

COMMON
ENGLISH
BIBLE



Luke

Explore this new translation



A **fresh** translation to touch the heart and mind

Discover for yourself . . .

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ENGLISH
BIBLE

A graphic element consisting of three horizontal, wavy black lines stacked vertically, positioned below the text 'COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE'.

Welcome to the Gospel of Luke in the Common English Bible! As you turn the pages of this sample, you will find yourself experiencing a fresh translation committed to reliably representing the original Greek text with uncommon readability. Read it out loud. This is the sort of translation that you can listen to in public worship or small-group settings, as well as contemplate in personal study. Because of the down-to-earth language of this translation, you'll find new understanding and insights even in well-known passages.

Translating the Bible is awe-inspiring, prayerful work! I got involved in this project because I was convinced that diverse congregations and students of scripture would be able to trust the Common English Bible. And it's a translation we can share in many settings, with people from a variety of backgrounds.

For centuries, God's people have turned to Luke's Gospel for some of their most loved stories, like the birth of Jesus or its powerful parables, like the good Samaritan or the prodigal son. Read them again, as if for the first time, in the Common English Bible.

Joel B. Green

Joel B. Green, Senior New Testament Editor for the Common English Bible, is Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Joel is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, and he earned the Ph.D in New Testament Studies from the University of Aberdeen. Joel has authored or edited 30 books, including *1 Peter* (Eerdmans, 2007) and *Seized by Truth: Reading the Bible as Scripture* (Abingdon, 2002). Joel co-edits The Two Horizons New Testament Commentary Series, and Studies in Theological Interpretation, and was the senior New Testament editor of *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. He was also the general editor of the *Wesley Study Bible*. Joel is the editor-in-chief of *Journal of Theological Interpretation* and serves on the editorial boards of the journals *New Testament Studies*, *Science and Theology*, and *Science & Christian Belief*.

What people are saying about the Common English Bible

“An everyday Bible translation for everyday Christians!”

~~ **Rev. Jose F. Morales Jr.**, *Transitional Regional Minister for
the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

“I am very pleased to see such a high quality translation coming out of this group! And one of the things that is impressing me the most is that they have taken a different approach to making a Bible in current English. Instead of assuming that the common English-speaking people are a simple people who require a simple translation, they have chosen to make a Bible in the common English as spoken by educated English-speakers. They are not ‘dumbing it down.’”

~~**Gary Zimmerli**, *The Sundry Times and blog, Mankato,
Minnesota*

“I don’t know how many times I have read the Gospel of Matthew. Scores? Hundreds? Reading this clear and energetic translation has given me insights into the text and perspectives on Jesus I have never had before. I anxiously await the publication of the full Bible and look forward to sharing it widely. This is an exceptionally readable Bible that we will all want to ‘take and read.’”

~~**Cynthia M. Campbell**, *President, McCormick Theological
Seminary*

“Our group was just transformed by this experience of reading and commenting on Deuteronomy in the Common English Bible. It’s significant that people from age 15 to 85 were so fired up by reading the translation.”

~~**Eileen Parfrey**, *Pastor, Springwater Presbyterian Church,
Estacada, Oregon*

Introducing the Common English Bible

The goal of the Common English Bible is to make the Bible readable and understandable for everyone. This new translation combines modern language and exceptional scholarship to bring the scripture to people of all ages and experiences for a transforming interaction with God's word.

How the Common English Bible will make a difference

... In my relationship with God through Jesus Christ

The Common English Bible is written at a reading level that more than half of the people in the U.S. can easily read and understand. This makes our personal experience of studying the Bible on our own, or in groups, a more meaningful experience, and allows for more devotional time.



"The Common English Bible holds my attention better than my other Bibles. I can relax and simply enjoy reading it."

How Did the Translation Come to Be?

One of the largest and most diverse teams of scholars ever assembled began work on a new translation in 2008. The team included 115 editors and translators – men and women, from the U.S. and twelve other countries, practicing 22 different faith traditions. They came together to make the Common English Bible readable, relevant, and reliable. Internet technology enabled this large and dispersed group to work quickly and efficiently. The translators for each book of the Bible are top scholars in that book, its context, literature, and times. The translators and the readability expert for each book worked closely to support accuracy, relevant language, and ease of reading.

... In my family

This Bible will help parents and teachers encourage children and youth to read scripture and truly “get it.” The Common English Bible is perfect for families to read together and discuss.



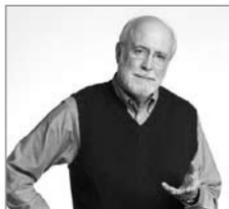
“The Common English Bible is the one Bible my family can read together. Nothing is more important to me as a Christian and a mom.”

“The CEB talks like I talk – I get stuff that I never understood before...”



... In my ministry

Pastors and group leaders need an accurate translation but one that can be read aloud in worship in language that speaks to people with meaning and emotion.



“The Common English Bible meets people where they are and helps me get my Bible study class on the same page.”



Reading Groups Field Test Translation

How do scholars know when a verse is “easy to understand”? As translators worked, 77 reading groups around the country gathered in churches, homes, and coffee shops to read the Common English Bible together. Their task was to read this new translation to themselves and ask these questions: Is it understandable to me? Do I want to read more? How would it sound when read aloud in worship? Each group then uploaded their comments to the translation teams. Young people, senior adults, experienced readers, and those new to the Bible all became a part of the Common English Bible.

... from the Common English Bible

Genesis 1:1-2

When God began to create the heavens and the earth—the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters—



Psalm 41:2

My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God.
When will I become aware of God’s presence?



Matthew 5:4-5

Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.
Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.



John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.



Romans 12:2

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.



Luke 17:3-4

Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins, warn them to stop. If they change their hearts and lives, forgive them. Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, "I am changing my ways," you must forgive that person.

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COMMON
ENGLISH
BIBLE



a fresh translation to touch the heart and mind

Gospel of
LUKE



www.CommonEnglishBible.com

COMMON
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The logo for the Common English Bible, featuring the text "COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text are three horizontal, wavy lines that resemble a stylized wave or the top of a book cover.

PREFACE

The King James Version of the Bible was published in 1611. For two centuries the KJV competed for readership with the Geneva Bible. However, by the nineteenth century in America, the KJV would be described as the “common English Bible,” because it was the most widely used translation of Christian scripture. Numerous translations have appeared since that time. However, it has proved difficult to combine concern for accuracy and accessibility in one translation that the typical reader or worshipper would be able to understand. Therefore, readers in the twenty-first century, four hundred years after the creation of the KJV, need and deserve a new translation that is suitable for personal devotion, for communal worship, and for classroom study.

The Common English Bible (CEB), to be completed in 2011, is a fresh translation of the Bible, including the Apocrypha that is used in Anglican, Orthodox, and Catholic congregations. The translation is sponsored by the Common English Bible Committee, which is an alliance of denominational publishers, including Presbyterian (USA), Episcopalian, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ representatives.

One hundred fifteen biblical scholars from twenty-two faith traditions worked as translators for the CEB. In addition, members of seventy-seven reading groups from congregations throughout North America reviewed and responded to early drafts of the translation. As a result, more than five hundred individuals were integrally involved in the preparation of the CEB. These individuals represent the sorts of diversity that permit this new translation to speak to people of various religious convictions and different social locations.

The translators, reviewers, and editors represent the following faith communities: African Methodist Episcopal Church, American Baptist, Anglican, Baptist, Baptist General Conference, Church of the Nazarene, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Free Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Free Methodist, Mennonite, Moravian, National Baptist, Presbyterian (USA), Progressive National Baptist, Quaker, Reformed Church in America, Reform Judaism, Roman Catholic Church, Seventh-day Adventist, United Churches of Christ, and United Methodist.

The CEB is truly a Bible created by churches and for the Church.

Accuracy and clarity. The CEB translators balance rigorous accuracy in the rendition of ancient texts with an equally passionate commitment to clarity of expression in the target language. Translators create sentences and choose vocabulary that would be readily understood when the biblical text is read aloud. Two examples illustrate this concern for accuracy and clarity. First, *ben ’adam* (Hebrew) or *huios tou anthropou* (Greek) are best translated as “human being” (rather than “son of man”)

except in cases of direct address, where CEB renders “Human” (instead of “Son of Man” or “Mortal,” e.g., Ezek 2:1). When *ho huios tou anthropou* is used as a title for

Jesus, the CEB refers to Jesus as “the Human One.” Second, the phrase “Lord of Hosts” (*Yahweh Sebaoth* in Hebrew; *Kyrios Sabaōth* in Greek) appears hundreds of times in the Bible and persists as an idiom in translations that preserve KJV usage. This archaic translation is no longer meaningful to most English speakers. The CEB renders *Yahweh Sebaoth* and *Kyrios Sabaōth* as “LORD of heavenly forces,” which conveys accurately the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek phrases by using contemporary English language.

English speakers, especially when telling a story, writing a letter, or engaging in conversation, make frequent use of contractions. As a result, translators have often used contractions, particularly in direct speech, in the CEB. However, formal genres of literature typically do not include contractions. As a result, translators did not include contractions in contexts such as (a) formal trials or royal interviews (socially formal situations), (b) much divine discourse (e.g., Hos 11:9; Exod 24:12), and (c) poetic and/or liturgical discourse (e.g., in many types of psalms).

Pronouns. In ancient Hebrew and Greek a pronoun is often bound with the verb. If the translator is too literal, the English reader loses the antecedent of the pronoun so that one cannot tell who is speaking or acting in the sentence or paragraph. This problem occurs throughout much biblical literature. The CEB addresses this issue by substituting a noun for a pronoun, but only when the antecedent is clear. Because this problem and its resolution are so common, the CEB usually does not offer footnotes to identify these substitutions. CEB translators also use gender-inclusive or neutral syntax for translating pronouns that refer to humans, unless context requires otherwise.

Consistency. Although translators often try to use the same English word for a Hebrew or Greek word, many words in any language offer a breadth of meanings that do not readily correlate with a single word in the target language. For example, the Hebrew word *torah*, which has often been translated as “Law,” is often better translated as “Instruction.” The same could be said for *Sheol* (Hebrew) or *Hades* (Greek). The CEB translates these two terms as “grave” or “death” or “underworld,” depending on context. A mechanical selection of any one term for words that involve semantic breadth would preclude a translation sensitive to the originating literary context.

The women and men who participated in the creation of the CEB hope that those who read and study it will find the translation to be an accurate, clear, and inspiring version of Christian scripture.

The Editorial Board of the Common English Bible
www.CommonEnglishBible.com

LUKE

Luke's purpose

1 Many people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. ²They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. ³Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most noble Theophilus. ⁴I want you to have confidence in the soundness of the instruction you have received.

John the Baptist's birth foretold

⁵During the reign of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. ⁸One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. ⁹Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. ¹⁰All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. ¹¹An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

¹³The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. ¹⁶He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers^a back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old."

¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. ²⁰Know this:

^aOr parents

What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn't believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen."

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long time. ²²When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn't speak. ²³When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home. ²⁴Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, ²⁵"This is the Lord's doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people."

Jesus' birth foretold

²⁶When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³He will reign over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

³⁵The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷Nothing is impossible for God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary visits Elizabeth

³⁹Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth

was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

Mary praises God

⁴⁶Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

⁴⁷In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

⁴⁸He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

⁴⁹because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

⁵⁰He shows mercy to everyone,

from one generation to the next,

who honors him as God.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

⁵²He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty-handed.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵just as he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

⁵⁷When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father’s name. ⁶⁰But his mother replied, “No, his name will be John.”

⁶¹They said to her, “None of your relatives have that name.” ⁶²Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.

⁶³After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

⁶⁵All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. ⁶⁶All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, “What then will this child be?” Indeed, the Lord’s power was with him.

Zechariah’s prophecy

⁶⁷John’s father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house,

⁷⁰just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹He has brought salvation from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

⁷²He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath he swore to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted ⁷⁴that we would be rescued

from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness in God’s eyes,

for as long as we live.

⁷⁶You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

⁷⁷You will tell his people how to be saved

through the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸Because of our God’s deep compassion,

the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who are sitting in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide us on the path of peace.

⁸⁰The child grew up, becoming strong in character. He was in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

Jesus’ birth

2In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ²This first enrollment

occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem in Judea. ⁵He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Announcement to shepherds

⁸Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴"Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

¹⁵When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Jesus' circumcision, naming, and temple presentation

²¹When eight days had passed, Jesus' parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived. ²²When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³(It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") ²⁴They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*^b

^bLev 12:8; 5:11 LXX

Simeon's response to Jesus

²⁵A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. ²⁸Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, ²⁹"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, ³⁰because my eyes have seen your salvation. ³¹You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. ³²It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

³³His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. ³⁴Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

Anna's response to Jesus

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. ³⁷She was now an eighty-four-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Jesus as a child in Nazareth

³⁹When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Jesus in the temple at Passover

⁴¹Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents

didn't know it. ⁴⁴Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!"

⁴⁹Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they didn't understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵²Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

John the Baptist's message

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler^c over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler^d over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler^e over Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.*

⁵*Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.*

⁶*All humanity will see God's salvation."*^f

⁷Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to

^cOr tetrarch ^dOr tetrarch ^eOr tetrarch ^fIsa 40:3-5

yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

¹⁰The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

¹¹He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

¹⁴Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

Responses to John

¹⁵The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." ¹⁸With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

¹⁹But Herod the ruler had been criticized harshly by John because of Herodias, Herod's brother's wife, and because of all the evil he had done. ²⁰He added this to the list of his evil deeds: he locked John up in prison.

Jesus' baptism

²¹When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Jesus' genealogy

²³Jesus was about 30 years old when he began his ministry. People supposed that he was the son of Joseph, son of Heli, ²⁴son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of Jannai, son of Joseph, ²⁵son of

Mattathias, son of Amos, son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai,²⁶son of Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech, son of Joda,²⁷son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri,²⁸son of Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son of Er,²⁹son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of Matthat, son of Levi,³⁰son of Simeon, son of Judah, son of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim,³¹son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David,³²son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,³³son of Amminadab, son of Admin, son of Arni, son of Herzon, son of Perez, son of Judah,³⁴son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham, son of Terah, son of Nahor,³⁵son of Serug, son of Reu, son of Peleg, son of Eber, son of Shelah,³⁶son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech,³⁷son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalalel, son of Cainan,³⁸son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

Jesus' temptation

4 Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.² There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving.³ The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

⁴ Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*"^g

⁵ Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want."⁷ Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸ Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"^h

⁹ The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here;¹⁰ for it's written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you*¹¹ and *they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"ⁱ

¹² Jesus answered, "It's been said, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"^j¹³ After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

^gDeut 8:3 ^hDeut 6:13 ⁱPs 91:11-12 ^jDeut 6:16

Jesus announces good news to the poor

¹⁴Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. ¹⁵He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. ¹⁷The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,*

¹⁹*and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.^k*

²⁰He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. ²¹He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

²²Everyone was raving about Jesus, so impressed were they by the gracious words flowing from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?"

²³Then Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly, you will quote this saying to me. 'Doctor, heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we've heard you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴He said, "I assure you that no prophet is welcome in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵And I can assure you that there were many widows in Israel during Elijah's time, when it didn't rain for three and a half years and there was a great food shortage in the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow in the city of Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷There were also many persons with skin diseases in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha, but none of them were cleansed. Instead, Naaman the Syrian was cleansed."

²⁸When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. ²⁹They rose up and ran him out of town. They led him to the crest of the hill on which their town had been built so that they could throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

^kIsa 61:1-2; 58:6

Jesus in Capernaum

³¹Jesus went down to the city of Capernaum in Galilee and taught the people each Sabbath. ³²They were amazed by his teaching because he delivered his message with authority.

³³A man in the synagogue had the spirit of an unclean demon. He screamed, ³⁴“Hey! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”

³⁵“Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” The demon threw the man down before them, then came out of him without harming him.

³⁶They were all shaken and said to each other, “What kind of word is this, that he can command unclean spirits with authority and power, and they leave?” ³⁷Reports about him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.

³⁸After leaving the synagogue, Jesus went home with Simon. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and the family asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹He bent over her and spoke harshly to the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and served them.

⁴⁰When the sun was setting, everyone brought to Jesus relatives and acquaintances with all kinds of diseases. Placing his hands on each of them, he healed them. ⁴¹Demons also came out of many people. They screamed, “You are God’s Son.” But he spoke harshly to them and wouldn’t allow them to speak because they recognized that he was the Christ. ⁴²When daybreak arrived, Jesus went to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. When they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³But he said to them, “I must preach the good news of God’s kingdom in other cities too, for this is why I was sent.”

⁴⁴So he continued preaching in the Judean synagogues.

Jesus calls disciples

5 One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God’s word. ²Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. ³Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

⁵Simon replied, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

⁶So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. ⁷They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” ⁹Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. ¹⁰James and John, Zebedee’s sons, were Simon’s partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.” ¹¹As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

A man with a skin disease

¹²Jesus was in one of the towns where there was also a man covered with a skin disease. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged, “Lord, if you want, you can make me clean.”

¹³Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.” Instantly, the skin disease left him. ¹⁴Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone. “Instead,” Jesus said, “go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses instructed. This will be a testimony to them.” ¹⁵News of him spread even more and huge crowds gathered to listen and to be healed from their illnesses. ¹⁶But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer.

Jesus heals a paralyzed man

¹⁷One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ¹⁸Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, ¹⁹but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. ²⁰When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, “Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!”

²²Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, “Why

do you fill your minds with these questions? ²³Which is easier—to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴But so that you will know that the Human One¹ has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home.” ²⁵Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

²⁶All the people were beside themselves with wonder. Filled with awe, they glorified God, saying, “We’ve seen unimaginable things today.”

Jesus calls a tax collector

²⁷Afterward, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁸Levi got up, left everything behind, and followed him. ²⁹Then Levi threw a great banquet for Jesus in his home. A large number of tax collectors and others sat down to eat with them. ³⁰The Pharisees and their legal experts grumbled against his disciples. They said, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹Jesus answered, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. ³²I didn’t come to call righteous people but sinners to change their hearts and lives.”

The old and the new

³³Some people said to Jesus, “The disciples of John fast often and pray frequently. The disciples of the Pharisees do the same, but your disciples are always eating and drinking.”

³⁴Jesus replied, “You can’t make the wedding guests fast while the groom is with them, can you? ³⁵The days will come when the groom will be taken from them, and then they will fast.”

³⁶Then he told them a parable. “No one tears a patch from a new garment to patch an old garment. Otherwise, the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t match the old garment. ³⁷Nobody pours new wine into old wineskins. If they did, the new wine would burst the wineskins, the wine would spill, and the wineskins would be ruined. ³⁸Instead, new wine must be put into new wineskins. ³⁹No one who drinks a well-aged wine wants new wine, but says, ‘The well-aged wine is better.’”

Activities on the Sabbath

6 One Sabbath, as Jesus was going through the wheat fields, his disciples were picking the heads of wheat, rubbing them in their

¹Or Son of Man

hands, and eating them. ²Some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the Sabbath law?”

³Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read what David and his companions did when they were hungry? ‘He broke the Law by going into God’s house and eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests can eat. He also gave some of the bread to his companions.’” ⁵Then he said to them, “The Human One^m is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶On another Sabbath, Jesus entered a synagogue to teach. A man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The legal experts and the Pharisees were watching him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. They were looking for a reason to bring charges against him. ⁸Jesus knew their thoughts, so he said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” He got up and stood there. ⁹Jesus said to the legal experts and Pharisees, “Here’s a question for you: Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰Looking around at them all, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he did and his hand was made healthy. ¹¹They were furious and began talking with each other about what to do to Jesus.

Jesus chooses apostles

¹²During that time, Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night long. ¹³At daybreak, he called together his disciples. He chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter; his brother Andrew; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; ¹⁵Matthew; Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called a zealot; ¹⁶Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Jesus’ popularity increases

¹⁷Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground. A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all around Judea and Jerusalem and the area around Tyre and Sidon joined him there. ¹⁸They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. ¹⁹The whole crowd wanted to touch him, because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone.

Happy people and doomed people

²⁰Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:
“Happy are you who are poor,

^mOr Son of Man

because God's kingdom is yours.

²¹ Happy are you who hunger now,
because you will be satisfied.

Happy are you who weep now,
because you will laugh.

²² Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil because of the Human One.ⁿ ²³ Rejoice when that happens! Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

²⁴ But how terrible for you who are rich,
because you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ How terrible for you who have plenty now,
because you will be hungry.

How terrible for you who laugh now,
because you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ How terrible for you when all speak well of you.

Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

Behaving as God's children

²⁷ "But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹ Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³² "If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ "Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken,

ⁿ Or Son of Man

and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

Avoiding self-deception

³⁹Jesus also told them a riddle. “A blind person can’t lead another blind person, right? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? ⁴⁰Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, but whoever is fully prepared will be like their teacher. ⁴¹Why do you see the splinter in your brother’s or sister’s eye but don’t notice the log in your own eye? ⁴²How can you say to your brother or sister, ‘Brother, Sister, let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ when you don’t see the log in your own eye? You deceive yourselves! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s or sister’s eye.”

⁴³“A good tree doesn’t produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is known by its own fruit. People don’t gather figs from thorny plants, nor do they pick grapes from prickly bushes. ⁴⁵A good person produces good from the good treasury of the inner self, while an evil person produces evil from the evil treasury of the inner self. The inner self overflows with words that are spoken.

⁴⁶“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ and don’t do what I say? ⁴⁷I’ll show what it’s like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸It’s like a person building a house by digging deep and laying the foundation on bedrock. When the flood came, the rising water smashed against that house, but the water couldn’t shake the house because it was well built. ⁴⁹But those who don’t put into practice what they hear are like a person who built a house without a foundation. The floodwater smashed against it and it collapsed instantly. It was completely destroyed.”

A servant is healed

7After Jesus finished presenting all his words among the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A centurion had a servant who was very important to him, but the servant was ill and about to die. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to Jesus to ask him to come and heal his servant. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they earnestly pleaded with Jesus. “He deserves to have you do this for him,” they said. ⁵“He loves our people and he built our synagogue for us.”

⁶Jesus went with them. He had almost reached the house when the

centurion sent friends to say to Jesus, “Lord, don’t be bothered. I don’t deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷In fact, I didn’t even consider myself worthy to come to you. Just say the word and my servant will be healed. ⁸I’m also a man appointed under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and the servant does it.”

⁹When Jesus heard these words, he was impressed with the centurion. He turned to the crowd following him and said, “I tell you, even in Israel I haven’t found faith like this.” ¹⁰When the centurion’s friends returned to his house, they found the servant restored to health.

Jesus raises a widow’s son

¹¹A little later Jesus went to a city called Nain. His disciples and a great crowd traveled with him. ¹²As he approached the city gate, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³When he saw her, the Lord had compassion for her and said, “Don’t cry.” ¹⁴He stepped forward and touched the stretcher on which the dead man was being carried. Those carrying him stood still. Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, get up.” ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

¹⁶Awestruck, everyone praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding region.

John the Baptist and Jesus

¹⁸John’s disciples informed him about all these things. John called two of his disciples ¹⁹and sent them to the Lord. They were to ask him, “Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for someone else?”

²⁰When they reached Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you. He asks, ‘Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for someone else?’”

²¹Right then, Jesus healed many of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he gave sight to a number of blind people. ²²Then he replied to John’s disciples, “Go, report to John what you have seen and heard. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled now walk. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. And good news is

preached to the poor. ²³Happy is anyone who doesn't stumble along the way because of me."

²⁴After John's messengers were gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? ²⁵What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who dress in fashionable clothes and live in luxury are in royal palaces. ²⁶What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷He is the one of whom it's written: *Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.*^o ²⁸I tell you that no greater human being has ever been born than John. Yet whoever is least in God's kingdom is greater than he." ²⁹Everyone who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged God's justice because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰But the Pharisees and legal experts rejected God's will for themselves because they hadn't been baptized by John.

³¹"To what will I compare the people of this generation?" Jesus asked. "What are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling out to each other, 'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't cry.' ³³John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴Yet the Human One^p came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' ³⁵But wisdom is proved to be right by all her descendants."

Forgiveness and gratitude

³⁶One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. ³⁷Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. ³⁸Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. ³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

⁴⁰Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher, speak," he said.

⁴¹"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day's work.^q The other owed enough money

^oMal 3:1 ^pOr Son of Man ^qOr five hundred denaria

for fifty.^r ⁴²When they couldn't pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled."

Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

⁴⁴Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. ⁴⁶You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. ⁴⁷This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Women who followed Jesus

8 Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him, ²along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. Among them were Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had been thrown out), ³Joanna (the wife of Herod's servant Chuza), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

Parable of the soils

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from one city after another, he spoke to them in a parable: ⁵"A farmer went out to scatter his seed. As he was scattering it, some fell on the path where it was crushed, and the birds in the sky came and ate it.

⁶Other seed fell on rock. As it grew, it dried up because it had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorns grew with the plants and choked them. ⁸Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced a hundred times more grain than was scattered." As he said this, he called out, "Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, "You

○ ^rOr *fifty* (denaria)

have been given the mysteries of God's kingdom, but these mysteries come to everyone else in parables so that *when they see, they can't see, and when they hear, they can't understand.*⁸

¹¹"The parable means this: the seed is God's word. ¹²The seed on the path are those who hear, but then the devil comes and steals the word from their hearts so that they won't believe and be saved. ¹³The seed on the rock are those who receive the word joyfully when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while but fall away when they are tempted. ¹⁴As for the seed that fell among thorny plants, these are the ones who, as they go about their lives, are choked by the concerns, riches, and pleasures of life, and their fruit never matures. ¹⁵The seed that fell on good soil are those who hear the word and commit themselves to it with a good and upright heart. Through their resolve, they bear fruit.

Sharing the light

¹⁶"No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand so that those who enter can see the light. ¹⁷Nothing is hidden that won't be exposed. Nor is anything concealed that won't be made known and brought to the light. ¹⁸Therefore, listen carefully. Those who have will receive more, but as for those who don't have, even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

Jesus' family

¹⁹Jesus' mother and brothers came to him but were unable to reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

²¹He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who listen to God's word and do it."

Jesus calms the sea

²²One day Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat. He said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they set sail.

²³While they were sailing, he fell asleep. Gale-force winds swept down on the lake. The boat was filling up with water and they were in danger. ²⁴So they went and woke Jesus, shouting "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" But he got up and gave orders to the wind and the violent waves. The storm died down and it was calm.

⁸Isa 6:9

²⁵He said to his disciples, “Where is your faith?”

Filled with awe and wonder, they said to each other, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him!”

Jesus frees a demon-possessed man

²⁶Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes’ land, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” ²⁹He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

³⁰Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had entered him. ³¹They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss.^t ³²A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, ³³and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

³⁴When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. ³⁵People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus’ feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. ³⁶Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. ³⁷Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you.” So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

○ ^tOr underworld
⋮
⋮

Jesus heals two women

⁴⁰When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they had been waiting for him. ⁴¹A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house ⁴²because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying.

As Jesus moved forward, he faced smothering crowds. ⁴³A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the hem of his clothes, and at once her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!"

⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me."

⁴⁷When the woman saw that she couldn't escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed.

⁴⁸"Daughter, your faith has healed you," Jesus said. "Go in peace."

⁴⁹While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying to Jairus, "Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher any longer."

⁵⁰When Jesus heard this, he responded, "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed."

⁵¹When he came to the house, he didn't allow anyone to enter with him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother.

⁵²They were all crying and mourning for her, but Jesus said, "Don't cry. She isn't dead. She's only sleeping."

⁵³They laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

⁵⁴Taking her hand, Jesus called out, "Child, get up." ⁵⁵Her life returned and she got up at once. He directed them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were beside themselves with joy, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

The Twelve sent out

9 Jesus called the Twelve together and he gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal sicknesses. ²He sent them out to proclaim God's kingdom and to heal the sick. ³He told them, "Take nothing for the journey—no walking stick, no bag, no bread, no

money, not even an extra shirt. ⁴Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. ⁵Wherever they don't welcome you, as you leave that city, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them." ⁶They departed and went through the villages proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Herod's confusion

⁷Herod the ruler^u heard about everything that was happening. He was confused because some people were saying that John had been raised from the dead, ⁸others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. ⁹Herod said, "I beheaded John, so now who am I hearing about?" Herod wanted to see him.

Jesus feeds the five thousand

¹⁰When the apostles returned, they described for Jesus what they had done. Taking them with him, Jesus withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds figured it out, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about God's kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

¹²When the day was almost over, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so that they can go to the nearby villages and countryside and find lodging and food, because we are in a deserted place."

¹³He replied, "You give them something to eat."

But they said, "We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴(They said this because about five thousand men were present.)

Jesus said to his disciples, "Seat them in groups of about fifty." ¹⁵They did so, and everyone was seated. ¹⁶He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, and broke them and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷Everyone ate until they were full, and the disciples filled twelve baskets with the leftovers.

Following Christ

¹⁸Once when Jesus was praying by himself, the disciples joined him, and he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

¹⁹They answered, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others that one of the ancient prophets has come back to life."

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²⁰He asked them, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ sent from God.”

²¹Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell this to anyone. ²²He said, “The Human One^v must suffer many things and be rejected—by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts—and be killed and be raised on the third day.”

²³Jesus said to everyone, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will save them. ²⁵What advantage do people have if they gain the whole world for themselves yet perish or lose their lives? ²⁶Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Human One^w will be ashamed of that person when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see God’s kingdom.”

Jesus transformed

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes flashed white like lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. ³¹They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus’ departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. ³²Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

³³As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it’s good that we’re here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—but he didn’t know what he was saying. ³⁴Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe.

³⁵Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!” ³⁶Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.

Jesus heals a boy

³⁷The next day, when Jesus, Peter, John, and James had come down from the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. ³⁸A man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to take a look at my son, my only child. ³⁹Look, a spirit seizes him and, without any warning, he screams. It

^vOr Son of Man ^wOr Son of Man

shakes him and causes him to foam at the mouth. It tortures him and rarely leaves him alone. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to throw it out, but they couldn't."

⁴¹Jesus answered, "You faithless and crooked generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²While he was coming, the demon threw him down and shook him violently. Jesus spoke harshly to the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³Everyone was overwhelmed by God's greatness.

Jesus warns about his arrest

While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴"Take these words to heart: the Human One^x is about to be delivered into human hands." ⁴⁵They didn't understand this statement. Its meaning was hidden from them so they couldn't grasp it. And they were afraid to ask him about it.

Jesus corrects the disciples

⁴⁶An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷Aware of their deepest thoughts, Jesus took a little child and had the child stand beside him. ⁴⁸Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me. Whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever is least among you all is the greatest."

⁴⁹John replied, "Master, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he isn't in our group of followers."

⁵⁰But Jesus replied, "Don't stop him because whoever isn't against you is for you."

Jesus sets out for Jerusalem

⁵¹As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken up into heaven, he determined to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²He sent messengers on ahead of him. Along the way, they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³but the Samaritan villagers refused to welcome him because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and spoke sternly to them, ⁵⁶and they went on to another village.

○ ^xOr Son of Man

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Following Jesus

⁵⁷As Jesus and his disciples traveled along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and the birds in the sky have nests, but the Human One^y has no place to lay his head.”

⁵⁹Then Jesus said to someone else, “Follow me.”

He replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and spread the news of God’s kingdom.”

⁶¹Someone else said to Jesus, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those in my house.”

⁶²Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God’s kingdom.”

Seventy-two sent out

10After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. ³Go! Be warned, though, that I’m sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don’t even greet anyone along the way. ⁵Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house.’ ⁶If anyone there shares God’s peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don’t move from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘God’s kingdom has come upon you.’ ¹⁰Whenever you enter a city and the people don’t welcome you, go out into the streets and say, ¹¹‘As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God’s kingdom has come to you.’ ¹²I assure that Sodom will be better off on Judgment Day than that city.

Judgment against cities that reject Jesus

¹³“How terrible it will be for you, Chorazin. How terrible it will be for you, Bethsaida. If the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives long

^yOr Son of Man

ago. They would have sat around in funeral clothes and ashes. ¹⁴But Tyre and Sidon will be better off at the judgment than you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be honored by being raised up to heaven? No, you will be cast down to the place of the dead. ¹⁶Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

The seventy-two return

¹⁷The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name.”

¹⁸Jesus replied, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹Look, I have given you authority to crush snakes and scorpions underfoot. I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you. ²⁰Nevertheless, don’t rejoice because the spirits submit to you. Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹At that very moment, Jesus overflowed with joy from the Holy Spirit and said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you’ve hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness. ²²My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.” ²³Turning to the disciples, he said privately, “Happy are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴I assure you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn’t.”

Loving your neighbor

²⁵A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

²⁶Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

²⁷He responded, “*You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole being, with your whole strength, and with your whole mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*”^z

²⁸Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

²⁹But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left

○ ^zDeut 6:5; Lev 19:18
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him near death. ³¹Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. ³²Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. ³³A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' ³⁶What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

³⁷Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus visits Martha and Mary

³⁸While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. ⁴⁰By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."

⁴¹The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. ⁴²One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."

Teaching the disciples to pray

I Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

²Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, uphold the holiness of your name.

Bring in your kingdom.

³Give us the bread we need for today.

⁴Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation.'”

⁵He also said to them, “Imagine that one of you has a friend and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. Imagine saying, ‘Friend, loan me three loaves of bread ⁶because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷Imagine further that he answers from within the house, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to give you anything.’ ⁸I assure you, even if he wouldn’t get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his friend’s brashness. ⁹And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰Everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened.

¹¹“Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? ¹²If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? ¹³If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

Controversy over Beelzebul

¹⁴Jesus was throwing out a demon that causes muteness. When the demon was gone, the man who couldn’t speak began to talk. The crowds were amazed. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He throws out demons with the authority of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons.” ¹⁶Others were testing him, seeking a sign from heaven.

¹⁷Because Jesus knew what they were thinking, he said to them, “Every kingdom involved in civil war becomes a wasteland, and a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. ¹⁸If Satan is at war with himself, how will his kingdom endure? I ask this because you say that I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul. ¹⁹If I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul, then by whose authority do your followers throw them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. ²⁰But if I throw out demons by the power^a of God, then God’s kingdom has already overtaken you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are secure. ²²But as soon as a stronger one attacks and overpowers him, the stronger one takes away the armor he had trusted and divides the stolen goods.

²³“Whoever isn’t with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather

^aOr *finger*

with me, scatters. ²⁴When an unclean spirit leaves a person, it wanders through dry places looking for a place to rest. But it doesn't find any. Then it says, 'I'll go back to the house I left.' ²⁵When it arrives, it finds the house cleaned up and decorated. ²⁶Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. They go in and make their home there. That person is worse off at the end than at the beginning."

On seeking signs

²⁷While Jesus was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd spoke up: "Happy is the mother who gave birth to you and who nursed you."

²⁸But he said, "Happy rather are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

²⁹When the crowds grew, Jesus said, "This generation is an evil generation. It looks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except Jonah's sign. ³⁰Just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Human One^b will be a sign to this generation. ³¹The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from a distant land to hear Solomon's wisdom. And look, someone greater than Solomon is here. ³²The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they changed their hearts and lives in response to Jonah's preaching—and one greater than Jonah is here.

³³"People don't light a lamp and then put it in a closet or under a basket. Rather, they place the lamp on a lampstand so that those who enter the house can see the light. ³⁴Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is full of darkness. ³⁵Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn't darkness. ³⁶If your whole body is full of light—with no part darkened—then it will be as full of light as when a lamp shines brightly on you."

Jesus condemns Pharisees and legal experts

³⁷While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to share a meal with him, so Jesus went and took his place at the table. ³⁸When the Pharisee saw that Jesus didn't ritually purify his hands by washing before the meal, he was astonished.

³⁹The Lord said to him, "Now, you Pharisees clean the outside of the

^bOr Son of Man

cup and platter, but your insides are stuffed with greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰Foolish people! Didn't the one who made the outside also make the inside? ⁴¹Therefore, give to those in need from the core of who you are and you will be clean all over.

⁴²"How terrible for you Pharisees! You give a tenth of your mint, rue, and garden herbs of all kinds, while neglecting justice and love for God. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.

⁴³"How terrible for you Pharisees! You love the most prominent seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

⁴⁴"How terrible for you! You are like unmarked graves and people walk on them without recognizing it."

⁴⁵One of the legal experts responded, "Teacher, when you say these things, you are insulting us too."

⁴⁶Jesus said, "How terrible for you legal experts too! You load people down with impossible burdens and you refuse to lift a single finger to help them.

⁴⁷"How terrible for you! You built memorials to the prophets, whom your ancestors killed. ⁴⁸In this way, you testify that you approve of your ancestors' deeds. They killed the prophets, and you build memorials! ⁴⁹Therefore, God's wisdom has said, 'I will send prophets and apostles to them and they will harass and kill some of them.'⁵⁰As a result, this generation will be charged with the murder of all the prophets since the beginning of time. ⁵¹This includes the murder of every prophet—from Abel to Zechariah—who was killed between the altar and the holy place. Yes, I'm telling you, this generation will be charged with it.

⁵²"How terrible for you legal experts! You snatched away the key of knowledge. You didn't enter yourselves and you stood in the way of those who were entering."

⁵³As he left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent him deeply and to ask him pointed questions about many things.

⁵⁴They plotted against him, trying to trap him in his words.

Warnings to Jesus' friends

12When a crowd of thousands upon thousands had gathered so that they were crushing each other, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees—I mean, the mismatch between their hearts and lives. ²Nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing is secret that won't be brought out into

the open. ³Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and whatever you have whispered in the rooms deep inside the house will be announced from the rooftops.

⁴“I tell you, my friends, don’t be terrified by those who can kill the body but after that can do nothing more. ⁵I’ll show you whom you should fear: fear the one who, after you have been killed, has the authority to throw you into hell. Indeed, I tell you, that’s the one you should fear. ⁶Aren’t five sparrows sold for two small coins?^c Yet not one of them is overlooked by God. ⁷Even the hairs on your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

Acknowledging the Human One

⁸“I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before humans, the Human One^d will acknowledge before God’s angels. ⁹But the one who rejects me before others will be rejected before God’s angels. ¹⁰Anyone who speaks a word against the Human One^e will be forgiven, but whoever insults the Holy Spirit won’t be forgiven. ¹¹When they bring you before the synagogues, rulers, and authorities, don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what you should say. ¹²The Holy Spirit will tell you at that very moment what you must say.”

Warning against greed

¹³Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?”

¹⁵Then Jesus said to them, “Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one’s life isn’t determined by one’s possessions, even when someone is very wealthy.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “A certain rich man’s land produced a bountiful crop. ¹⁷He said to himself, What will I do? I have no place to store my harvest! ¹⁸Then he thought, Here’s what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. That’s where I’ll store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹I’ll say to myself, You have stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years. Take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself. ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren’t rich toward God.”

^cOr *two assaria*—that is, 1/8 of a day’s wage ^dOr *Son of Man* ^eOr *Son of Man*

Warning about worry

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³There is more to life than food and more to the body than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither plant nor harvest, they have no silo or barn, yet God feeds them. You are worth so much more than birds! ²⁵Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?^f ²⁶If you can’t do such a small thing, why worry about the rest? ²⁷Notice how the lilies grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. ²⁸If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, how much more will God do for you, you people of weak faith! ²⁹Don’t chase after what you will eat and what you will drink. Stop worrying. ³⁰All the nations of the world long for these things. Your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, desire his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.

³²“Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. ³⁴Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

Warning about being prepared

³⁵“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. ³⁷Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. ³⁸Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn.^g ³⁹But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn’t have allowed his home to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Human One^h is coming at a time when you don’t expect him.”

⁴¹Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?”

⁴²The Lord replied, “Who are the faithful and wise managers whom the master will put in charge of his household servants, to give them

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⋮^fOr eighteen inches to your height ^gOr in the second or third watch ^hOr Son of Man

their food at the proper time? ⁴³Happy are the servants whom the master finds fulfilling their responsibilities when he comes. ⁴⁴I assure you that the master will put them in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁵“But suppose that these servants should say to themselves, ‘My master is taking his time about coming.’ And suppose they began to beat the servants, both men and women, and to eat, drink, and get drunk. ⁴⁶The master of those servants would come on a day when they weren’t expecting him, at a time they couldn’t predict. The master will cut them into pieces and assign them a place with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷That servant who knew his master’s will but didn’t prepare for it or act on it will be beaten severely. ⁴⁸The one who didn’t know the master’s will but who did things deserving punishment will be beaten only a little. Much will be demanded from everyone who has been given much, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked.

Conflicts brought by Jesus

⁴⁹“I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it’s completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. ⁵²From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. ⁵³Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Learning and practicing good judgment

⁵⁴Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain.’ And indeed it does. ⁵⁵And when a south wind blows, you say, ‘A heat wave is coming.’ And it does. ⁵⁶Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time? ⁵⁷And why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸As you are going to court with your accuser, make your best effort to reach a settlement along the way. Otherwise, your accuser may bring you before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you won’t get out of there until you have paid the very last cent.”ⁱ

ⁱOr *leptos* (1/128 of a day’s wages)

Demand for genuine change

13 Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. ²He replied, “Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? ³No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. ⁴What about those twelve people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did.”

⁶Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil’s nutrients?’ ⁸The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. ⁹Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’”

Healing on a Sabbath

¹⁰Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn’t stand up straight. ¹²When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, “Woman, you are set free from your sickness.” ¹³He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

¹⁴The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, “There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day.”

¹⁵The Lord replied, “Hypocrites! Don’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? ¹⁶Then isn’t it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

Growth of God’s kingdom

¹⁸Jesus asked, “What is God’s kingdom like? To what can I compare it? ¹⁹It’s like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in a gar-

den. It grew and developed into a tree and the birds in the sky nested in its branches.”

²⁰Again he said, “To what can I compare God’s kingdom? ²¹It’s like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through the whole.”

Who will be saved?

²²Jesus traveled through cities and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone said to him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?”

Jesus said to them, ²⁴“Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate. Many, I tell you, will try to enter and won’t be able to. ²⁵Once the owner of the house gets up and shuts the door, then you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you are from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷He will respond, ‘I don’t know you or where you are from. *Go away from me, all you evildoers!*’^j ²⁸There will be weeping and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in God’s kingdom, but you yourselves will be thrown out. ²⁹People will come from east and west, north and south, and sit down to eat in God’s kingdom. ³⁰Look! Those who are last will be first and those who are first will be last.”

Sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, “Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

³²Jesus said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Look, I’m throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. ³³However, it’s necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it’s impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

³⁴“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that. ³⁵Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won’t see me until the time comes when you say, *Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord’s name.*”^k

^jLXX Ps 6:9 ^kPs 118:26

Healing on the Sabbath

14 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely. ²A man suffering from an abnormal swelling of the body was there. ³Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, “Does the Law allow healing on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴But they said nothing. Jesus took hold of the sick man, cured him, and then let him go. ⁵He said to them, “Suppose your child or ox fell into a ditch on the Sabbath day. Wouldn’t you immediately pull it out?” ⁶But they had no response.

Lessons on humility and generosity

⁷When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don’t take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. ⁹The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. ¹⁰Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

¹²Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. ¹³Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

¹⁵When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus’ remarks, he said to Jesus, “Happy are those who will feast in God’s kingdom.”

¹⁶Jesus replied, “A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. ¹⁷When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, ‘Come! The dinner is now ready.’ ¹⁸One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, ‘I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹Another said, ‘I bought five teams of oxen, and I’m going to check on them. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

²¹When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go quickly to the city’s streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.’ ²²The servant said, ‘Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.’ ²³The master said to the servant, ‘Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. ²⁴I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

Discipleship’s demands

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and doesn’t hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one’s own life—cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever doesn’t carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸“If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. ³⁰They will say, ‘Here’s the person who began construction and couldn’t complete it!’ ³¹Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? ³²And if he didn’t think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. ³³In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good. But if salt loses its flavor, how will it become salty again? ³⁵It has no value, neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. People throw it away. Whoever has ears to hear should pay attention.”

Occasions for celebration

15 All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. ²The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose someone among you had a hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders.

⁶When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’
⁷In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

⁸“Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won’t light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost coin.’
¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”

¹¹Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. ¹²The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! ²³Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf

because he received his son back safe and sound.’²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’³⁰ But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Faithfulness with money

16 Jesus also said to the disciples, “A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate.² He called the manager in and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’

³“The household manager said to himself, What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.

⁵“One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’⁶ He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’⁷ The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred and fifty gallons.’⁸ Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’⁹ He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

¹⁰“The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. ¹¹I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

¹²“Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. ¹³If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹⁴If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? ¹⁵No household servant can serve two

¹Or one hundred jugs (approximately nine gallons each) ^mOr eighty measures (ten to twelve bushels each)

masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Jesus responds to Pharisees

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were money-lovers, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. ¹⁵He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves before other people, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued by people is deeply offensive to God. ¹⁶Until John, there was only the Law and the Prophets. Since then, the good news of God’s kingdom is preached, and everyone is urged to enter it. ¹⁷It’s easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest stroke of a pen in the Law to drop out. ¹⁸Any man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and a man who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

¹⁹“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. ²⁰At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

²²“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I’m suffering in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. ²⁶Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

²⁷“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. ²⁸I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ ³⁰The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ ³¹Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

Faithful service

17 Jesus said to his disciples, “Things that cause people to trip and fall into sin must happen, but how terrible it is for the person through whom they happen. ²It would be better for them to be thrown into a lake with a large stone hung around their necks than to cause one of these little ones to trip and fall into sin. ³Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins, warn them to stop. If they change their hearts and lives, forgive them. ⁴Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, ‘I am changing my ways,’ you must forgive that person.”

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷“Would any of you say to your servant, who had just come in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, ‘Come! Sit down for dinner’?

⁸Wouldn’t you say instead, ‘Fix my dinner. Put on the clothes of a table servant and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you can eat and drink’? ⁹You won’t thank the servant because the servant did what you asked, will you? ¹⁰In the same way, when you have done everything required of you, you should say, ‘We servants deserve no special praise. We have only done our duty.’”

Jesus heals a Samaritan

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, ¹³they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, show us mercy!”

¹⁴When Jesus saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” As they left, they were cleansed. ¹⁵One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Weren’t ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

The kingdom is coming

²⁰Pharisees asked Jesus when God’s kingdom was coming. He replied, “God’s kingdom isn’t coming with signs that are easily noticed.

²¹Nor will people say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ Don’t you see? God’s kingdom is already among you.”

²²Then Jesus said to the disciples, “The time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Human One,ⁿ and you won’t see it.

²³People will say to you, ‘Look there!’ or ‘Look here!’ Don’t leave or go chasing after them. ²⁴The Human One^o will appear on his day in the same way that a flash of lightning lights up the sky from one end to the other. ²⁵However, first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be during the days of the Human One.^p ²⁷People were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage until the day Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸Likewise in the days of Lot, people were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. ²⁹But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰That’s the way it will be on the day the Human One^q is revealed. ³¹On that day, those on the roof, whose possessions are in the house, shouldn’t come down to grab them. Likewise, those in the field shouldn’t turn back. ³²Remember Lot’s wife! ³³Whoever tries to preserve their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life will preserve it. ³⁴I tell you, on that night two people will be in the same bed: one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵Two women will be grinding grain together: one will be taken and the other left.”^r

³⁷The disciples asked, “Where, Lord?”

Jesus said, “The vultures gather wherever there’s a dead body.”

Justice for the faithful

18 Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, ‘Give me justice in this case against my adversary.’ ⁴For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don’t fear God or respect people, ⁵but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me.” ⁶The Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷Won’t God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them? ⁸I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One^s comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?”

ⁿOr Son of Man ^oOr Son of Man ^pOr Son of Man ^qOr Son of Man ^rCritical editions of the Gk New Testament do not include 17:36 *Two will be in a field: one will be taken and the other left.* ^sOr Son of Man

The Pharisee and the tax collector

⁹Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust. ¹⁰“Two people went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself with these words, ‘God, I thank you that I’m not like everyone else—crooks, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I receive.’ ¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn’t even lift his eyes to look toward heaven. Rather, he struck his chest and said, ‘God, show mercy to me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

Jesus blesses children

¹⁵People were bringing babies to Jesus so that he would bless them. When the disciples saw this, they scolded them. ¹⁶Then Jesus called them to him and said, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. ¹⁷I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.”

A rich man’s question

¹⁸A certain ruler asked Jesus, “Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?”

¹⁹Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. ²⁰You know the commandments. *Don’t commit adultery. Don’t murder. Don’t steal. Don’t give false testimony. Honor your father and mother.*”^t

²¹Then the ruler said, “I’ve kept all of these things since I was a boy.”

²²When Jesus heard this, he said, “There’s one more thing. Sell everything you own and distribute the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.” ²³When he heard these words, the man became sad because he was extremely rich.

²⁴When Jesus saw this, he said, “It’s very hard for the wealthy to enter God’s kingdom! ²⁵It’s easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

²⁶Those who heard this said, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus replied, “What is impossible for humans is possible for God.”

^tDeut 5:16-20; Exod 20:12-16

²⁸Peter said, “Look, we left everything we own and followed you.”

²⁹Jesus said to them, “I assure you that anyone who has left house, husband, wife, brothers, sisters, parents, or children because of God’s kingdom ³⁰will receive many times more in this age and eternal life in the coming age.”

Jesus predicts his death and resurrection

³¹Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, “Look, we’re going up to Jerusalem, and everything written about the Human One^u by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²He will be handed over to the Gentiles. He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit on. ³³After torturing him, they will kill him. On the third day, he will rise up.” ³⁴But the Twelve understood none of these words. The meaning of this message was hidden from them and they didn’t grasp what he was saying.

A blind man is healed

³⁵As Jesus came to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging. ³⁶When the man heard the crowd passing by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is passing by.”

³⁸The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy.” ³⁹Those leading the procession scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy.”

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and called for the man to be brought to him. When he was present Jesus asked, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see.”

⁴²Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” ⁴³At once, he was able to see and he began to follow Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they praised God too.

A rich tax collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. ²A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn’t because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” ⁶So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

^uOr Son of Man

⁷Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰The Human One^v came to seek and save the lost.”

Faithful service

¹¹As they listened to this, Jesus told them another parable because he was near Jerusalem and they thought God’s kingdom would appear right away. ¹²He said, “A certain man who was born into royalty went to a distant land to receive his kingdom and then return. ¹³He called together ten servants and gave each of them money worth four months’ wages.^w He said, ‘Do business with this until I return.’ ¹⁴His citizens hated him, so they sent a representative after him who said, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’ ¹⁵After receiving his kingdom, he returned and called the servants to whom he had given the money to find out how much they had earned. ¹⁶The first servant came forward and said, ‘Your money has earned a return of one thousand percent.’ ¹⁷The king replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good servant. Because you have been faithful in a small matter, you will have authority over ten cities.’

¹⁸“The second servant came and said, ‘Master, your money has made a return of five hundred percent.’ ¹⁹To this one, the king said, ‘You will have authority over five cities.’

²⁰“Another servant came and said, ‘Master, here is your money. I wrapped it up in a scarf for safekeeping. ²¹I was afraid of you because you are a stern man. You withdraw what you haven’t deposited and you harvest what you haven’t planted.’ ²²The king replied, ‘I will judge you by the words of your own mouth, you worthless servant! You knew, did you, that I’m a stern man, withdrawing what I didn’t deposit, and harvesting what I didn’t plant? ²³Why then didn’t you put my money in the bank? Then when I arrived, at least I could have gotten it back with interest.’

²⁴“He said to his attendants, “Take his money and give it to the one who has ten times as much.’ ²⁵‘But Master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten times as much!’ ²⁶He replied, ‘I say to you that everyone who has

^vOr Son of Man ^wOr he divided ten minas among them

will be given more, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ²⁷As for my enemies who don't want me as their king, bring them here and slaughter them before me.' ”

²⁸After Jesus said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

Procession into Jerusalem

²⁹As Jesus came to Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. ³⁰He said, “Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If someone asks, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘Its master needs it.’” ³²Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said.

³³As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴They replied, “Its master needs it.” ³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. ³⁶As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road.

³⁷As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen.

³⁸They said,

“Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!”

⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout.”

Jesus predicts Jerusalem's destruction

⁴¹As Jesus came to the city and observed it, he wept over it. ⁴²He said, “If only you knew on this of all days the things that lead to peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³The time will come when your enemies will build fortifications around you, encircle you, and attack you from all sides. ⁴⁴They will crush you completely, you and the people within you. They won't leave one stone on top of another within you, because you didn't recognize the time of your gracious visit from God.”

Jesus clears the temple

⁴⁵When Jesus entered the temple, he threw out those who were selling things there. ⁴⁶He said to them, “It’s written, *My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a hideout for crooks.*”^x

⁴⁷Jesus was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests, the legal experts, and the foremost leaders among the people were seeking to kill him. ⁴⁸However, they couldn’t find a way to do it because all the people were enthralled with what they heard.

Controversy over authority

20On one of the days when Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests, legal experts, and elders approached him. ²They said, “Tell us: What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?”

³He replied, “I have a question for you. Tell me: ‘Was John’s baptism of heavenly or of human origin?’”

⁵They discussed among themselves, “If we say, ‘It’s of heavenly origin,’ he’ll say, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ ⁶But if we say, ‘It’s of human origin,’ all the people will stone us to death because they are convinced that John was a prophet.” ⁷They answered that they didn’t know where it came from.

⁸Then Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.”

Parable of the tenant farmers

⁹Jesus told the people this parable. “A certain man planted a vineyard, rented it to tenant farmers, and went on a trip for a long time. ¹⁰When it was time, he sent a servant to collect from the tenants his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants sent him away, beaten and empty-handed. ¹¹The man sent another servant. But they beat him, treated him disgracefully, and sent him away empty-handed as well. ¹²He sent a third servant. They wounded this servant and threw him out. ¹³The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I’ll send my son, whom I love dearly. Perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴But when they saw him, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him so the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

^xIsa 56:7; Jer 7:11

When the people heard this, they said, “May this never happen!”

¹⁷Staring at them, Jesus said, “Then what is the meaning of this text of scripture, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?*^y ¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on.” ¹⁹The legal experts and chief priests wanted to arrest him right then because they knew he had told this parable against them. But they feared the people.

An attempt to trap Jesus

²⁰The legal experts and chief priests were watching Jesus closely and sent spies who pretended to be sincere. They wanted to trap him in his words so they could hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. ²¹They asked him, “Teacher, we know that you are correct in what you say and teach. You don’t show favoritism but teach God’s way as it really is. ²²Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

²³Since Jesus recognized their deception, he said to them, ²⁴“Show me a coin.^z Whose image and inscription does it have on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

²⁵He said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” ²⁶They couldn’t trap him in his words in front of the people. Astonished by his answer, they were speechless.

Question about the resurrection

²⁷Some Sadducees, who deny that there’s a resurrection, came to Jesus and asked, ²⁸“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that *if a man’s brother dies leaving a widow but no children, the brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.*^a ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first man married a woman and then died childless. ³⁰The second ³¹and then the third brother married her. Eventually all seven married her, and they all died without leaving any children. ³²Finally, the woman died too. ³³In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? All seven were married to her.”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “People who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵But those who are considered worthy to participate in that age, that is, in the age of the resurrection from the dead, won’t marry nor will they be given in marriage. ³⁶They can no longer die, because they are like angels and are God’s children since they share in the resurrection. ³⁷Even Moses demonstrated that the dead

^yPs 118:22 ^zOr *denarion* ^aDeut 25:5; Gen 38:8

are raised—in the passage about the burning bush, when he speaks of the Lord as *the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*.^b ³⁸He isn't the God of the dead but of the living. To him they are all alive."

³⁹Some of the legal experts responded, "Teacher, you have answered well." ⁴⁰No one dared to ask him anything else.

⁴¹Jesus said to them, "Why do they say that the Christ is David's son? ⁴²David himself says in the scroll of Psalms, *The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side* ⁴³*until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.*"^c ⁴⁴Since David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be David's son?"

Jesus condemns the legal experts

⁴⁵In the presence of all the people, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁶"Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They love being greeted with honor in the markets. They long for the places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. ⁴⁷They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly."

A poor widow's offering

21 Looking up, Jesus saw rich people throwing their gifts into the collection box for the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow throw in two small copper coins worth a penny.^d ³He said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than them all. ⁴All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had to live on."

The temple's fate

⁵Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said, ⁶"As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished."

⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?"

⁸Jesus said, "Watch out that you aren't deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I'm the one!' and 'It's time!' Don't follow them. ⁹When you hear of wars and rebellions, don't be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won't happen immediately."

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Nations and kingdoms will fight against

^bExod 3:6, 15-16 ^cPs 110:1 ^dOr *two lepta*

each other. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. ¹²But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. ¹⁵I'll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you. ¹⁷Everyone will hate you because of my name. ¹⁸Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. ¹⁹By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

²⁰"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that its destruction is close at hand. ²¹At that time, those in Judea must flee to the mountains, those in the city must escape, and those in the countryside must not enter the city. ²²These are the days of punishment, when everything written will find its fulfillment. ²³How terrible it will be at that time for women who are pregnant or for women who are nursing their children. There will be great agony on the earth and angry judgment on this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations. Jerusalem will be plundered by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are concluded.

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. ²⁶The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. ²⁷Then they will see the Human One^e coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. ²⁸Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads because your redemption is near."

A lesson from the fig tree

²⁹Jesus told them a parable. "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. ³²I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

^eOr Son of Man

³⁴“Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”^f

³⁷Every day Jesus was teaching in the temple, but he spent each night on the Mount of Olives. ³⁸All the people rose early in the morning to hear him in the temple area.

Plot to kill Jesus

22 The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was approaching. ²The chief priests and the legal experts were looking for a way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴He went out and discussed with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard how he could hand Jesus over to them. ⁵They were delighted and arranged payment for him. ⁶He agreed and began looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them—a time when the crowds would be absent.

Disciples prepare for the Passover

⁷The Day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover had to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John with this task: “Go and prepare for us to eat the Passover meal.”

⁹They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

¹⁰Jesus replied, “When you go into the city, a man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. ¹¹Say to the owner of the house, “The teacher says to you, “Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?”” ¹²He will show you a large upstairs room, already furnished. Make preparations there.” ¹³They went and found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

The Passover meal

¹⁴When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him. ¹⁵He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶I tell you, I won’t eat it until it is fulfilled in God’s kingdom.” ¹⁷After taking a cup and giving thanks,

^fOr Son of Man

he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸I tell you that from now on I won’t drink from the fruit of the vine until God’s kingdom has come.” ¹⁹After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said, “This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you.

²¹“But, look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table. ²²The Human One^g goes just as it has been determined. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays him.” ²³They began to argue among themselves about which of them it could possibly be who would do this.

The disciples debate greatness

²⁴An argument broke out among the disciples over which one of them should be regarded as the greatest.

²⁵But Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles rule over their subjects, and those in authority over them are called ‘friends of the people.’ ²⁶But that’s not the way it will be with you. Instead, the greatest among you must become like a person of lower status and the leader like a servant. ²⁷For which one is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the one who serves at the table? Isn’t it the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸“You are the ones who have continued with me in my trials. ²⁹And I confer royal power on you just as my Father granted royal power to me. ³⁰Thus you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones overseeing the twelve tribes of Israel.

Peter’s denial predicted

³¹“Simon, Simon, look! Satan has asserted the right to sift you all like wheat. ³²However, I have prayed for you that your faith won’t fail. When you have returned, strengthen your brothers and sisters.”

³³Peter responded, “Lord, I’m ready to go with you, both to prison and to death!”

³⁴Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster won’t crow today before you have denied three times that you know me.”

Call for preparedness

³⁵Jesus said to them, “When I sent you out without a wallet, bag, or sandals, you didn’t lack anything, did you?”

⊙ ^gOr Son of Man

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⋮

They said, “Nothing.”

³⁶Then he said to them, “But now, whoever has a wallet must take it, and likewise a bag. And those who don’t own a sword must sell their clothes and buy one. ³⁷I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in relation to me: *And he was counted among criminals.*^h Indeed, what’s written about me is nearing completion.”

³⁸They said to him, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He replied, “Enough of that!”

Jesus in prayer

³⁹Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he arrived, he said to them, “Pray that you won’t give in to temptation.” ⁴¹He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed. ⁴²He said, “Father, if it’s your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done.” ⁴³Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly. His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. ⁴⁵When he got up from praying, he went to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief. ⁴⁶He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation.”

Jesus’ arrest

⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.

⁴⁸Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Human Oneⁱ with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When those around him recognized what was about to happen, they said, “Lord, should we fight with our swords?” ⁵⁰One of them struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this!” He touched the slave’s ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come to get him, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief? ⁵³Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you didn’t arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules.”

^hIsa 53:12 ⁱOr *Son of Man*

Peter denies knowing Jesus

⁵⁴After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. ⁵⁵When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

⁵⁶Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, "This man was with him too."

⁵⁷But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him!"

⁵⁸A little while later, someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too."

But Peter said, "Man, I'm not!"

⁵⁹An hour or so later, someone else insisted, "This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too."

⁶⁰Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord's words, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶²And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Jesus taunted

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus in custody taunted him while they beat him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded him and asked him repeatedly, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" ⁶⁵Insulting him, they said many other horrible things against him.

Jesus before the Jerusalem leadership

⁶⁶As morning came, the elders of the people, both chief priests and legal experts, came together, and Jesus was brought before their council.

⁶⁷They said, "If you are the Christ, tell us!"

He answered, "If I tell you, you won't believe. ⁶⁸And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. ⁶⁹But from now on, *the Human One^j will be seated on the right side of the power of God.*"^k

⁷⁰They all said, "Are you God's Son, then?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

⁷¹Then they said, "Why do we need further testimony? We've heard it from his own lips."

Jesus before Pilate

23 The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and ²began to accuse him. They said, "We have found this man misleading our

^jOr Son of Man ^kPs 110:1

people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king.”

³Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.”

⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no legal basis for action against this man.”

⁵But they objected strenuously, saying, “He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here.”

Jesus before Herod

⁶Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was from Herod’s district, Pilate sent him to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign. ⁹Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn’t respond to him. ¹⁰The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus. ¹¹Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies.

Jesus and Barabbas

¹³Then Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers of the people. ¹⁴He said to them, “You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man’s conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He’s done nothing that deserves death. ¹⁶Therefore, I’ll have him whipped, then let him go.”¹

¹⁸But with one voice they shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” ¹⁹(Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus.

²¹They kept shouting out, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²²For the third time, Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I’ve found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go.”

¹Critical editions of the Gk New Testament do not include 23:17 *He had to release one prisoner for them because of the festival.*

²³But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. ²⁴Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. ²⁵He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

On the way to the cross

²⁶As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸Jesus turned to the women and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. ²⁹The time will come when they will say, ‘Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.’ ³⁰Then *they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’*^m ³¹If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Jesus on the cross

³²They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. ³³When they arrived at the place called *The Skull*, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

³⁵The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.”

³⁶The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? ⁴¹We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

^mHos 10:8

⁴³Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus' death

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, ⁴⁵while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. ⁴⁶Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, “Father, *into your hands I entrust my life.*”ⁿ After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, “It’s really true: this man was righteous.” ⁴⁸All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. ⁴⁹And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

Jesus' burial

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council. He was a good and righteous man. ⁵¹He hadn’t agreed with the plan and actions of the council. He was from the Jewish city of Arimathea and eagerly anticipated God’s kingdom. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. ⁵³Taking it down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb carved out of the rock, in which no one had ever been buried. ⁵⁴It was the Preparation Day for the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was quickly approaching. ⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and how Jesus’ body was laid in it, ⁵⁶then went away and prepared fragrant spices and perfumed oils. They rested on the Sabbath in keeping with the commandment.

The empty tomb

24 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He isn’t here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that

ⁿPs 31:5

the Human One^o must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”⁸ Then they remembered his words.⁹ When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others.¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles.¹¹ Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn’t believe the women.¹² But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Encounter on the Emmaus road

¹³On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened.¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey.¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

¹⁸The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

¹⁹He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet.²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago.²² But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning²³ and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

²⁵Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about.²⁶ Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

²⁷Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead.²⁹ But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and

^oOr Son of Man

the day is almost over.” So, he went in to stay with them. ³⁰After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

³³They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Jesus appears to the disciples

³⁶While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ³⁷They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” ⁴⁰As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of baked fish. ⁴³Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵²They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. ⁵³And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

“Let us press on to know the LORD . . .
who will come to us like . . .
the spring rains that give drink
to the earth.”

Hosea 6:3



Bible Translation Comparisons

	Common English Bible (CEB)
Genesis 1:1-2 God creates the world	When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters.
Genesis 2:7 God creates the first human	The LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life.
Genesis 2:22-23 God creates the first husband and wife	With the rib taken from the human, the LORD God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said, "This one finally is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She will be called a woman because from a man she was taken."
Genesis 22:15-16 God's promise to Abraham	The LORD's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I give my word as the LORD."
Leviticus 19:33-34 Immigrants	When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.
Matthew 5:5 Humble	Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

NRSV	NIV
<p>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.</p>	<p>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.</p>
<p>Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.</p>	<p>The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.</p>
<p>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."</p>	<p>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."</p>
<p>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD."</p>	<p>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD."</p>
<p>When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.</p>	<p>When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.</p>
<p>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p>	<p>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p>

Bible Translation Comparisons

	Common English Bible (CEB)
Matthew 5:9 Making peace	<p>Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.</p>
Matthew 6:9-13 Lord’s Prayer	<p>Pray like this: Our Father who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. And don’t lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.</p>
Matthew 10:23 Harrassed	<p>Whenever they harass you in one city, escape to the next, because I assure that you will not go through all the cities of Israel before the Human One comes.</p>
Mark 6:12 Change their hearts and lives	<p>So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.</p>
Mark 7:20-23 Contaminated	<p>“It’s what comes out of a person that contaminates someone in God’s sight,” he said. “It’s from the inside, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, verbal insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and make a person unfit to stand before God.”</p>

NRSV	NIV
<p>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p>	<p>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.</p>
<p>Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.</p>	<p>This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.</p>
<p>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.</p>	<p>When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.</p>
<p>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.</p>	<p>They went out and preached that people should repent.</p>
<p>"It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."</p>	<p>"What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"</p>

Bible Translation Comparisons

	Common English Bible (CEB)
Luke 17:3-4 Forgive	Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins, warn them to stop. If they change their hearts and lives, forgive them. Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, 'I am changing my ways,' you must forgive that person.
Romans 12:2 God's will	Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.
Hebrews 12:12-13 Healing	So strengthen your drooping hands and weak knees! Make straight paths for your feet so that if any part is lame, it will be healed rather than injured more seriously.
Hebrews 13:6 (Psalm 118:6) Anxiety	This is why we can confidently say, <i>The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid. What can people do to me?</i>

NRSV	NIV
<p>Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive."</p>	<p>So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."</p>
<p>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.</p>	<p>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.</p>
<p>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.</p>	<p>Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.</p>
<p>So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"</p>	<p>So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"</p>

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