesus finished these commands to his disciples. Then they left. They taught and proclaimed in those cities.

Jesus heals and teaches (11:2-12:50).

John sends his disciples (11:2-6).

² John was in prison. He heard about what the messiah was doing. So, he sent his disciples, ³ "Are you the coming one? Or are you someone else that we have been waiting for?"

Jesus answered them, ⁴ "Go back. Tell John what you both see and hear. ⁵ The blind regain their sight. The lame walk. Lepers become clean. The deaf hear. The dead rise. The poor hear the good news. ⁶ A man is blessed if he does not stumble over me."

Dunker John is more than a prophet (11:7-19).

⁷ They left. Jesus began talking to the crowd about John, "You came out to the wilderness. ⁸ What did you come to see? Did you expect to see a reed that is shaken by the wind? What did you see? Did you see a man wearing fancy clothes? You would find people wearing fancy clothes in a king's palace. ⁹ What did you see? Did you see a prophet? I tell you: Yes, you did. And he is more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is written about him,"

a) Micah 7:6.

Look. I am sending my angels before you.

He will prepare your journey for you.⁹

¹¹ “I guarantee you this: No born person has come up that is greater than Dunker John. However, even the most unimportant person is still greater than him. ¹² From Dunker John’s time to now, the kingdom of heaven arrives violently. Violent people try to seize it.”

¹³ “All the prophets and the law tell about John. ¹⁴ If you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah. He is the one who will come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁶ “What is this generation like? They are like children sitting in the market. They call to each other,”

¹⁷ Play the flute for us.

However, do not dance.

Sing a funeral song for us.

However, do not mourn.

¹⁸ “John did not show up eating or drinking. However, you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The son of man showed up eating and drinking. However, you say, ‘Look at that guy. He is a glutton and a drunk. He loves tax-collectors and sinners.’ Wisdom is declared innocent by her actions.”

Jesus complains about the cities (11:20-24).

²⁰ They would not change. So, he started complaining about their cities. He had performed great miracles in them. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin. Woe to you, Bethsaida. Suppose Tyre and Sidon saw the same miracles that you saw. They would have changed while wearing sackcloth and ashes a long time ago. ²² I tell you this: On judgment day, it will be better for Tyre and Sidon than you.”

²³ “What about you, Capernaum? Are you going to rise to heaven? You are going to the grave! Suppose that Sodom had seen the miracles that you saw. They would still be around today. ²⁴ I tell you this: On judgment day, it will be better for Sodom than you.”

Come to Jesus (11:25-30).

²⁵ At this point, Jesus spoke, “I praise you, father. You are the master of heaven and earth. Some things are hidden from the wise and the edu-

a) Malachi 3:1.

cated. However, the same things are obvious to children.²⁶ Yes, father. That seems fine to you.”

²⁷ “My father trusted me with everything. No one knows a son like a father does. No one knows a father like a son does. The son can make it obvious to someone else.”

²⁸ “For everyone who is worn out or struggling—come to me. I will refresh you. Put my yoke on yourself. Learn from me. I am meek. My heart is humble. You will experience refreshment in your life.³⁰ My yoke is easy. My load is light.”

The disciples pick grain on the Sabbath (12:1-8).

¹² Around that time, Jesus was passing through a field on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry. They started to pick some grain. Then they ate it.

² The Pharisees were watching. They said, “We were watching your disciples. They were doing things they are not allowed to do on the sabbath.”

³ He told them, “Have you heard what David and his men did? They were hungry.⁴ Did you hear about how they

went into God’s temple?^a They ate the presentation food.^b Neither David, nor those with him, were allowed to eat that food. Only the priests were allowed to eat it.⁵ Do you not know what is in the law? The temple priests violate the sabbath. But they are innocent.”

⁶ “I tell you this: There is someone here that is better than the temple.⁷ If you understood this statement, ‘I prefer mercy over sacrifice,’^c then you would not condemn the innocent.⁸ The son of man is master of the sabbath.”



Wheat grain grows on a stalk.

a) 1 Samuel 21:1-6.

b) Leviticus 24:5-9.

c) Hosea 6:6.

Jesus heals a paralyzed hand (12:9-13).

⁹ They left that place. They came to a synagogue. ¹⁰ They met a man with a paralyzed hand. They asked him a question, “Is it allowed to heal on the sabbath?” They wanted to accuse him.

¹¹ So, he told them, “Suppose one of you has a single sheep. The sheep falls into a hole on the sabbath. Are you going to grab it and pull it out?”

¹² How much more important is a man than a sheep? You are allowed to do good on the sabbath.”

¹³ Then he told the man, “Put your hand out.”

He put his hand out. He made it healthy. It was just like the other hand.

The Pharisees plan to kill Jesus (12:14-21).

¹⁴ The Pharisees left. They started planning how they were going to kill him. ¹⁵ Since Jesus knew about this, he left that place. Many people followed him. He healed all their diseases. ¹⁶ He ordered them so that they would not make it public.

¹⁷ This happened to fulfill the word of the prophet Isaiah,

¹⁸ I chose my child.

I love him. He pleases me.

I will set my spirit on him.

He will bring justice to the nations.

¹⁹ He will not complain. He will not cry out.

No one will hear his voice on the highway.

²⁰ He will not break a bent reed.

He will not put out a burning wick.

He will lead justice into victory.

²¹ The nations will hope in his name.^a

Jesus heals a demon-possessed man (12:22-32).

²² Then they brought a demon-possessed man to him. He was blind and deaf. Jesus healed him. The deaf man could speak and see. ²³ The crowds were amazed, “Isn’t this the son of David?”

a) Isaiah 42:1-4.

²⁴ The Pharisees heard about it, “He cannot cast out demons unless it is by Baal-Zebub. He is the leader of the demons.”

²⁵ He figured out what they were thinking. He told them, “Any divided kingdom will collapse. A divided city or a divided house cannot survive.

²⁶ If the Opposer casts out the Opposer, he is divided against himself. How can his kingdom survive? ²⁷ If I cast out demons by Baal-Zebub, then how do your sons do it? Then they can judge you. ²⁸ But, if I cast demons out by God’s spirit, then the kingdom of God has arrived among you.”

²⁹ “How can someone come into a powerful man’s house and just take his stuff? Do they not first have to tie him up? Then they can rob his house.”

³⁰ “If you are not with me, you are against me. If you do not gather with me, then you scatter.”

³¹ “I tell you this: If you sin or blaspheme against people, you can be forgiven. But if you blaspheme against the spirit, it will not be forgiven.

³² Anyone who speaks against the son of man will be forgiven. But if you speak against the holy spirit, he will not be forgiven. He will not be forgiven in this life, or in the life to come.”

Know a tree by its fruit (12:33-37).

³³ “Create a good tree. Its fruit is good. Create a bad tree. Its fruit is bad. You can know a tree by its fruit.”

³⁴ “You bunch of snakes! How can you say anything good when you are so evil? Your mouth speaks from what spills out of your heart. ³⁵ A good man produces good from his treasure. A bad man produces bad from his treasure.”

³⁶ “I tell you this: On judgment day, people will be rewarded for every careless word they speak. ³⁷ You are justified by your words. You are also condemned by your words.”

Show us a sign (12:38-42).

³⁸ Then the legal experts and Pharisees asked a question, “Teacher. We want you to show us a sign.”

³⁹ Jesus answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation wants a sign. They will not get any sign, except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

⁴⁰ Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and nights. ^a In the same way, the son of man will be in the middle of the earth for three days and nights.”

⁴¹ “In the judgment, the men of Ninevah will resurrect along with this generation. They will condemn you. When Jonah preached, they changed. There is someone here now who is better than Jonah.”

⁴² “In the judgment, the southern queen will rise with this generation. She will condemn it. She came from the end of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon. There is someone here now who is superior to Solomon.”

An unclean spirit leaves a man (12:43-45).

⁴³ “When an unclean spirit leaves a man, it passes through waterless places. It will look for a place to rest. It will not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it will say, ‘I will return to my home that I left.’ ”

“When it comes home, it will find it empty, cleaned up, and ordered. Then it will return. ⁴⁵ It will bring with it seven other spirits that are worse than itself. They will come in. They will occupy that house. The end of that man will be worse than the beginning.”

“That is how it will be for this evil generation.”

Jesus' family wants to speak to him (12:46-50).

⁴⁶ While he was talking to the crowds, his mother and brothers arrived outside. They wanted to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers arrived. They want to speak to you.”

⁴⁸ He answered him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”

He reached out his hand. ⁴⁹ He touched his disciples, “Look at my mother and brothers. ⁵⁰ Whoever does the will of my heavenly father is my brother. She is my sister. She is my mother.”

a) Jonah 1:7.

Jesus speaks in illustrations (13:1-58).

A farmer spreads seeds (13:1-23).

¹³ At that time, Jesus left his house. He sat down by the lake. ² Large crowds gathered around him. Therefore, he got in a boat and sat down. The crowds stood by on the shore.

³ He spoke to them with an illustration: “Once, a farmer went out spreading seeds. ⁴ Some of the seed fell on the road. The birds came. They ate the seed. ⁵ Some of the seeds fell on rocky ground, where there is not much soil. It grew up even though the soil was shallow. ⁶ The sun beat down. It scorched the plant. Because it did not have roots, the plant withered. ⁷ Some of the seeds fell on thorny soil. The thorns grew up. They choked the plant.”

⁸ “Some of the seeds fell on healthy soil. It bore fruit. Some had one hundred fruit. Some had sixty fruit. Some had thirty fruit. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁰ His disciples came to him, “Why do you speak to them in illustrations?”

¹¹ He answered, “You have the right to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. They do not. ¹² Some people have things. They will get more. Some people do not have things. What they do have will be taken from them.”

¹³ “This is why I speak to them in illustrations: They see, but they cannot see. They hear, but they cannot understand.”

¹⁴ “The prophet Isaiah spoke accurately about them,”

You hear something
but you do not understand.

You observe something
but you cannot see it.

¹⁵ I have dulled the hearts of these people.

I made their ears bad.

I closed their eyes.

Otherwise they would hear with their ears.

They would understand with their hearts.

Then they would change.

I would have to heal them.^a

¹⁶ “Your eyes are blessed. They can see. Your ears are blessed. They can hear. ¹⁷ I guarantee you this: Many prophets and righteous men wished they could observe what you see. They did not see it. They wanted to hear what you hear. They did not hear it.”

¹⁸ “Listen to the meaning of the seed illustration: ¹⁹ Many hear the world of the kingdom but do not understand. The evil one comes. He takes the seed from their heart. This is the seed on the road.”

²⁰ “Regarding the seed on rocky ground: Some hear the word. They accept it immediately with joy. ²¹ However, it does not take root. It is temporary. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly give up.”

²² “Regarding the seeds in the thorny soil: This is the one who hears the word. The cares of the world and the deception of riches choke the word. It does not bear fruit.”

²³ “Regarding the seed on the healthy soil: It does bear fruit. Some get fruit one hundred times over. Some get sixty. Some get thirty.”

Burn the weeds (13:24-29).

²⁴ He told another illustration: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man sowing healthy seed on his farm. ²⁵ While the man is sleeping, his enemy sowed weeds among the grain. Then he left. ²⁶ The stalks sprouted. The fruit grew. But the weeds also appeared.”

²⁷ “The landowner’s servants came to him, ‘Master. Didn’t we plant healthy seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ”

²⁸ “He said to them, ‘Our enemy did this.’ ”

“The servants replied, ‘Do you want us to go out and gather them up?’ ”

²⁹ “He replied, ‘No. Gather the weeds with the grain. ³⁰ Let them grow together until the harvest. When it is time for harvest, tell the workers to gather the grain first. Put it in bundles. Then burn it. Put the grain in my barn.’ ”

a) Isaiah 6:9-10.

The kingdom is like a mustard seed (13:30-32).

³⁰ He told them another illustration: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. A man took the seed. He planted it in his farm.” ³¹ It is the smallest of all seeds. When it grows, it grows into a huge plant. It even becomes a tree. The birds of the air come. They live in its branches.”

The kingdom is like yeast (13:33).

³³ He told them another illustration, “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast. A woman took the yeast. She mixed some into a bushel of flour. But all the loaves rose.”

Jesus speaks in illustrations (13:34-35).

³⁴ Jesus always spoke in illustrations to the crowds. He did not speak to them without illustrations.

³⁵ This fulfilled the word of the prophet.

I will open my mouth with illustrations.

I will speak about things hidden since the beginning.^a

Explain the weeds (13:36-43).

³⁶ The crowds left. Jesus went into the house. His disciples came to him, “Explain to us the illustration about the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The farmer who spread the healthy seed is the son of man.” ³⁸ The farm is the world. The healthy seed are those who are sons of the kingdom. ³⁹ The weeds are the sons of the evil one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest at the end is eternity. The workers are the angels. ⁴⁰ He will gather the weeds and burn them in the fire at the end of time.”

⁴¹ “The son of man will gather his angels. He will collect rebels and the lawless. ⁴² He will throw them into a hot oven. There will be crying and teeth grinding. ⁴³ The righteous will shine like the sun in their father’s kingdom.”

“Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

a) Psalm 78:2.

The kingdom is like treasure (13:44).

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like some treasure that was hidden in a field. A man searched for it. He found it. He left. He sold everything that he had. Then he bought that field.”

The kingdom is like a merchant (13:45-46).

⁴⁵ “Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a man who was a merchant. He was seeking some fine pearls. ⁴⁶ He located one priceless pearl. He left. He sold everything that he had. Then he bought it.”

The kingdom is like a net (13:47-50).

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like net drug through a lake. It collected every type of fish. ⁴⁸ It was full. So, they brought it up on the shore. They spread it out. Then they collected everything that they wanted to keep. They put that into a container. They threw the rest away.”

⁴⁹ “This is how it will be at the end of time. The angels will come out. They will separate the evil from the righteous. ⁵⁰ They will throw them into the fiery furnace. There will be crying and teeth grinding.”

The kingdom is like a landowner (13:51-53).

⁵¹ “Do you understand all this?”

They said, “Yes.”

⁵² So, he told them, “That is why every legal expert who teaches about the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner. He makes use of his property. That includes the old stuff and the new stuff.”

⁵³ Jesus finished telling illustrations. He left that place.

A prophet is disrespected in his home town (13:54-58).

⁵⁴ He came to his home town. He taught them in the synagogue. They were impressed. This made them say, “How did he become so wise? How did he become so influential? ⁵⁵ Is he not the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary? Aren’t his brothers Jacob, Joseph, Simon, and Judah? ⁵⁶ Do we not know all his sisters? How did he learn all these things?”

⁵⁷ This made them struggle.

Jesus told them, “A prophet is disrespected in his home town and in his own house.”

⁵⁸ They did not believe. So, he did not do many miracles there.

Jesus teaches and heals (14:1-17:27).

Herod beheads John (14:1-12).

¹⁴ Herod was a minor prince. About that time, he heard some rumors about Jesus. ² He told those around him, "This is Dunker John. He has returned from the dead. That is why he has such miraculous power."

³ Previously, Herod arrested John. He bound him. He put him in prison. This was because of the matter of Herodia. Herodia was married to Philip. Philip was Herod's brother. ⁴ John told him, "You cannot legally marry her."

⁵ Herod wanted to kill John. But, he was afraid of what the people might think. The people believed that John was a prophet.

⁶ They threw a birthday party for Herod. Herodia's daughter was dancing right in the middle. ⁷ This made Herod so happy that he swore an oath to give her whatever she wanted. ⁸ So, her mother convinced her to ask, "Give me the head of Dunker John on a dish."

⁹ The king regretted his promise. But, he ordered his people to do it. ¹⁰ He sent them to chop off John's head and put it on a dish. ¹¹ They brought his head on the dish. They gave it to the girl. She brought it to her mother.

¹² His disciples came. They took the body. They buried it. Then they went to Jesus. They told him about it.

Jesus feeds five thousand (14:13-21).

¹³ After this, Jesus left that place in a boat. He went into the wilderness to be by himself. The crowds heard about it. They left the cities by land. They followed him. ¹⁴ Jesus came outside. He saw large crowds. He had feelings for them. He healed their sicknesses.

¹⁵ It was almost evening. His disciples came to him, "This is the wilderness. A lot of time has passed. Dismiss these people. Let's go into the village. We need to get some food to eat."

¹⁶ Jesus told them, "They do not need to go anywhere. Give them something to eat."

¹⁷ They told him, “We do not have enough. All that we have is five loaves of bread and two fish.”

¹⁸ He said, “Give it to me.”

¹⁹ He told the crowd to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. He held them up to the sky. He blessed them. He broke up the loaves. He gave them to the disciples. They disciples passed them to the people.

²⁰ Everyone ate. They were full. They gathered up the remaining pieces. They filled up twelve baskets. ²¹ Not including women and children, there were about five thousand men who ate.

Jesus walks on the lake (14:22-33).

²² Just after this, he urged the disciples to get into a boat. He sent them ahead to the other side. ²³ Then he sent the people away. After they left, he went up to the mountains. He prayed by himself. Evening came. He was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat was several hundred meters from land. Waves started pounding it. The wind stirred up. ²⁵ It was really late at night. And here came Jesus. He was walking on the lake.

²⁶ His disciples saw him walking on the lake. They were terrified, “It is a ghost!” They were so afraid that they were screaming.

²⁷ Right then, Jesus said, “Relax. It is me. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered, “Lord. If you would, tell me, ‘Come to me on the water.’ ”

²⁹ So, he said, “Come on.”

Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water. He came to Jesus. ³⁰ But, when he noticed the wind, he was afraid. He started sinking. He screamed out, “Lord! Help me!”

³¹ Right way, Jesus took him by the hand. He picked him up, “You do not have much faith. Why do you doubt?” ³² He picked him up into the boat. The wind calmed down.

³³ The folks in the boat bowed down to him, “You really are the son of God.”

Everyone who touches him gets well (14:34-36).

³⁴ After they crossed over to the other side, they went to the area near Gennesaret. ³⁵ The men there recognized him. They sent word out all around that area. They brought everyone to him that had diseases. ³⁶ They appealed to him so that they could just touch the edge of his clothes. Everyone who touched him got well.

You cancel God's word with your tradition (15:1-20).

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees and the legal experts came from Jerusalem to see Jesus, ² “Why do your disciples break the ancient traditions? They do not wash their hands when they eat.”

³ He answered them, “Why do you break God’s commands with your tradition? ⁴ God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’^a and, ‘Whoever bashes his father or mother should die.’^b ⁵ But, you say, ‘Someone can tell his father or mother, ‘I gave away what I was supposed to give to you.’ ⁶ He does not owe anything to his father.’ You cancel God’s word with your tradition.”

⁷ “You are hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you.”

⁸ These people honor me with their lips.

However, their hearts are far away from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain.

Their instructions are the commands of men.^c

¹⁰ He called the crowd over. He told them, “Listen. Understand. ¹¹ What goes into a man’s mouth does not contaminate him. It is what comes out of his mouth. That is what contaminates him.”

¹² Then his disciples came to him, “Did you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?”

¹³ He answered, “Any plants that my father did not plant will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Ignore them. They are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, won’t they both fall in a hole?”

¹⁵ Peter made a request, “Explain the illustration to us.”

a) Exodus 20:12.

b) Exodus 21:17.

c) Isaiah 29:13.

¹⁶ So, he said, “You still do not have any sense? ¹⁷ Do you not know? What you put into your mouth goes into your belly. Then it goes into the toilet. Right?”

¹⁸ “What comes out of your mouth comes from your heart. That is what contaminates a man. ¹⁹ From your heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual misconduct, stealing, lying, and slander. ²⁰ This is what contaminates a man. Eating with unwashed hands does not contaminate a man.”

Jesus heals the Canaanite woman's daughter (15:21-38).

²¹ Jesus left that place. He went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just after this, a Canaanite woman started shouting. She was from that area, “Have mercy on me! You are the lord, the son of David. My daughter is possessed with a really bad demon.” ²³ He did not say a word to her.

His disciples made a request, “Send her away. She is walking behind us and shouting.”

²⁴ So, he responded, “I was only sent to the lost sheep of the family of Israel.”

²⁵ The woman bowed down to him, “Lord. Help me.”

²⁶ He responded, “It is not right to take the children’s food and give it to the dogs.”

²⁷ She replied, “Yes, lord. But even the dogs can eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ So Jesus replied, “Madam, you have a lot of faith. May it be as you wish.” And her daughter became well at that very moment.

Jesus heals the lame (15:29-31).

²⁹ Jesus left that place. He came to lake Galilee. He went up the hill. He sat down. ³⁰ Large crowds came to him. They brought the lame, the blind, the injured, the deaf, and many others. They placed them at his feet. He healed them.

³¹ The crowds were amazed at what they saw. The deaf spoke. The lame became well. The injured walked. The blind could see. Israel honored God.

Jesus feeds four thousand (15:32-39).

³² Jesus called to his disciples, “I am worried about the people. Three days have passed. They have not had anything to eat. I do not want to make them so hungry that they pass out in the road.”

³³ His disciples responded, “We are in the wilderness. Where can we get enough food for this many people to eat?”

³⁴ Jesus asked them, “How much bread do you have?”

“We have seven loaves. We have a few fish.”

³⁵ He told the crowd to sit on the ground. ³⁶ He took the seven loaves and the fish. He prayed. He broke them into pieces. He gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave them to the people. ³⁷ They all ate. They became full. He collected the leftovers. They filled seven baskets. ³⁸ Four thousand men ate, not including the women and children.

³⁹ He dismissed the crowds. He got into a boat. He went to the district of Magadan.

The Pharisees ask for a sign (16:1-4).

¹⁶ Some Pharisees and Sadducees showed up. They wanted to trap him. So, they asked him to show them proof from heaven.

² He answered them, ^a ⁴ “An evil and adulterous generation asks for proof. I will give you no proof except for what happened to Jonah.” He left him. He went somewhere else.

Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees (16:5-12).

⁵ His disciples joined him on the other side of the lake. However, they forgot to bring any bread. ⁶ He told them, “Look. Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

⁷ They argued between themselves, “We did not bring any bread.”

⁸ Jesus knew about it, “Why do you argue between yourselves? You do not have much faith. Is it because you do not have any bread? ⁹ Do you not know? Do you not remember the five loaves and the five thousand people? Do you not remember all the baskets of leftovers we collected?”

¹⁰ Do you not remember the seven loaves and the four thousand people? Do you not remember all the leftovers we collected?”

a) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit the end of verse 12 and all of verse 13.

¹¹ “Why is it that you cannot understand? I am not talking about bread. Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

¹² Then they understood. He was not talking about watching out for the yeast that goes in bread. He was talking about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Who do you think I am (16:13-21)?

¹³ Jesus came to the area called Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, “Who do people claim is the son of man?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say it is Dunker John. Others say it is Elijah. Others say it is Jeremiah. Still others say it is another prophet.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “Who do you think I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the messiah. You are the son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus responded, “You are blessed, Simon, son of Jonah. Flesh and blood did not reveal this to you. My heavenly father did.”¹⁸ I tell you what: You are Peter. On this stone I will build my church. The gates of the grave cannot defeat it. ¹⁹ I am going to give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on the earth will become bound in heaven. Whatever you free on the earth will become free in heaven.”

²⁰ Then he commanded the disciples, “Do not tell anyone that I am the messiah.”

²¹ From that point forward, he started showing things to the disciples: It was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem. He had to suffer because of the elders, the high priests, and the legal experts. They were going to kill him.

Deny yourself (16:22-28).

²² Peter took Jesus to the side. Peter rebuked Jesus, “Show me some mercy, lord. This is not going to happen to you.”

²³ Jesus turned right to Peter, “Go away from me. You are an opposer! You shock me. You do not take God’s position. You take the position of men.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told the disciples, “Anyone that wants to go with me has to deny himself. He has to take up his cross. Then he has to follow me.

²⁵ Whoever wants to keep his life will lose it. Whoever loses his life for

me will find it.²⁶ How does it benefit anyone? What if he gains the whole world, but loses his own life?”

²⁷ “The son of man will arrive in his father’s honor. He will reward each man according to his actions. This regards some of you standing right here.²⁸ I guarantee you this: You will not die before you see the son of man coming in his kingdom.”

Moses and Elijah appear (17:1-13).

¹⁷ After six days, Jesus took Peter, Jacob, and his brother John. They went up on a high mountain by themselves.² Jesus changed right in front of them. His face shined like the sun. His clothes became white like a light. He appeared to them.³ Moses and Elijah were there. They were all talking together.

⁴ Peter asked Jesus, “Lord. This would be a good idea, if you like it. We can make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was speaking, a bright cloud appeared over them. A voice spoke out of the cloud, “This is my loved son. I am pleased with him. Listen to him.”⁶ The disciples heard this. They fell on their faces. They were extremely afraid.

⁷ Jesus came to them. He touched them, “Stand up. Do not be afraid.”⁸ They lifted up their eyes. They saw no one except Jesus by himself.

⁹ They came down the mountain. Jesus gave them an order, “Do not speak about this vision until after the son of man rises from the dead.”

¹⁰ His disciples asked him, “Why do the legal experts say that Elijah has to appear first?”

¹¹ He answered, “They say that Elijah is coming. He will establish everything.¹² But, I tell you that Elijah already came. They did not notice him. They did with him whatever they wanted. The son of man will suffer because of them.”

¹³ His disciples understood that he was talking about Dunker John.

Jesus heals seizures (17:14-20).

¹⁴ The crowds approached Jesus. A man stepped forward. He bowed down,¹⁵ “Lord. Have mercy on my son. He has seizures. He suffers a lot. He often falls in the fire or has seizures while on the water.¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples. They could not heal him.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered, “This generation is faithless and perverted. How long do I have to stay with you? How long do I have to put up with you? Bring him to me.” ¹⁸ Jesus gave a command. The demon came out of him. The boy was healed at that exact moment.

¹⁹ Then the disciples approached Jesus when they were alone, “Why weren’t we able to cast it out?”

²⁰ He told them, “You did not have enough faith. I guarantee you this: If you have faith as big as a mustard seed, you can command a mountain, ‘Get away from here.’ It will be gone. Nothing is impossible for you.”^a

The son of man will be arrested (17:22-23).

²² They came together in Galilee. Jesus spoke to them, “The son of man will be arrested by men. ²³ They will kill him. He will rise on the third day.” This really upset them.

Jesus pays the temple tax (17:24-27).

²⁴ They went to Capernaum. The people who collect the temple tax came to Peter, “Your teacher has not paid the temple tax. Is that right?”

²⁵ He said, “That is right.”

So, they went to his house. Jesus listened to him, “What do you think is right, Simon? From whom do kings collect taxes and fees? Is it from their sons or from strangers?”

²⁶ Peter answered, “From strangers.”

Jesus said to him, “This means that the sons are excused. ²⁷ But, we do not want to offend anyone. So, go to the lake. Put a hook in the water. Take out the first fish you catch. Open its mouth. You will find a coin equal to two temple taxes. Take it. Give it to them—one for you and one for me.”

Jesus teaches about power and forgiveness (18:1-35).

Who is the most powerful (18:1-9)?

¹⁸ About that time, the disciples came to Jesus, “So, then. Who is going to be the most powerful in the kingdom of heaven?”

a) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit verse 21.

² There was a child standing right there. Jesus called him over, ³ “I guarantee you this: You have to change. You must become like this child. Otherwise, you will not be part of the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Suppose someone humbles himself like this child. He is the most powerful in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ If someone accepts a child like him, he accepts me.”

⁶ “Suppose that someone tempts the smallest person who believes in me. It would be better if he had a millstone around his neck, and then he was thrown into the deepest place in the ocean.”

⁷ “Woe to the world and its temptation. There will always be temptation. But, woe to the person who brings it.”

⁸ “If your hand or foot creates temptation, then cut it off. Throw it away. It is better to get into life blind or lame than to fall into eternal fire with two hands or feet. ⁹ If your eye creates temptation, then pluck it out. Throw it away. It is better to get into life one-eyed than to have two eyes in hell fire.”

Look for the lost sheep (18:10-14).

¹⁰ “Look out. Do not dismiss the little ones. I guarantee you: The angels in heaven watch out for everyone for my heavenly father.”^a

¹² “What do you think? Suppose a man had one hundred sheep. One of them wandered off. Would he not leave the ninety-nine and go look for the lost sheep? ¹³ When he finds it, I guarantee you this: He will be more excited about it than the ninety-nine that were not lost.”

¹⁴ “That is what it is like for your heavenly father when one of the small people is lost.”

Suppose your brother sins (18:15-20).

¹⁵ “Suppose your brother sins. Go. Correct him privately between the two of you. ¹⁶ Suppose he does not listen. Try to change your brother’s mind. Suppose he still does not listen. Take one or two people with you.”

Let every matter stand on the basis of two or three witnesses.^b

¹⁷ “Suppose he will not listen to them. Tell it to the congregation. Suppose he refuses to listen to the congregation. Then treat him like a gentile or a tax-collector.”

a) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit verse 11.

b) Deuteronomy 19:15.

¹⁸ “I guarantee you this: Whatever you bind on the earth will become bound in heaven. Whatever you free on the earth will become free in heaven.”

¹⁹ “I will tell you again: Suppose two of you agree about any matter that you want. That is how it will be with my heavenly father. ²⁰ When two or three of you come together in my name, then I am right there in the middle.”

Forgive seventy times seven (18:21-22).

²¹ Then Peter came to him, “Lord. Suppose my brother sins against me. How many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “That is not what I would tell you. Instead, you have to forgive seventy times seven times.”

The kingdom is like a king (18:23-35).

²³ “This is why: The kingdom of heaven is like a king. ²⁴ He decided to settle accounts with his officials. He approached one of them to settle his account. He owed several thousand years wages. ²⁵ However, he did not have the money to pay. His lord ordered him to be sold as a slave. This included his wife, his children, and everything he had. This would pay the debt.”

²⁶ “The official fell down in front of him. He bowed, ‘Be patient with me. I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ The lord pitied the servant. He freed him. He forgave the loan.”

²⁸ “That official left. He located another official. He owed him a few month’s pay. He grabbed him. He choked him, ‘Pay me what you owe me!’ ²⁹ That official fell down. He begged him, ‘Be patient with me. I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He did not want to do it. He left. He threw him into prison until he paid what he owed.”

³¹ “The other officials noticed this. It really bothered them. So, they visited the lord. They told him all about what happened. ³² Then his lord called him over, ‘You are a wicked official. I forgave you everything that you owed. You begged me. ³³ Should you not show mercy to your fellow official? Didn’t I show you mercy?’ ³⁴ The lord was furious. He arrested him. He turned him over the jailer until he paid everything that he owed.”

³⁵ “This is what my heavenly father will do to you, unless each of you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Jesus teaches and heals (19:1-20:34).

Can a man divorce his wife (19:1-12)?

¹⁹ Jesus finished saying these things. He left Galilee. He went to the district of Judah on the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him. He healed them there. ³ The Pharisees approached him. They wanted to trap him, “Can a man divorce his wife for any reason?”

⁴ He answered, “Do you not know? From the beginning, ‘The creator made them male and female.’^a ⁵ He said, ‘Because of this, a man will leave his father and mother. He will join his wife. The two will become one person.’^b ⁶ They are not two people any more. They are one person. No person may separate what God put together.”

⁷ They asked him, “Why did Moses command them ‘to give a separation document and then divorce’?^c”

⁸ He told them, “Moses knew that you had a hard heart. He allowed you to divorce your wives. That is not how it was from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you what: Suppose someone divorces his wife, and it is not because of sexual misconduct. Then he marries another person. He committed adultery.”

¹⁰ His disciples asked him, “If this is how it is between a man and a woman, then it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ He answered them, “Not everyone can accept this. The only ones are those who are allowed. ¹² Some people are sterile from birth. Some are castrated by other people. Some castrate themselves for the kingdom of heaven. Accept this if you can.”

They brought some children (19:13-15).

¹³ They brought some little children to him. They wanted him to put his hands on them and pray for them. His disciples rebuked them.

a) Genesis 1:27.

b) Genesis 2:24.

c) Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Bring the children here. Do not prevent them from coming to me. The kingdom of heaven is for people like them.”

¹⁵ He put his hands on them. Then they left that place.

A rich man leaves sad (19:16-22).

¹⁶ Right away, a man came to him, “Teacher. What good thing do I need to do to have eternal life?”

¹⁷ He replied, “Why do you ask about good things? There is only one who is good. However, if you want to get into life, obey the commands.”

¹⁸ He asked, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “Do not murder.^a Do not steal.^b Do not lie.^c ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother.^d Love your neighbor like yourself.”^e

²⁰ The young man said, “I kept all of them. What else am I missing?”

²¹ Jesus told him, “You want to be complete. Then go. Sell everything that you have. Give the money to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come. Follow me.”

²² The young man listened to these words. He left sad. He had a lot of money.

It is difficult for a rich man (19:23-30).

²³ Jesus told his disciples, “I guarantee you this: It is difficult for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ I will tell you again: It is easier for a camel to go through the hole in a needle than it is for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven.”

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were really surprised, “Who can be saved?”

²⁶ Jesus looked up, “With men it is impossible. With God, everything is possible.”

²⁷ Then Peter asked another question, “Look. We left everything. We followed you. What else are we supposed to do?”

a) Exodus 20:13.

b) Exodus 20:15.

c) Exodus 20:16.

d) Exodus 20:12.

e) Leviticus 19:18.

²⁸ Jesus answered, “I guarantee you this: You have followed me into the new age. The son of man will sit on his glorious throne. You will also sit on twelve thrones. You will judge the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ Many left homes, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, children, or land for me. They will receive back a hundred times. He will inherit eternal life.”

³⁰ “Lots of people who are first will be last. The ones who are last will be first.”

The kingdom is like a landowner (20:1-16).

²⁰ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner. Early in the morning, he went out. He wanted to hire some people to work in his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them one day’s wages. Then he sent them to the vineyard.”

³ “At about nine o’clock, he noticed that there were some other people standing in the marketplace. They were unemployed. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also may go work in my vineyard. I will also pay you the standard amount.’ ⁵ So they went.”

“At about noon, and again at about three o’clock, he came back. He did the same thing.”

⁶ “At about five o’clock, he went back. He found some more people standing there. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here unemployed all day?’ ”

⁷ “They replied, ‘No one hired us.’ ”

“He told them, ‘Then you also may go work in my vineyard.’ ”

⁸ “When evening came, the lord of the vineyard told his manager, ‘Call the workers together. Pay them their wages. Make sure that you do not miss anyone, from the first to the last.’ ⁹ Those who came at five o’clock each got a full day’s wage.”

¹⁰ “Those who came at first thought they should be paid more. However, they each got a day’s pay like the others. ¹¹ When this happened, they complained about the landowner. ¹² They said, ‘Those that came at the end only worked for one hour. They got the same pay as those who suffered the whole day in the heat.’ ”



Tiberius is on a denarius coin.

¹³ “He gave an answer, ‘Hey, friend. I did not mistreat you. Didn’t you agree to work for a day’s wage?’ ¹⁴ Take your things. Go.’ ‘I gave the same thing to the ones who came at the end that I gave you. ¹⁵ Is it not okay for me to do what I want with my stuff? Are you jealous because I did something good?’ ”

¹⁶ “So, the last will be first. The first will be last.”

Jesus goes to Jerusalem (20:17-19).

¹⁷ Jesus left to go to Jerusalem. He took the twelve with him so they could be alone. Along the way, he spoke to them, ¹⁸ “Let’s go up to Jerusalem.”

“The son of man will be arrested by the chief priests and legal experts. They will sentence him to death. ¹⁹ They will hand him over to the gentiles. They will ridicule him. They will beat him. They will crucify him. On the third day, he will rise.”

Let my two sons sit beside you (20:20-29).

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to him. She was with her sons. She bowed down. She wanted something from him.

²¹ He asked her, “What do you want?”

She said, “Tell me that my two sons will sit beside you in your kingdom. One will be on your right hand. One will be on your left hand.”

²² Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink from the cup that I drink?”

They said, “We can.”

²³ He told them, “You might drink from my cup. However, it is not my job to sit people on my right and left. My father gives that right to who he chooses.”

²⁴ The twelve heard this conversation. They were irritated at the two brothers.

²⁵ Jesus called them together, “You know how it works. Foreign rulers tend to be dictators. Powerful people become tyrants. ²⁶ This is not how it is going to work for you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. ²⁷ Whoever wants to be first must become a slave. ²⁸ The son of man did not come to have people serve him. He came to be a servant. He came to give his life as a ransom for the many.”

Jesus heals two blind men (20:29-34).

²⁹ They left. They went to Jericho. Large crowds followed. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting by the side of the road. They heard that Jesus was going to pass by. They shouted, "Have mercy on us! Son of David."

³⁰ The crowds warned them, "Be quiet!"

But, they just shouted even louder, "Have mercy on us! Lord. Son of David!"

³¹ Jesus stood still. He called over to them, "What do you want me to do to you?"

³³ They told him, "Lord. Open our eyes."

³⁴ Jesus had feelings for them. He looked up. Right then, they could see. Then they followed him.

Jesus enters Jerusalem (21:1-11).

²¹ They were getting near Jerusalem. They came near Beth-Phage. It is near Mount Olive. Jesus called together two of the disciples. ² He told them, "Go to the village over there. You will find a donkey hitched up. There is another colt with it. Untie it. Bring it to me. ³ If anyone asks you what you are doing, then tell them, 'Our lord needs it.' Then bring it right back."

⁴ He said this to fulfill the prophet's word,

⁵ Tell the daughter, Zion.^a

Look. Your king is coming to you.

He is humble. He sits on a donkey.

He also sits on a burro colt.^b

⁶ The disciples went. They did just like Jesus told them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt. They put their cloaks on it. Jesus sat on them.

⁸ Huge crowds set their clothes on the road. Others chopped branches off of trees. They spread them out on the road. ⁹ The crowds walked in front of him. They followed him and shouted,

Praise the son of David!

The man who comes in the name of the lord is blessed.

a) Isaiah 62:11.

b) Zechariah 9:9.

Praise to the heavens.^a

There were people ahead of him.¹⁰ They agitated everyone in Jerusalem. They said, “Who is this guy?”

¹¹ The crowds said, “This is a prophet named Jesus. He is from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Jesus clears the temple (21:12-13).

¹² Jesus came to the temple. He threw out the merchants and customers operating in the temple. He knocked over the tables of the money changers. He turned over the chairs of those who sold doves.¹³ He told them, “It is written, ‘My house is supposed to be called a place of prayer.’^b “But you make it into a hideout for thieves.”

Jesus heals the blind and lame (21:14-17).

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him while he was in the temple. He healed them.¹⁵ The high priests and the legal experts observed the miracles he performed. The children were shouting in the temple, “Praises to the son of David!”

¹⁶ This upset them. They told him, “Do you hear what they are saying?”

Jesus replied to them, “Yes. Do you not know that ‘I will bring praise from the mouth of children and babies’?^c ”

¹⁷ He left them there. He went out of the city into Beth-Haven. He spent the night there.

Jesus curses a fig tree (21:18-22).

¹⁸ The next morning, he returned to the city. He was hungry.¹⁹ There was a single fig tree beside the road. He came over to it. He found nothing on it, except a single fig. He said about it, “You will not have fruit any more. Ever.”

The fig tree withered right then and there.²⁰ His disciples were amazed, “How is it that the fig tree dried up right then and there?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “I guarantee you this: If you have faith. If you do not doubt. Then, not only can you do something like this to a fig tree. But, if

a) Psalm 118:25-26.

b) Isaiah 56:7.

c) Psalm 8:3.

you said to a mountain, 'Get up. Fall into the lake.' Then, it would. ²² If you ask for anything in your prayers, and you believe, then you will get it."

What is your authority (21:23-27)?

²³ Jesus came to the temple. He was teaching the people. The high priests and the elders came to him, "What is your authority for doing this? Who gave you the authority?"

²⁴ He answered them, "I am going to ask you a question. You answer my question. Then I will answer yours, 'What is your authority for doing this?' ²⁵ John's immersion: Where did it come from? Did it come from heaven or from man?"

They started arguing between themselves, "If we say from heaven, then he will say, 'Then why do you not believe him?' ²⁶ If we say from man, then we are worried about what the people will think. Everyone believes that John is a prophet."

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

Then he said to them, "Then I will not tell you about my authority."

A man has two sons (21:28-32).

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first one, 'Go today. Work in my fields.' ²⁹ He answered his father, 'No. I will not.' The next day, he changed his mind. He did go."

³⁰ "The father came to his other son. He said the same thing. That son said, 'Yes, sir.' But he did not go."

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus told them, "I guarantee you this: Tax-collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of heaven before you. ³² John came to you about the correct way. You did not believe him. Tax-collectors and prostitutes did. You observe this. But it does not change your mind. You do not believe him."

A man leases his vineyard (21:33-44).

³³ "Listen to another illustration: A man owned some land. He planted a vineyard. He build a fence around it. He dug a winepress. He built a

watchtower. He leased the land to some farmers. Then, he traveled somewhere else.”

³⁴ “Then the harvest time arrived. He sent his representatives to the farmers. They were supposed to collect the rent. ³⁵ The farmers grabbed his representatives. They beat some of them. They killed some of them. They stoned some of them. ³⁶ So, he sent even more representatives than the first time.”

³⁷ “Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They have to respect my son.’ ³⁸ But instead, when the farmers noticed his son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Let’s go. We will kill him. Then we can have his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So, they grabbed him. They threw him out of the vineyard. Then they killed him.”

⁴⁰ “Eventually the lord of the vineyard will come back. What do you think he will do to them?”

⁴¹ They told him, “He will treat them harshly. He will kill them. He will take back his vineyard. He will lease it to some other farmers. They will pay the rent after the harvest.”

⁴² Jesus told them, “Have you never read the scriptures?”

There is a stone that the builders rejected.

It is the cornerstone.

This is because of the lord.

It will be amazing to our eyes.^a

⁴³ “I tell you what: He will take the kingdom of God away from you. He will give to then gentiles. They will pay the rent for it. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will break into pieces. If it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

The chief priests want to grab Jesus (21:45-46).

⁴⁵ The chief priests and the Pharisees heard these illustrations. They knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to grab him, but they were afraid of the people. The people believed that he was a prophet.

The kingdom is like a wedding (22:1-14).

²² Jesus wanted to answer them. So, he told them another illustration:
² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king. He hosted his son’s wedding.

a) Psalm 118:22-23.

³ He sent his representatives out to invite guests to the wedding. They were not willing to attend.”

⁴ “So he sent out some more representatives. He told the representatives to say, ‘I prepared a banquet. I have some bulls. I slaughtered a fat one. Everything is ready. Come to my banquet.’⁵ But, they paid no attention. They dismissed him. Some were working in the fields. Others were tied up with business.⁶ Some of them even grabbed his representatives. They mistreated them. They even killed them.”

⁷ “This really made the king mad. He sent his troops. He killed those murderers. He set their cities on fire.⁸ Then he told his representatives, ‘The wedding was ready. But those guests did not appreciate it.’⁹ Go to the crossroads. Find whoever is there. Invite them to the wedding.’”

¹⁰ “The representatives left. They went down the road. They invited anyone they could find. It did not matter whether they were good or bad. They filled the banquet hall. Everyone was seated.”

¹¹ “The king came in to see the guests. He noticed a man who was not wearing formal clothing.¹² He spoke to him, ‘Friend. How did you get in without having the right clothes?’ He had no answer.”

¹³ “So, the king told his representatives, ‘Bind his feet and hands. Throw him into the darkness outside. There will be crying and teeth grinding.’¹⁴ Many are invited. Few are selected.”

Is it legal to pay taxes (22:15-22)?

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees showed up. They made a plan to catch him saying something.¹⁶ So, they sent their disciples along with the followers of Herod, “Teacher. We know you are honest. You teach the true way of God. You are no one’s pushover. You show no favoritism.¹⁷ So, tell us what you think: Is it legal to pay taxes to Caesar? Or, not?”

¹⁸ Jesus knew they were up to no good. He asked them, “Why are you trying to trick me? You are hypocrites.¹⁹ Show me a coin worth the amount of the tax.”

So they brought him one worth a day’s pay.

²⁰ He asked them, “Whose picture is drawn on it?”

²¹ They told him, “It is Caesar.”

Then he told them, “Give what belongs to Caesar to Caesar. Give what belongs to God to God.”

²² When everyone heard this, they were amazed. They went away. They left him alone.

Whose wife is she (22:23-33)?

²³ About that time, the Sadducees came to him. They do not believe in the resurrection.

²⁴ They asked him, “Teacher. Moses said,”

Suppose a man dies without children.

His brother must marry his wife.

He should produce children for his brother.^a

²⁵ “Suppose there were seven brothers. The first one married her. Then he died. He produced no children to leave for his brother’s wife. ²⁶ The same happened to the second brother. And the third. And all seven. Finally, the wife died. ²⁷ In the afterlife, whose wife is she? They all had her.”

²⁹ Jesus answered them, “You are deceived. You do not know the scriptures. You do not know the power of God. ³⁰ In the afterlife, there will be no marriages. There will be no engagements. In heaven, you will be like angels.”

³¹ “Regarding the resurrection from the dead. Do you not know the word God spoke to you? ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. I am the God of Jacob.’^b He is not a God for the dead. He is a God of the living.”

³³ The crowds were listening. They were amazed at his teaching.

What is the most important command (22:34-40)?

³⁴ The Pharisees heard about this. He silenced the Sadducees. They got together to discuss it. ³⁵ They sent one of their own to trap him, ³⁶ “Teacher. What is the most important command in the law?”

³⁷ He told them,

Love the lord, your God. Love him with your whole heart. Love him with your entire life. Love him with your entire mind.^c

³⁸ “This is the most important command. It is the first command.

³⁹ There is a second one like it,”

a) Deuteronomy 25:5

b) Exodus 3:15

c) Deuteronomy 6:5.

Love you neighbor like you love yourself.^a

⁴⁰ “The entire law and prophets hang on these two commands.”

Whose son is the messiah (22:42-46)?

⁴¹ The Pharisees got together. Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² “What do you think about the messiah? Whose son is he?”

They answered, “He is David’s son.”

⁴³ He asked them a question, “Then why does David call him lord by the spirit?”

⁴⁴ The lord spoke to my lord.

‘Sit at my right hand.

I will put your enemies under your feet.’^b

⁴⁵ “David called him lord. How can he be his son?”

⁴⁶ No one could say a word. After that, no dared ask him any more questions.

Jesus discusses the end (23:1-25:46).

The Pharisees are hypocrites (23:1-39).

Do not act like the Pharisees (23:1-12).

²³ Next, Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The legal experts and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ throne. ³ You must obey and keep whatever they say. However, do not act like them. They talk about things that they do not do themselves.”

⁴ “They collect heavy burdens. Then they put them on other’s shoulders. But they are not willing to lift their little finger. ⁵ Everything they do is so that people will see them. They wear large scripture boxes. They have long tassels. ⁶ They love to have the best seat at a banquet. They want to sit in the fancy chair at synagogue. ⁷ They want to be greeted in the market. They want people to call them Teacher. ⁸ Do not let anyone call you Teacher. I am your teacher. You are all brothers. ⁹ Do not let anyone

a) Leviticus 19:18.

b) Psalm 110:1.

call you ‘father’ on earth. You have a father. He is in heaven.¹⁰ Do not let anyone call you Teacher. You already have a teacher. He is the messiah.”

¹¹ “The most important one of you is the servant.¹² Whoever raises himself up will be humbled. Whoever is humble will get raised up.”

Woe to the Pharisees (23:13-36).

¹³ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You close up the kingdom of heaven to people. You are not allowed in. You prevent entry to people who want to get in.”^a

¹⁵ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You travel over land and see just to make one convert. When you do, they become twice the sons of hell as you.”

¹⁶ “Woe to you, you blind guides. You say, ‘Suppose someone swears by the law. It means nothing. Suppose someone swears by the gold of the temple. He is obligated.’ ”

¹⁷ “You are fools. You are blind. Which is superior? The gold? The temple? Or the one who makes the gold holy? ¹⁸ You also say, ‘Suppose someone swears by the altar. It means nothing. Suppose someone swears by the gift set there. He is obligated.’ ”

¹⁹ “You are blind. Which is superior? The gift? The altar? Or the one who makes the gift holy? ²⁰ Suppose someone swears by the altar. He is swearing by it. He also is swearing by everything on it.”

²¹ “Suppose someone swears by the temple. He is swearing by it. He also swears by everything in it. ²² Suppose someone swears by heaven. He is swearing by the throne of God. He is swearing by everything sitting around it.”

²³ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You tithe mint, dill, and cumin. However, you dismiss the important parts of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. You should do the first. However, you should not dismiss the others.”

²⁴ “You are blind guides. You strain out the gnats. But you swallow the camel.”

²⁵ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You sanitize the outside of the cup and dish. But inside you are full of stolen

a) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit verse 14.

property and luxury. ²⁶ You blind Pharisees. First clean the inside of the cup. Then you can clean the outside also.”

²⁷ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs. On the outside, you appear beautiful. But on the inside, you are full of dead bones and all kinds of nasty things.”

²⁸ “You look like you are righteous to people on the outside. But on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

²⁹ “Woe to you, legal experts and Pharisees. You are hypocrites. You build tombs for the prophets. You decorate monuments for the righteous.”

³⁰ “But you say, ‘Suppose we were alive in the times of our fathers. We would not do like them. We would not have spilled the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹ You testify against yourself. You are the sons of the people who murdered the prophets. ³² You are completely like your fathers.”

³³ “You are serpents. You bunch of snakes. How are you going to escape the judgment of hell? ³⁴ This is why I sent prophets, wise men, and legal experts to you. You killed them. You crucified them. You beat them in your synagogues. You chased them from one city to another.”

³⁵ “All the righteous blood spilled on earth is your fault. It starts with the righteous blood of Abel. It continues to the blood of Zachariah, son of Barachiah. You murdered them between the temple and the altar.”

³⁶ “I guarantee you this: This generation will be held responsible for all these things.”

Jesus wants to gather Jerusalem (23:37-38).

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You killed the prophets. You stoned the people I sent to you. Do you know how much I want to gather your children together? It is like a hen gathers her chicks under her wing. However, you are not willing. ³⁸ Your house is going to be neglected like the desert. ³⁹ I will tell you what: You will never see me again until you say,”

Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the lord.^a

a) Psalm 118:26.

When is the end (24:1-44)?

The temple will be destroyed (24:1-2).

²⁴ Jesus left the temple. He went elsewhere. His disciples approached him. They drew attention to the buildings around the temple.

² He responded to them, “Do you not see all this? I guarantee you this: It will not be long. Every stone will be destroyed.”

What is the sign (24:3-8)?

³ He sat down by Mount Olive. The disciples came to him privately, “Tell us. When will these things happen? What is the sign of your return? When is the end of time?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Look out. Make sure that no one deceives you.”

⁵ “Many will come in my name. They will say, ‘I am the messiah.’ They will fool many people. You will hear about wars. ⁶ You will hear rumors about wars. Be careful. Do not be upset. These things may happen. But it is not the end. ⁷ People will rebel against other people. Kingdoms will rebel against other kingdoms. There will be famines. There will be earthquakes. This will happen in various places. ⁸ These are just early contractions.”

They will arrest you (24:9-13).

⁹ “However, they will arrest you to harass you. Then they will execute you. The gentiles will hate you because of my name. ¹⁰ Many will be offended. They will betray each other. They will hate each other. ¹¹ Many false prophets will rise up. They will deceive many people. ¹² Lawlessness will increase. Love will be absent. ¹³ Those who stick it out to the end will stay safe.”

You will see a horrible ruin (24:14-29).

¹⁴ “They will preach the good news of the kingdom to the whole world. They will tell the gentiles. Then the end will come. ¹⁵ The word of Daniel the prophet told about a horrible ruin in the holy place. ^a This will happen when you see it. (Dear reader: Understand what I am saying.) ¹⁶ People in Judah will flee to the mountain.”

a) Daniel 9:27.

¹⁷ “Suppose someone is on his roof. He should not come down to get the stuff out of his house. ¹⁸ Suppose someone is working in the field. He should not come back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ It will be difficult for pregnant women and women who are nursing. ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not be in the winter or on the sabbath.”

²¹ “No trouble has been this great from the beginning of the world to this time. There will not be one like it afterward, either. ²² Unless this time came quickly, no one would survive. It did happen for the chosen ones.”

²³ “Suppose someone says, ‘Here is the messiah.’ Or, ‘This is him.’ Do not believe him. ²⁴ Many fake messiahs and false prophets will become famous. They will perform fancy miracles and wonders. They want to trick people. If possible, they want to trick the chosen ones. ²⁵ Listen, I already told you it would happen.”

²⁶ “Suppose they tell you, ‘He is in the wilderness.’ Do not go. Suppose they say, ‘He is inside hiding.’ Do not believe it.”

²⁷ “Lightning might strike from the east. However, you can still see it in the west. The son of man will still return. ²⁸ Buzzards gather where there is a dead body. ²⁹ Immediately after the trouble at that time,”

The sun will become dark.

The moon will not shine.^a

The stars will fall from the sky.

The powers of heaven will shake.^b

The son of man will appear (24:30-31).

³⁰ “The sign of the son of man will appear in the sky. All the tribes of the world will mourn. They will see ‘the son of man coming from the clouds in the sky’^c with power and great honor. ³¹ He will send his angels with loud trumpets. They will gather the chosen ones from the four winds. They will start from one end of heaven to the other.”

You will know when it is summer (24:32-35).

³² Using a fig tree, he taught this illustration: “Suppose a new branch grows. Suppose the leaves sprout. Then you know that it is summer.

a) Isaiah 13:10.

b) Isaiah 34:4.

c) Daniel 7:13-14.

³³ Similarly, suppose that you see all these things. Then you will know that the door is open.”

³⁴ “I guarantee you this: This generation will not disappear before all these things happen. ³⁵ Heaven and earth might disappear, but my words will not.”

No one knows (24:36-44).

³⁶ “Concerning the exact time and hour: No one knows—not the angels in heaven nor the son. Only the father knows.”

³⁷ “The arrival of the son of man is exactly like the time of Noah. ³⁸ At that time, before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and getting married, until Noah entered the boat. ³⁹ They did not understand until the flood came. It swept everything away. The arrival of the son of man will be just like this.”

⁴⁰ “Two people will be in the field. One will be taken away. The other will be left. ⁴¹ Two people will be grinding with a millstone. One will be taken away. One will be left. ⁴² Watch out. You do not know what day your lord will come.”

⁴³ “Understand this: If the master of the house knew what time of night that the thief was coming, then he would prepare. He would not let him break into his home. ⁴⁴ This is why you must stay prepared. You have no idea when the son of man is coming.”

What is the kingdom of heaven like (24:45-25:46)?

The master arrives unexpectedly (24:45-51).

⁴⁵ “Who is the faithful and wise slave? Will the master put him over the other servants? Will he give them their food at the right time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that slave when the master comes if he finds him acting properly. ⁴⁷ I guarantee you: He will put him over all his property.”

⁴⁸ “However, suppose that evil slave thinks in his heart, ‘My master has been delayed.’ ⁴⁹ Suppose he starts beating his fellow slaves. Suppose he starts eating and drinking with drunks. ⁵⁰ His master might arrive at a time he does not expect or know. ⁵¹ He will chop him in half. He will put him in the place of hypocrites. There will crying and teeth grinding.”

Ten bridesmaids have lamps (26:1-13).

²⁵ “Then, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids. They took their lamps. They went out to meet the groom. ² Five of them were foolish. Five were wise.”

³ “The fools took their lamps, but did not bring oil. ⁴ The wise ones brought oil in containers along with lighters.”

⁵ “Later on, the bridesmaids all became tired. So, they went to sleep. ⁶ In the middle of the night, there was a disturbance. Look, there is the groom, coming to meet them. ⁷ All those bridesmaids got up to prepare their lamps. ⁸ The fools said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps have burned out.’”

⁹ “The wise ones responded, ‘There will not be enough for both of us. Go to the store and buy your own.’”

¹⁰ “While they were gone to the store, the groom came. Those who were already prepared went with him to the wedding. They locked the door. ¹¹ When the other bridesmaids arrived, they said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’”

¹² “He answered, ‘I guarantee you: I do not know you.’”

¹³ “Watch out. You do not know the day or time.”

A man hands over his business (24:14-30).

¹⁴ “This is like the man who traveled far away. He called his slaves together. He handed his business affairs over to them. ¹⁵ He gave one 10,000 ounces of gold. He also gave 4,000 ounces to one and 2,000 to another. Then he went on his journey.”

¹⁶ “The one with 10,000 invested it. He made another 10,000. ¹⁷ Similarly, the one with 4,000 made another 4,000. ¹⁸ The one with 2,000 left. He dug a hole in the ground. He buried his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long period, the master of those slaves returned. He called for an account from them.”

²⁰ “The one with 10,000 came forward, ‘Lord, you gave me 10,000 ounces. Look, I made 10,000 more.’”

²¹ “His master said to him, ‘You did well. You are a good and faithful slave. You have been faithful with great things. I will give you responsibility for great things. You have favor with your lord.’”

²² “The one with 4,000 came forward, ‘Lord, you gave me 4,000 ounces. Look, I made 4,000 more.’ ”

²³ “His master said to him, ‘You did well. You are a good and faithful slave. You have been faithful with small things. I will give you responsibility for small things. You have favor with your lord.’ ”

²⁴ “The one with 2,000 came forward, ‘Lord, I know that you are a tough guy. You reap where you did not sow. You collect where you did not scatter. ²⁵ I was afraid about your return. So, I hid your money in the ground. Here it is. You can have it back.’ ”

²⁶ “His master responded to him, ‘You are a wicked and lazy slave. You know that I reap where I did not sow. I gather where I did not scatter. ²⁷ You should have put my money in the bank. When I wanted, I could have at least collected some interest. ²⁸ Take his money away. Give it to the one with 10,000. ²⁹ Everyone who has will be given more. He will have even more. Whoever does not have, what he does have will be taken away from him. ³⁰ Throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness. There will be crying and teeth grinding there.’ ”

The king separates the sheep and goats (25:31-46).

³¹ The son of man will come in his glory. All the angels will come with him. Then he will sit on his magnificent throne. ³² He will collect all the nations before him. He will separate them the way a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on the right, and the goats on the left.

³⁴ The king will speak to those on his right, ‘Come. My father blesses you. You will inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the beginning of the world. ³⁵ I was hungry. You gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. You gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. You took me in. ³⁶ I was naked. You clothed me. I was sick. You took care of me. I was in prison. You visited me.’ ”

³⁷ Then the righteous will respond to him, ‘Lord, when did we notice that you were hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we find you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ”

⁴⁰ The king said to them, ‘I guarantee you: Whenever you did it to the least important of my brothers, you did it to me.’ ”

⁴¹ Then he spoke to those on his left, 'Get away from me. You are cursed into the fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² I was hungry. You gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty. You gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger. You did not take me in. I was naked. You did not clothe me. I was sick and in prison. You did not visit me.' "

⁴⁴ "Then they responded, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison and did not visit you?' "

⁴⁵ "Then he will answer them, 'I guarantee you: Whenever you did it to the least important, you did it to me.' "

⁴⁶ "He will send them away to eternal punishment. He will send the righteous into eternal life."

Jesus dies (26:1-28:20).

Jesus is arrested (26:1-27:31).

The leaders plot to kill Jesus (26:1-5).

²⁶ When Jesus finished these matters, he spoke to his disciples, ² "You know there are just two days left before the passover. The son of man will be handed over for crucifixion."

³ The high priests and elders of the people met together in the palace of the high priest, Kaiaphas. ⁴ They were cleverly plotting how to arrest and kill Jesus. ⁵ However, they decided, "Let us not do it during the festival. It might cause a disturbance among the people."

A woman puts lotion on Jesus (26:6-13).

⁶ Jesus arrived at the house of Simon the leper in Beth-Ani. ⁷ A woman came to him. She had a bottle of expensive lotion. She was putting it on his head while he was seated. ⁸ His disciples were bothered when they saw it, "Why is she wasting it? ⁹ It could be sold for a high price. We could give the money to the poor."

¹⁰ Since Jesus understood, he told them, "Why are you giving this woman any trouble? She is doing a good thing to me. ¹¹ You will always have poor people around you. You will not always have me. ¹² She rubbed this ointment on my body to prepare me for burial. ¹³ I guarantee you:

Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, they will talk about what she did for me in her memory.”

The high priests pay Judas (26:14-15).

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, Judas from Iscariot, went to see the high priests. ¹⁵ He asked, “What signal do you want me to give to betray him?”

They paid him thirty silver coins. ¹⁶ From that point forward, he waited for the right opportunity to betray him.

The disciples prepare the passover (26:17-25).

¹⁷ On the third day of unleavened bread, Jesus disciples said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the passover?”

¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to see a certain man. Say to him, ‘The teacher says: My time is near. I am going to conduct the passover with my disciples at your place.’”

¹⁹ The disciples did just like Jesus told them. They prepared the passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he sat with the twelve disciples. ²¹ While they were eating, he said, “I guarantee you: One of you will betray me.”

²² This bothered them a lot. Each one of them began to say to him, “It cannot be me. Right, lord?”

²³ He answered, “The one who dips his hand into the pot will betray me. ²⁴ The son of man will go away, just like it is written about him. Woe to the man who betrays the son of man. It would be better if that man had never been born.”

²⁵ Judas was the one who betrayed him. Even he said, “It cannot be me. Right, rabbi?”

He said to him, “You said it.”

Jesus eats and drinks (26:26-30).

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. After he blessed it, he broke it. He gave it to his disciples. He said, “Take it. Eat it. It is my body.

²⁷ He took the cup. He blessed it. He gave it to them, “Everyone must drink it. ²⁸ This is my blood of the agreement. It is poured out to forgive sins for many people. ²⁹ I tell you: I will never drink grapes again until the day when I drink it with you in my father’s kingdom in a new situation.”

³⁰ After singing, they left to go to Mount Olive.

The disciples will fall down (26:31-35).

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall down against me tonight. It is written,”

I will strike the shepherd. The herd of sheep will scatter.^a

³² “After I rise, they will go to Galilee ahead of me.”

³³ Peter responded. He said to him, “Even if everyone falls down against you, I will never fall down.”

³⁴ Jesus said to him, “I guarantee you: Tonight, before the rooster crows three times, you will deny me.”

³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.”

All the other disciples said the same thing.

Jesus prays (26:36-46).

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to the place called Gethsemane. He told the disciples, “Wait here while I go over there to pray.”

³⁷ He took Peter and the two Zebedee sons. He was upset and troubled.

³⁸ He said to them, “I am so upset to the point of death. Remain here and stay up with me.”

³⁹ He went on a little further. He fell down on his face. He began to pray, “My father, if possible, take this cup away from me. However, it does not matter what I want, but what you want.”

⁴⁰ He came back to the disciples. He found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Were you not able to stay up for just a single hour with me?”⁴¹ “Wake up and pray that you do not become tempted. Your spirit might be ready, but your body can still be too weak.”

⁴² He went for a second time to pray, “My father, if it is impossible to remove the cup I have to drink, then may you get what you want.”

⁴³ He went back and found them sleeping again. Their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ He left them again. He went back to pray for a third time, using the same words.⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples. He told them, “You have slept enough. You are rested. Look, it is time. The son of man must be handed over to sinners.⁴⁶ Get up. We have to go. Look, my betrayer is here.”

a) Zechariah 13:7.

They arrest Jesus (26:47-56).

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas—one of the twelve—arrived. There was a large group with him. They were carrying swords and clubs. The high priests and elders of the people sent them. ⁴⁸ His betrayer sent them the signal, “He is the one that I kiss. Seize him.”

⁴⁹ Just as he approached Jesus, he said, “Greetings, rabbi.”

Then he kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “You are here for a reason, friend.”

Then they put their hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Look, when one of Jesus’ associates extended his hand, he drew his sword. When he struck the slave of the high priest, he cut off his ear.

⁵² Jesus told him, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Everyone who uses the sword can be destroyed by the sword. ⁵³ Do you not know that I could call my father? He would send me twelve legions of angels. ⁵⁴ How can the scriptures be fulfilled regarding the things that must occur?”

⁵⁵ Right then, Jesus spoke to the crowd, “Did you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs like a thief? I sat in the temple teaching every day. You did not arrest me then.”

⁵⁶ All these things happened so that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then his disciples left him. They ran away.

They take Jesus to Kaiaphas (26:57-58).

⁵⁷ Those who arrested Jesus took him to Kaiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and elders were assembled there.

⁵⁸ Peter followed behind from a distance in the courtyard of the high priest. When he went inside, he sat with the officers to observe the final events.



This chest contains the bones of the high priest Kaiaphas.

The high priests try Jesus (26:59-75).

⁵⁹ The high priests with the entire Jewish council looked for false witnesses against Jesus so they could execute him.

⁶⁰ They could not find many, but finally they presented two. ⁶¹ They said, “He said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God. I will rebuild it in three days.’”

⁶² The high priest stood up. He said to him, “Do you have no answer? Why do they testify against you?”

⁶³ Jesus was silent. The high priest said to him, “By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the messiah, the son of the living God.”

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You are the one who said it. However, I tell you: From now on, you will see the son of man sitting by the right hand of power. He will arrive on the clouds in the sky.”^a

⁶⁵ The high priest tore his clothing, “You have slandered. Why do we need witnesses? Look, you have just heard this slander. ⁶⁶ What do you think?”

They answered, “He deserves death.”

⁶⁷ They spat in his face. They slapped him. They beat him, ⁶⁸ “Prophecy to us, you messiah! Who is hitting you?”

Peter denies Jesus (26:69-75).

⁶⁹ Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One slave girl came to him. She said, “You were with Jesus from Galilee.”

⁷⁰ He denied it before everyone, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

⁷¹ When he moved near the gate, another girl saw him. She said to those nearby, “He was with Jesus from Nazareth.”

⁷² This time he denied it with an oath, “I never knew that man.”

⁷³ After a little while, those standing around came toward Peter. They said, “You are certainly one of them. The way you speak proves it.”

⁷⁴ Then he started swearing with curses, “I never knew that man.”

Right then, a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Peter remembered the words of Jesus. He had said, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”



A dedication stone mentions Pontius Pilatus.

a) Daniel 7:13.

He left and cried bitterly.

The council delivers Jesus to Pilatus (27:1-2).

²⁷ Early in the morning, all the high priests and elder of the people held a council against Jesus. They intended to put him to death.² After tying him up, they led him out. They delivered him to the governor Pilatus.

Judas hangs himself (27:3-10).

³ Judas is the one who betrayed Jesus. When he realized that they condemned him, he regretted it. He tried to return the thirty silver coins to the high priests and elders,⁴ "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

They replied, "What difference is that to us? It is your problem."

⁵ After throwing the money into the temple, he left. When he returned, he hung himself.⁶ When the high priests took the money, they said, "It is not legal to put this into the treasury. It is tainted by blood."

⁷ After holding a meeting, they used it to buy the field of potters as a place to bury strangers.⁸ That field is still called the blood field up to today.⁹ This fulfilled the word of Jeremiah the prophet,

They took thirty silver coins.

It was the price set by the sons of Israel.

¹⁰ They paid it for the field of potters,
just like the lord required me.^a

Pilatus questions Jesus (27:11-14).

¹¹ Jesus was standing before the governor. The governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "You are the one who said it."

¹² He had no response to the accusations of the high priests and elders.

¹³ Pilatus said to him, "Are you unaware of all the things they have testified against you?"

¹⁴ He did not respond to him with even a single word. The governor was quite amazed.

a) Zechariah 11:12-13 and Jeremiah 32:6-9.

Pilatus releases Bar-Abbas (27:15-23).

¹⁵ During the feast, it was the custom of the governor to release one prisoner selected by the people. ¹⁶ They selected a notorious prisoner named Jesus Bar-Abbas. ¹⁷ When they were assembled, Pilatus asked them, “Who do you want me to release to you? Jesus Bar-Abbas or Jesus called the messiah?”

¹⁸ (He did not understand that they convicted him because of envy.)

¹⁹ While he was sitting on his throne, his wife sent a message to him, “Nothing should occur between you and that righteous man. I had a terrible dream about him.”

²⁰ The high priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Jesus Bar-Abbas to be freed. ²¹ The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They said, “Bar-Abbas.”

²² Pilatus said to them, “What do you want me to do with Jesus called the messiah?”

They all said, “Crucify him.”

²³ He replied, “What has he done wrong?”

They shouted even stronger, “Crucify him!”

Pilatus humiliates Jesus (27:24-31).

²⁴ Pilatus realized that this was not beneficial. Instead, it was causing a riot. So, he took some water and washed his hands in front of the people, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. You can see it for yourself.”

²⁵ All the people responded, “His blood is on us and our descendants.”

²⁶ He released Bar-Abbas to them. He whipped Jesus. He delivered him up for crucifixion. ²⁷ The officers of the governor took Jesus into the palace. He gathered an entire military cohort against him. ²⁸ They bound him. They put a purple robe on him. ²⁹ They braided a crown from thorns. They put it on his head. They put a reed staff in his right hand. They knelt down in front of him. They made fun of him, “Greeting, king of the Jews.”

³⁰ They spit on him. They took the reed staff and hit him on his head.

³¹ They made fun of him. They took the robe off of him. They put his clothes back on him. They led him out to be crucified.

Jesus is crucified (27:32-66).

They put Jesus on the cross (27:32-44).

³² When they brought him out, they noticed a Cyrene man name Simon. They forced him to carry his cross.

³³ They came to the place called Golgotha. This place is called the Skull.

³⁴ They made him drink wine mixed with digestive fluids. After he tasted it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ While they crucified him, they gambled to see who would get his clothing.

³⁶ There were people sitting there watching him. ³⁷ They put a sign with his accusations above his head, "This is Jesus, king of the Jews."

³⁸ They crucified two thieves with him. One was on his right, and one on his left. ³⁹ Those passing by slandered him. They were wagging their heads, ⁴⁰ "You can destroy the temple, then rebuild it in three days. Save yourself. If you really are the son of God, then come down from that cross."

⁴¹ Similarly, the high priests made fun of him, together with the legal experts and elders, ⁴² "He saved other people, but he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel. Come down right now from that cross. Then we will believe in you. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Save yourself if you can. He said that he is the son of God."

⁴⁴ Both of the thieves crucified with him also insulted him.

Jesus dies (27:45-56).

⁴⁵ From noon until three o'clock, it became completely dark. ⁴⁶ Around three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lemah shabach-thani?" (This means, "My God, my God. Why did you desert me?")^a

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they thought he was calling for Elijah.

⁴⁸ Right away, one of them ran and grabbed a sponge. He filled it with vinegar. He put it on a stick. He gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ Some others said, "Leave him alone. Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

⁵⁰ Jesus finally shouted with a huge noise. Then he stopped breathing.

a) Psalm 22:1.

⁵¹ Look, the temple curtain split in two from top to bottom. There was an earthquake. Rocks split. ⁵² Tombs opened up. The bodies of many people who were dead came back to life. ⁵³ They left the tombs after they were raised. They entered the holy city. Many people saw them. ⁵⁴ The military commander and his troops who guarded Jesus saw the earthquake and these events. They were quite frightened, "This really was the son of God."

⁵⁵ Many women were there who watched from a distance. They followed Jesus from Galilee. They took care of him. ⁵⁶ This included Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of Jacob and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Joseph puts Jesus in a tomb (27:57-61).

⁵⁷ That evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came. He was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He approached Pilatus to request possession of the body of Jesus. Pilatus ordered them to give it to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body. He wrapped it with fresh bandages. ⁶⁰ He put it in a new tomb that was cut in the rock. After he rolled a huge stone door over it, he left.

⁶¹ Mary of Magdala and the other Mary sat there outside the tomb.

The Pharisees secure the tomb (27:62-66).

⁶² The next day was the day of preparation. The high priests and the Pharisees met with Pilatus, ⁶³ "Master, when he was still alive, that deceiver said, 'I will rise after three days.' ⁶⁴ Command them to guard the tomb for three days. Otherwise his disciples might come and steal him. They will tell the people, 'He rose from the dead.' The final deception might be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ Pilatus told them, "You may have guards. Go, protect as well as you can."

⁶⁶ They left to protect the tomb. They secured the stone with the guards.

Jesus rises (28:1-20).

Jesus appears (28:1-10).

²⁸ After the Sabbath, at the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary came to view the tomb. ² Look, there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the lord came down from the sky. He

went over, rolled the stone back, then sat on it.³ He looked like a star. His clothes were as white as snow.⁴ The guards were shaking with fear. They were like dead bodies.

⁵ The angel responded to the women, “Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.⁶ He is not here. He rose just like he said, ‘Go. Look at the place where they laid me.’⁷ Go quickly to tell his disciples, ‘He rose from the dead. Look, he went ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ Look, I told you.”

⁸ They left the tomb quickly. They ran with great fear and joy. They told his disciples.⁹ Look, Jesus met them, “Greetings.”

They went to him. They grabbed his feet. They worshiped him.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to come back to Galilee. They will see me there.”

The Jewish council pays off the guards (28:11-15).

¹¹ Look, some of the guards left. They came back to the city. They reported to the high priests everything that happened.

¹² They called for a council with the elders. They took a large amount of money and paid off the soldiers,¹³ “Say, ‘His disciples came at night. They stole him while we were asleep.’¹⁴ If the governor hears about this, we will convince him. We will make sure you have nothing to worry about.”

¹⁵ They took the money. They did just like they promised. This is the rumor that the Jews still tell.

Jesus instructs the twelve (28:16-20).

¹⁶ The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee to the mountain which Jesus told them.¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though they still had some doubts.

¹⁸ Jesus approached them. He told them, “I have all authority in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go. Make disciples from every country. Immerse them in the name of the father, son, and holy spirit.²⁰ Teach them to keep everything that I commanded you. Look, I will be with you every day until the end of time.”