

The Four Gospels, Contemporary Christian Version (CCV)

*Copyright (c) 1993 James W. King
All Rights Reserved
Contemporary Christian Version (CCV) is a
Trademark of James W. King*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Mark 1:1-end

1 The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As Isaiah the prophet wrote:

'I send my messenger to you.

He will prepare the way in advance of you.'

3 'Hear the voice of one crying in the desert,

"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make His paths straight."

4 John baptized in the desert preaching about repenting for the forgiveness of sin.

5 Everyone in Judea and Jerusalem were baptized by him in the Jordan River while confessing their sins.

6 John's clothes were camel's hair with an animal skin around his waist. He ate locusts and honey.

7 He preached, "There is someone coming who is mightier than I am. I am not even good enough to bend over and untie His shoes."

8 "I have baptized you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 Then Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee came and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

10 While He was coming up from the water Heaven opened and the Spirit descended on Him like a dove.

11 A voice spoke from Heaven and said, "You are my dear Son. I am very pleased with You."

12 Then the Spirit sent Him out into the desert.

13 He was in the desert for forty days. He was tempted by Satan and was among the animals and angels cared for Him.

14 Afterwards John was placed in prison and Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the Good News about the kingdom of God.

15 He said, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is nearby. Repent of your sins and believe the Good News."

16 As Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee one day He saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water. They were fishermen.

17 Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus.

19 When they had gone a little ways Jesus saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat mending their fishing nets.

20 When He called them to be His disciples they left their father in the boat with the servants and followed Him.

21 They went to Capernaum and since it was the sabbath went into the temple and taught.

22 Those present were amazed at His teachings because He taught them like one who had a higher authority and not as the scribes taught.

23 At that time there was a man in the temple who was demon possessed.

He cried out to Jesus,

24 "Leave us alone Jesus of Nazareth. What have we done to You? Have You come to destroy us? I know You for who You are, the Holy One of God!"

25 Jesus chided him, "Keep quiet and leave this man."

26 The demon made the man tremble violently. Then he screamed in a loud voice and left the man.

27 They were all amazed, so much so that they discussed it among themselves. They said, "What is this? What new practice is this? By what authority does he command demons and even they obey him?"

28 His fame quickly spread through the region around Galilee.

29 After they left the temple they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a fever and they told Jesus about her.

31 Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up. Immediately the fever left her and she took care of them.

32 At evening after sunset others brought many sick and demon possessed people to Jesus.

33 A large crowd gathered at the door.

34 He healed many people with different diseases. He also threw out many demons and didn't allow them to speak because they recognized Him for who He was.

35 In the morning Jesus got up very early before sunrise and went to a solitary place and prayed.

36 Simon and the others with him followed Jesus.

37 When they found Him they said, "Everyone is searching for you!"

38 Jesus replied, "Let's go to some other towns so I can preach the Good News there too. This is why I came."

39 He taught in all the temples of Galilee and threw out demons.

40 One day a person came to Him with leprosy. He kneeled before Jesus and said, "If it is Your will I know You can heal me of leprosy."

41 Jesus felt compassion. He stretched out His hand, touched the leper and said, "It is my will. Be healed."

42 As soon as Jesus spoke the leprosy was healed.

43 He instructed the person and sent them away.

44 Jesus said, "Don't tell anyone about this. Go about your business and show yourself to the priest. As a testimony to your healing offer the things Moses talked about."

45 The one who was healed left, but he broadcast what happened to him to everyone who would listen. He told it so much that Jesus couldn't come into the city openly anymore. He had to go out into the desert where people came to Him from every corner.

Mark 2:1-end

1 After a few days He came into Capernaum. Word soon spread that Jesus was in a house there.

2 A large crowd quickly gathered there, so much so that there wasn't any room for the people to come in. There wasn't even room outside. Jesus preached the Good News to the people.

Paralyzed Man Healed

also Matthew 9:1-8, Luke 5:17-26

3 They brought a person with palsy to Him. He was being carried by four people.

4 When they couldn't get close to Him because of the crowd they broke a hole in the roof of the house. Then they lowered the stretcher with the person who was sick with palsy on it.

5 Jesus saw their faithfulness and said to the sick man, "Son, be cheerful. Your sins are forgiven.
6 Certain scribes thought to themselves,
7 "This man speaks blasphemy. Only God can forgive sin."
8 Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"
9 "Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk?'"
10 "So you will know the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins," (then He said to the sick man,)
11 " 'Get up, pick up your bed and go home.'"
12 Then the sick man got up and left for his home. When the gathering saw what happened they were amazed and they praised God, saying "We have never seen anything like this before."
13 Jesus went out by the sea side and the crowd camped around Him and He taught them.
14 As Jesus was walking he saw Matthew (Levi) the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's table. He said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed Jesus.
15 Later, when Jesus was seated for dinner in Matthew's house, many of the tax collectors and worldly people who were in the crowd sat with Jesus and his disciples.
16 When the scribes and Pharisees saw the dinner guests they said to Jesus' disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and worldly people?"
17 Jesus heard the question and said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, only sick people do. I didn't come to call holy people to repent but those who are filled with sin."
18 John the Baptist's followers and the Pharisees were fasting. Some of the scribes and Pharisees said, "Why do John's followers and the Pharisees fast and your disciples don't?"
19 Jesus responded to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the groom is with them ? As long as the groom is there the guests can't go hungry!"
20 "The day will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them and then they will fast."
21 "Nobody sews a piece of new cloth onto an old coat. Otherwise when the new cloth is sewn to the old some holes are made and the tear gets worse."
22 "No one places new wine in old bottles. If they do the new wine bursts the old bottles open when it ferments. The wine spills out and the bottles are no good. New wine must be put into new bottles."
23 Once they happened to go through the fields on a sabbath and as they were walking His disciples began to pick grain and eat it.
24 One of the Pharisees said to him, "Why are they doing what it isn't legal to do on the sabbath?"
25 Jesus said to him, "Haven't you ever read what David and his company did when they grew hungry and were needy?"
26 "When Abiathar was the high priest David went into the temple of God and ate the showbread and gave some to those with him. As you know, only the priests may eat the showbread under the law."
27 Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Sabbath was created for man, man wasn't created for the sabbath."
28 "The Son of man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

Mark 3:1-end

1 Jesus entered the temple again and saw a man with an atrophied hand.
2 The Pharisees watched Jesus to see whether or not He would heal the man on

the sabbath so they could charge Him with a crime.

3 Jesus said to the man, "Stand up here."

4 Then He said to the Pharisees, "Is it legal to do good on the sabbath? or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?" But the Pharisees kept quiet.

5 He gave the Pharisees an angry look and felt sad because of their discompassionate hearts. He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." The man did as he was told and the hand was healed as completely as the other.

6 The Pharisees left and immediately consulted with Herod's followers about Jesus. They schemed how to kill Him.

7 But Jesus left with his disciples and went to the sea. Many Galileans followed Him along with many from Judea,

8 And from Jerusalem, Edom, areas beyond the Jordan River and from the region of Tyre and Sidon. When they heard about the miracles He performed large crowds came from these areas came to see Jesus.

9 He told His disciples to keep a small boat ready so the group wouldn't overcrowd them.

10 He healed so many that they were pushing and shoving just to touch Him. Many of the people had diseases.

11 Others were possessed by demons and when they saw Him they fell down before Him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."

12 Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone about His identity.

13 Then He went up on a mountain and called the ones He chose and they came to Him.

14 He selected The Twelve calling them apostles. They were to stay with Him and learn so He could send them out to preach the Good News.

15 And give them power to heal illnesses and to throw out demons.

16 The Twelve are:

Simon, who He named Peter (the stone),

17 James, son of Zebedee,

John his brother,

He named them Boanerges

(or Sons of Thunder),

18 Andrew and Philip,

Bartholomew and Matthew,

Thomas,

James the son of Alphaeus,

Thaddaeus,

Simon Zelotes,

(the Zealot)

19 And Judas Iscariot

who became the betrayer.

20 They went into a house and the crowd was so large they couldn't even eat bread.

21 When His friends heard about it they went to get Jesus. They said, "He must be losing His mind."

22 The scribes who came from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub and throws out demons by the prince of the demons."

23 Jesus called them to him and told them a parable, "How can Satan throw out Satan?"

24 "If a kingdom is divided against itself that kingdom cannot stand."

25 "If a house is divided against itself that house cannot stand."

26 "And if Satan rises up against himself and is divided he cannot stand, but instead comes to the end."

27 "Nobody can enter a strong man's house and ruin his possessions unless they tie the strong man up first and then ransack his house."

28 "Truly I tell you this, people will be forgiven all kinds of sin along with the blasphemies they make."

29 "But the one who blasphemes the Holy Spirit can never be forgiven and will receive eternal condemnation."

30 He told them this because they said, 'He is possessed by a demonic spirit.'

31 Jesus' brothers and mother came and stood outside calling for Him.

32 The crowd around Him said, "Look, your mother and brothers are outside looking for You."

33 Jesus responded, "Who is my mother or brother?"

34 He looked around at those who were close to Him and said, "Here are my mother and brothers!"

35 "My brothers, sisters and mother are those who do God's will."

Mark 4:1-end

1 Jesus again taught by the shore of the sea. And the crowd was so large He boarded a boat and taught from there while the crowd remained on the shore.

2 He taught them many things by parables and while teaching said,

3 "Listen to me! A farmer went out to plant his crop."

4 "When he scattered the seed on the ground some fell off to one side. Birds came and ate those seeds."

5 "Some seeds fell on stoney ground where there wasn't much dirt. They came up but since the soil wasn't very deep,"

6 "when the sun came up it scorched the plants. Since they didn't have much root they withered and died."

7 "Some of the seeds fell in thorny places and the thorn bushes overtook the young plants and choked them out."

8 "And yet some seed fell on good ground and gave good fruit. Some yielded 30 times the original seed, some 60 times, some 100 times."

9 He said to them, "Whoever has ears to hear let them hear."

10 When He was by Himself those who were with The Twelve asked Him about the parable.

11 Jesus answered, "It's yours to know the mysteries in the kingdom of heaven but not theirs."

12 ""With their ears they will hear and won't understand and with their eyes they will see but won't grasp the light. Otherwise they would be able to see with their eyes, hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and would believe and change and I would heal them.""

13 Then Jesus to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How will you understand all of the other parables then?"

14 The sower soweth the word.

15 "When someone hears the Good News of the kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and steals away the seed that was planted in their heart. This is the one who received the seed scattered by the wayside."

16 "The one who received the seed in a stoney place heard the Good News and received it with joy."

17 "By themselves they have no root, so they endure for a little while but they fall away whenever trials or ridicule come their way because of the Good News."

18 "The one that received the seed in a thorny place heard the Good News."

19 "But the worries of this world and the deceit of its money chokes out the young plant and does not bear any good fruit."

20 "The one that received the seed in good ground heard the Good News and understands it. They yield good fruit, some yield 30 times, some 60 times,

some 100 times."

21 Jesus asked them, "Would you hide a candle under a basket or bed? Or should it be placed on a candlestick?"

22 "There is nothing hidden that will not be known and there is nothing secret that will not be broadcasted for everyone to hear."

23 "If someone has ears to hear let them hear."

24 He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. With whatever measuring cup you give to someone else is the cup that will be used to measure out to you and then some."

25 "Whoever has will be given and given even more. Whoever has not what they have will be taken away from them."

26 He said, "The kingdom of God is similar to a man tossing a seed on the ground."

27 "He goes to sleep at night and rise at daybreak to find the seed has sprung up and grown although he doesn't know how."

28 "The earth brings fruit from herself, first the stalk, then the pod and then the fruit in the pod."

29 "When the fruit comes out he immediately puts the scythe to it because harvest time has come."

30 And Jesus said, "What can we compare the kingdom of God to? What story can I use to illustrate it?"

31 "It's like a grain of mustard seed which the smallest of all the seeds that are planted on earth."

32 "After it's planted it grows up and becomes the greatest of all vegetable plants. It sends out branches so large the birds nest in it's shade."

33 Jesus told them the Good News with as many parables like these as they could take in and remember.

34 He did not speak to them without a parable and then when they were alone, He explained everything to His disciples.

35 On the same day when evening came Jesus said to them, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake."

36 After they sent the crowd away they went with Him on the boat taking nothing else with them. Several other little boats went with them."

37 A terrible storm with strong winds came upon them and blew so many waves into the boat that it was filled.

38 Jesus was sleeping on some padding in the rear of the boat and they awoke Him saying, "Master, don't you care whether we perish or not?"

39 Jesus got up and chided the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." The wind stopped and the sea was very calm.

40 He said to the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Why do you have such little faith?"

41 And they were very shaken and said to each other, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!"

Mark 5:1-end

1 When they reached the opposite seashore country of the Gadarenes.

2 When Jesus got off the boat two men who were possessed by demons met Him.

3 One made his home in the tombs and was very strong. No one could tie him up, even with chains.

4 He had tied up many times with ankle locks and chains. He had torn the chains off and broken the ankle locks into pieces. He was so fierce nobody could stop him.

5 During the day and at night he was always in the mountains and the tombs cutting himself with stones and crying.

6 When he saw Jesus at a distance he ran up to Him and fell at His feet.
7 He cried out in a loud voice to Jesus, "What business do we have with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Swear in the name of God you won't torture us!"
8 Jesus said to him, "Evil one, come out of him!"
9 Jesus said, "What is your name?"
And the demon answered, "My name is Legion for we are many."
10 He begged Jesus not to send them out of the area.
11 A large herd of pigs was feeding some distance from them near the mountains.
12 The demons begged Him, "If you throw us out, let us go into the herd of pigs."
13 Jesus said to them "Go." When the demons came out of the men they went into the herd of pigs. then the entire herd of pigs ran rapidly down a steep embankment into the sea where they died in the water. (There were about 2,000 pigs.)
14 Those feeding the pigs ran into the city and country and told them what happened. They came out to meet Jesus and see what had happened.
15 And they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon possessed sitting with his clothes on and in his right mind; they were afraid.
16 The pig keepers told what happened to the man and the pigs.
17 Then the other people asked Jesus to leave their country.
18 When Jesus got into the boat the one who had been demon possessed asked Jesus if he could go with them.
19 Jesus did not allow him to go and told him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them about the miracle the Lord has performed for you how he had compassion on you."
20 The man left and told everyone in Decapolis the miracles Jesus had performed for him. Everyone was astonished.
21 When Jesus had again gone over to the opposite side of the sea many people came to Him while He was close to the shore.
22 Jairus, one of the rulers of the temple, came to Jesus. When Jairus saw Him he kneeled at His feet.
23 Jairus begged Him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and touch her so she will be healed and live."
24 Jesus went with him. Many followed them and pushed close to Jesus.
25 There was one woman who had been bleeding for twelve years.
26 She suffered under the care of many doctors, spent all of her money and was no better and had grown worse.
27 She had heard about Jesus and came up behind Him and touched His clothing.
28 She said to herself, "If I could only touch His clothes I will be healed."
29 Immediately after touching Him she stopped bleeding and could tell her body had been healed of the disease.
30 Jesus sensed that power had gone out from Him. He turned around and said, "Who touched my clothes?"
31 His disciples answered "Do you see how this crowd pushes against us and you ask, 'Who touched me?'"
32 Jesus looked at the woman who had touched Him.
33 The woman was afraid and trembling, knowing the miracle that had been performed in her body, so she fell down in front of Jesus and confessed.
34 Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith made you whole. Go in peace, and be healed from that illness."
35 While He was still talking someone came from Jairus' house and said, "Your daughter has died. We don't need to bother the Master anymore, do we?"
36 As soon as Jesus heard what had been said, He told Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Only have faith."

37 Jesus would not allow anyone else to follow Him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.
38 When Jesus came to Jairus' house He saw an uproar by those who wept and were moaning loudly.
39 When Jesus came in He said, "Why are you making such a fuss and weeping? The girl isn't dead, she is only sleeping."
40 They ridiculed Jesus. After He made the others leave He took the father and mother of the girl and His disciples into where the girl laid.
41 He took the girl by the hand and said, "Talitha koum!" which means, 'Little girl, I order you to get up!'
42 The twelve year old girl got up and walked. They were astonished beyond belief.
43 Jesus told them not to tell anyone about this. Then He told them to give her something to eat.

Mark 6:1-end

1 Jesus left there with His disciples and returned to His home country.
2 When the sabbath came He began to teach in the temple. Many who heard Him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man receive these teachings? and, What kind of wisdom has he been given that he's able to perform such amazing miracles?"
3 "Isn't he the carpenter? Isn't he Mary's son and James, Joseph, Judas and Simon's brother? His sisters are here with us, aren't they?" And they took offense to what Jesus taught them.
4 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only dishonored in his own country by his own relatives in his own house."
5 He did not perform any miracles there except to lay His hands on several sick people to heal them.
6 Jesus was amazed at their unbelief. He went around teaching in different villages.
7 He called The Twelve and began sending them out two and two. He gave them the power to cast out demons.
8 He told them, "Don't to take anything for your journey except a walking stick --- no scrip, no bread and no coins."
9 "Wear sandals but only one coat."
10 He told them, "Wherever you are when you stay at someone's house, stay there until you leave that area."
11 "If someone fails to take you in and won't hear your testimony, leave there and shake the dust off of your feet as a witness against that person. This is true, it will be easier for Sodom and Gomorrha on the judgment day than for that city."
12 The disciples went out and preached that everyone must repent.
13 They threw out many demons and anointed the sick with oil and healed them.
14 King Herod heard about Jesus. (for His name had become famous.)
Herod said, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead and that is why he is able to work miracles."
15 Some other people said, "It is Elijah." While still others said, "It is a prophet or someone like a prophet."
16 When Herod heard this talk he said, "It's John the Baptist who I had beheaded. He has been raised from the dead."
17 Herod was the one who ordered John the Baptist arrested and had him thrown in prison for Herodias' sake. Herodias was his brother Philip's wife whom Herod had married also.
18 Because John said to Herod, "It isn't legal for you to have your brother's wife."

19 Herodias was angry with John. She wanted to kill him but she wasn't able to.

20 Herod was afraid of John. He knew John was a holy man and Herod enjoyed listening to John. While he didn't understand him he still liked to hear him.

21 On Herod's birthday he gave a dinner party for his the most important men in his court, the captains of his armies and the wealthy landowners of Galilee.

22 Herodias daughter came in and danced for Herod and his guests. She pleased Herod and he said to her, "Ask for whatever you want and I will give it to you."

23 He swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

24 She left and ask her mother, "What should I ask for?" Herodias told her daughter, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist."

25 She came in hurriedly to the king and told him, "Give me the head of John the Baptist on a tray."

26 The king was very sad but he had given his oath in front of witnesses. He did not deny her request.

27 The king gave the order for an executioner to bring him John's head. The executioner beheaded John in prison.

28 He brought John's head to Herod on a tray and gave it to the daughter and the daughter gave it to her mother.

29 When John's followers heard about it they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

30 The apostles came to Jesus as a group and told Him everything. They told Him what they had done and what they taught.

31 Jesus told them, "Let us go away to a quiet place in the desert and rest awhile." So many people had been coming and going they didn't even have enough time to eat.

32 They left for a place in the desert place by on a boat by themselves.

33 The crowd saw them leaving. Many knew Jesus and ran from every town to their destination. They outran them and came to Jesus when He arrived.

34 When Jesus got out of the boat He saw many people. He felt compassion toward the people. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He started to teach them many things.

35 When the day was almost over His disciples came to Him. They said, "This is a desert and it's almost dark."

36 "Send the people home so they can go into the countryside and villages and buy bread. They don't have anything to eat."

37 Jesus told them, "You give them something to eat." The disciples replied, "We don't have enough money to buy all the bread it would take to feed them."

38 Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have? Go and see." After they counted the bread they said, "Five loaves and two fish."

39 Jesus ordered them to have the people sit down in groups on the grass.

40 The crowd sat down in orderly groups of fifties and one hundreds.

41 As He took the five loaves of bread and two fish He looked up to Heaven and blessed them. He divided the loaves and gave them to His disciples to feed the people. He divided the two fish among them all.

42 They all ate until they were filled.

43 They picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish.

44 About five thousand men ate the bread.

45 Then He told His disciples to get into the boat and cross over to Bethsaida while He dismissed the people.

46 After He sent the people away He left for a mountain to pray.

47 When evening came the ship was in the middle of the sea while Jesus was

alone on land.

48 Jesus saw His disciples having difficulty in rowing for the wind had picked up and was blowing the wrong direction. At about three o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them walking on the water. He almost passed them up.

49 When they saw Him walking on the water they thought it was a ghost and they cried out.

50 They all saw Him and were upset. He talked to them and said, "Don't worry, it's me. Don't be afraid."

51 He got into the boat and the wind stopped. They were amazed beyond belief and wondered about what they had seen.

52 Even though they had seen but failed to understand the miracle of the loaves. They didn't understand because their hearts were calloused.

53 At the end of their voyage they came to the area known as Gennesaret and pulled up to shore.

54 When they got off the boat people recognized Jesus.

55 They ran around the entire area and started to bring sick people in beds to where they heard Jesus was.

56 Wherever He went; to towns, cities or in the country, they placed the sick in His path in the streets and begged to just allow them to touch the hem of his garment. All who touched Him were healed.

Mark 7:1-end

1 The Pharisees and several scribes from Jerusalem came to Jesus.

2 They had seen a number of His disciples eating bread with defiled or unwashed hands so they accused them of doing wrong.

3 No Pharisee or Jewish person eats food without washing their hands in accordance with a tradition passed on from their ancestors.

4 When they come from the marketplace they don't eat unless they have washed their hands. There are many other rituals they are expected to keep that have to do with the cleaning of cups, pots, brass containers and tables.

5 The Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples keep the traditions sent down to us by our ancestors? They are eating with unwashed hands."

6 Jesus replied, "Isaiah did a good job of prophesying about you hypocrites when he wrote,"

'These people honor me with their mouth
but their heart is a long distance away from me.'

7 'In vain they worship me.

They teach the commandments of men as doctrine.'

8 "You have put aside the commandments of God and keep the traditions of men such as the washing of pots and cups and many of the other ritualistic things you do."

9 Then Jesus said, "You reject the commandments of God so you may keep your own traditions."

10 "Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother and whoever curses his father or mother let him be put to death.'"

11 "But your tradition teaches if a man tells his father or mother, 'What I was going to give to you is now Corban, meaning a gift to God,' then he is not held accountable."

12 "And you don't require him to do what he should for his father or mother."

13 "You make the Word of God of null and void because of your tradition that you are teaching the people. And you do so many similar things."

14 Then Jesus called everyone together and said, "Listen to me each of you and

understand what I am about to say."

15 "It isn't what goes into a man that defiles him but rather what comes out of a man. This is what defiles him."

16 "If you have ears to hear then hear me."

17 When He arrived inside the house away from the people His disciples asked Him what the parable meant.

18 Jesus told them, "Do you mean you don't understand this either? Don't you see that whatever goes into a man can't defile him."

19 "Because it goes into his stomach and not his heart. Then it is released from his body."

20 Then Jesus said, "It's what comes out of a man that defiles him."

21 "Because it's from within a man's heart that comes evil thoughts, adultery, sexual immorality, murder,"

22 "Theft, coveting, sinfulness, deceit, impure thoughts, jealousy, blasphemy, arrogance and worldliness."

23 "All of these evil things come from inside and defile the man."

24 Then He got up and left for the area of Tyre and Sidon and stayed at a house there. He didn't want anyone to know about it but they would not leave Him alone.

25 A woman who had heard about Jesus came to Him and knelt at His feet. Her daughter was demon possessed.

26 She was a Greek from Syria Phoenicia and she begged Him to throw the demon out of her daughter.

27 But Jesus told her, "First let the children be fed. It isn't right to take the children's bread and to throw it to the dogs."

28 The woman responded, "You are right Lord and yet the dogs eat the children's crumbs that fall from the table."

29 Jesus replied, "For this saying you may go about your business the demon has been thrown out of your daughter."

30 When the woman came to her house she found her daughter lying on her bed. The demon was gone.

31 Then Jesus departed from the area of Tyre and Sidon and came to the sea of Galilee. They went through the center of Decapolis.

32 The people brought Him a deaf person who had a speech impediment. They begged Him to lay His hands upon the man.

33 Jesus took him away from the crowd and placed His fingers in the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue.

34 Looking up to heaven Jesus sighed and said, "Ephphatha," meaning 'I command you to open!'

35 The man could hear immediately. His vocal cords were healed and he spoke plainly.

36 Jesus told them to tell no one about what happened but that just caused them to tell it even more.

37 The people were astonished beyond belief. They said, "He does all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Mark 8:1-end

1 During those days the crowd was very large. Since the crowd didn't have anything with them to eat Jesus called His disciples together and said,

2 "I feel compassion for these people. They have been with us for three days and haven't had much to eat."

3 "If I send them to their own homes hungry they will faint along the road. Many of them came from a long distance away."

4 His disciples said, "This is a desert. How can we get enough bread to satisfy all of these people."

5 Jesus asked, "How many loaves of bread do you have?" The disciples answered, "We have seven loaves."

6 Jesus told the people to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves of bread and gave thanks for them. He then divided the bread and gave it to the disciples to give to the people and they gave them the bread.

7 They also had a few small fish so Jesus blessed them and told His disciples to give them to the people also.

8 Everyone ate and was filled. They picked up seven baskets of leftover bread and fish.

9 About four thousand men had eaten. Then Jesus dismissed the crowd.

10 Afterwards He and His disciples boarded a boat and left for the area around Dalmanutha.

11 The Pharisees went to Jesus and tempted Him, asking questions and for a sign from Heaven.

12 Jesus' spirit sighed heavily and He said, "Why does this generation want a sign? I'm telling you the truth, you will not get one!"

13 At that Jesus left the Pharisees, boarded the boat again and left for the other side.

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread with them and there was only one loaf of bread on the boat.

15 Jesus then warned them, "Listen to me, be careful of yeast of the Pharisees and Herod's followers."

16 They discussed this between themselves and said, "He says this because we forgot to bring bread with us."

17 When Jesus heard what they were saying He said, "Why do you think I mean you forgot to bring bread? Can't you see, don't you understand? Have your hearts become calloused too?"

18 "You have eyes but why can't you see? You have ears but why don't you hear? Don't you remember what you have seen and heard?"

19 "How many baskets of leftover bread did you pick up when I divided five loaves for the five thousand? The disciples responded, "Twelve baskets, Lord."

20 "And how many baskets did you pickup of leftover bread when I divided the seven loaves among four thousand people?" They answered, "Seven baskets, Lord."

21 Then Jesus asked, "Why is it then you cannot see and understand?"

22 When He came to Bethsaida the people brought a blind man to Him and begged Jesus to touch the man.

23 Jesus took the blind man's hand and led him out of town. He applied spit to his eyes and placed His hands on the man. Then Jesus asked the blind man if he saw anything.

24 The man looked up and said, "I see men looking like trees walking around."

25 Then Jesus put his hands on the blind man's eyes again and told him to look up. His eyesight was restored and he saw everthing clearly.

26 Jesus sent him home and told him, "Don't go into town or tell anyone about this."

27 Jesus and His disciples then left for the the towns of Caesarea Philippi. As they were going along the road Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say I am?"

28 The disciples answered, "Most say you are John the Baptist, but some say you are Elijah while others say 'He is one of the prophets.'"

29 Then Jesus said to them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are Christ, the anointed one!"

30 Jesus instructed them not to tell this to anyone.

31 Then He began to teach them about how the Son of man must suffer many things, be rejected by the older, wiser men and by the chief priests and

scribes. Then He would be killed and after three days He would rise again.
32 He spoke these things openly. Peter took Jesus aside and began to scold Him.
33 Then Jesus turned around and looked at His disciples and scolded Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You don't love the things of God. You only love the things of man."
34 Then Jesus called His disciples and the people to come together. He said, "Whoever wants to come after me must deny themselves and pick up his cross and follow me."
35 "The one who tries to keep their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and the pursuit of my Good News will find it."
36 "What has a person profited if they gain the entire world and loses their own soul?"
37 "What would a person give in exchange for their soul?"
38 "If anyone in this perverted and sinful generation is ashamed of me and of my word the Son of man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with holy angels.

Mark 9:1-end

1 Jesus told them, "This is true, some of those standing here will not die before they see the kingdom of God coming with power."
2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him up to a high mountain separated from the others. While He was there He was transfigured before their very eyes.
3 His clothing shined whiter than snow, whiter than anyone on earth could wash them.
4 Elijah and Moses appeared to them and spoke to Jesus.
5 Peter spoke to Jesus, "Master, it's a good thing we are here. Let us build three tabernacles here. One built for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
6 He said this because he didn't know what else to say, they were very afraid.
7 A cloud appeared over them and the voice in the cloud said, "This is my dear Son. Listen to all He says."
8 Suddenly, when they looked around nobody was there except Jesus and themselves.
9 On their way down from the mountain instructed the three not to tell anybody else about what they had seen until the Son of man had risen from the dead.
10 They held onto that saying questioning each other what 'rising from the dead' meant.
11 Then they asked Jesus, "Why do the scribes say Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?"
12 Jesus replied, "It's true, Elijah will come first and restore everything. It's also written that the Son of man must suffer many things and be counted as nothing."
13 "I'll also tell you this, Elijah has already come and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it is written about him."
14 When they got back to the rest of the disciples He saw a large crowd gathered around them. The scribes were questioning them.
15 All of the people ran to Jesus as soon as they saw Him to greet Him.
16 Jesus asked the scribes, "Why are you questioning my disciples?"
17 One of the crowd replied, "Master, I brought my son to You to be healed. He is possessed by a spirit that keeps him from talking."
18 "Wherever I take him the demon troubles him. He foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth in anger and wastes away to nothing. I spoke to Your

disciples and ask them to throw out the demon but they couldn't do it."
19 Jesus spoke to them, "You are a faithless generation. I won't be with you long and yet how long will I have to put up with you? Bring the boy to me!"
20 They brought the boy to Jesus and when the demon saw Jesus he troubled the boy a great deal. The boy fell to the ground in convulsions, foaming at the mouth.
21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "When did this happen to him?" The father answered, "He has been that way since he was a child."
22 "Many times the demon throws him in the fire and in the water to kill him. Can you do anything? Please have compassion on us and help us."
23 Jesus told the father, "Only if you believe. Everything is possible to the one who believes."
24 The father of the boy cried out with tears, "Lord, I believe. Please help my unbelieving heart!"
25 Jesus saw people were coming towards Him so He commanded the demon, "Evil demon who has caused this deafness I order you to come out and stay out of this boy!"
26 The demon screamed and threw the boy around so horribly he looked like he was dead. Then the demon left the boy.
27 Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him. The boy got up.
28 When Jesus came into the house His disciples asked Him quietly, "Why couldn't we throw the demon out?"
29 He told them, "The only way this type comes out is with a lot of prayer and fasting."
30 They left there and went through Galilee and Jesus did not want anybody to know they were there.
31 Because He was teaching His disciples that, "The Son of man will be delivered into men's hands who will kill Him. After He is killed He will rise again on the third day."
32 They didn't understand what He was telling them but they were afraid to ask Him about it.
33 Jesus arrived at Capernaum and when they got to the house where they would be staying He asked them, "What were you arguing about along the way?"
34 But they kept quiet because they didn't want Him to know that along the way they were arguing about which one of them was the greatest.
35 Jesus sat down and called The Twelve together, "If you want to be first you have to be last and serve everyone else first."
36 Jesus placed a small child in the middle of them all. He picked the child up and put him in His arms and said,
37 "Whoever receives a little child like this in my name receives me. Whoever receives me doesn't receive me but the One who sent me!"
38 John spoke to Jesus, "Master, we saw somebody throwing out demons in your name and he wasn't one of us. We stopped him because he doesn't travel with us."
39 Jesus told them, "Don't forbid him to do this. No one can perform a miracle in my name and at the same time speak evil of me."
40 "Whoever is not against us is with us."
41 "If someone gives you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to Christ, Truly I tell you, he will not lose his reward."
42 "But if somebody causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble it would be better for them that they hang a large rock around their neck and be thrown into the sea."
43 "If your hand causes you to sin cut it off. It will be better to enter into eternal life injured than to enter into eternal condemnation with two hands."
44 "For there the worm does not die and the fire will never be quenched."

45 "And if your foot causes you to sin cut it off. It's better for you to enter eternal life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell, where the fire is never quenched,"
46 "And the worm does not die."
47 "Likewise with your eye, if it causes you to fall pull it out. It's better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to be thrown into hell with both eyes intact."
48 "This is where the worm does not die and the fire is never quenched."
49 "Everyone will be salted with fire and every sacrifice will be salted with salt."
50 "Salt is good, but if the salt loses it's saltiness how can you season it? Within yourselves have good salt. Be at peace with each other."
~57

The Four Gospels, Contemporary Christian Version (CCV)
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Copyright (c) 1992 James W. King
All Rights Reserved

Contemporary Christian Version (CCV) is a
Trademark of James W. King and is Protected
Under United States Trademark and Copyright Law.

Mark 10:1-end

1 Jesus left there and came to the area of Judea by the far side of Jordan. The crowds came to Him again and as was His way He taught them again.
2 The Pharisees also came tempting Him by asking, "Is it legal for a man to divorce his wife?"
3 Jesus responded, "What did Moses command you to do?"
4 They replied, "Moses allowed them to write a bill of divorcement and to allow her to go her own way."
5 Jesus told them, "Moses wrote this law because the people's hearts were callous."
6 "However from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female."
7 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and join with his wife."
8 "And they will become one flesh. Afterwards they are no longer two bodies but one."
9 "That which God has joined together therefore let no man separate."
10 When they were in the house His disciples asked Him again about the same question.
11 He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her."
12 "If a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."
13 Some people brought little children to Jesus so He could bless them. His disciples scolded the ones who brought the children.
14 When Jesus heard it He was very displeased and said, "Allow the little children to come to me and don't stop them. The kingdom of Heaven is made up of ones like these."
15 "Truly I tell you, if a person does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child they will not come in."

16 Then He took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them and blessed them.

17 When Jesus had gone His way a person came running up to Him, kneeled and said, "Good Master, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 Jesus said to the man, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except for one and that is God!"

19 "You know the commandments. Don't commit sexual immorality. Don't kill. Don't steal. Don't bear false witness. Don't cheat anyone else. Honor your father and mother."

20 The man said, "Master, I have kept all of these commandments since I was a child."

21 Then Jesus, looking at him lovingly and said, "You lack one thing. Go home, sell whatever you have and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. Come, take up the cross, and follow me."

22 When the young man heard this he was very sad because he owned many possessions.

23 Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "It is difficult for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God!"

24 The disciples were surprised by this. Jesus told them again, "My children, it is very difficult for someone who is trusting in their riches to come into the kingdom of God!"

25 "It's easier for a camel to go through gate in the city wall known as 'The Eye of the Needle' than for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God."

26 They were amazed beyond measure and said among themselves, "Then who can possibly be saved?"

27 Jesus looked upon them saying, "It's not possible with human beings, but with God everything is possible."

28 Peter started to tell Jesus, "But we left everything we have to follow you."

29 Jesus responded, "This is the truth, if someone has given up their home, their relatives, spouse, children or property for my name and my Good News,"

30 "They will receive a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and property as well as persecution. In the world to come they will receive eternal life."

31 "However, the first will be last and the last will be first."

32 While they were on the way to Jerusalem Jesus went ahead of them. They were amazed and while they followed they became afraid. Then Jesus brought The Twelve together to tell them what was going to happen to Him.

33 He said, "Look, we are going to Jerusalem where the Son of man will be handed over to to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and will deliver him to the Gentiles."

34 "They will mock, scourge, spit on and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

35 James and John, Zebedee's son, came to him and said, "Master, we want to ask you a favor."

36 Jesus asked them, "What would you like me to do for you?"

37 They said, "Grant us the favor of allowing one of us to sit at Your right hand and the other at Your left hand when you come into Your glory."

38 He replied, "You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink from the cup that I must drink from? Are you going to be baptized with the baptism that I will be baptized with?"

39 They told Jesus, "Yes we can, Lord." Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from the cup that I must drink from. And you will be baptized with the baptism that I will be baptized with."

40 "But sitting at my right and left hands is not mine to give. It will be given to those for whom it was prepared."

41 When the other ten heard about it they were very upset with James and John.
42 But Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know those who are appointed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them. Their most powerful leaders misuse their authority."
43 "So it won't be this way among you whoever would be great among you will minister to all the others."
44 "Whoever of you would be the highest will be servant to all the others."
45 "Even the Son of man didn't come to be ministered to, but to minister and give his life a ransom for many."
46 Then they came to Jericho and as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd of people, blind Bartimaeus sat by the side of the road begging.
47 When Bartimaeus heard it was Jesus of Nazareth he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
48 Many people told him to be quiet but he cried out even louder, "Son of David have mercy on me!"
49 Jesus stood still and ordered Bartimaeus to be brought to Him. They went after him and said, "Be glad, get up. Jesus is calling you."
50 He got up and threw his coat aside and came to Jesus.
51 Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to Jesus, "Lord, please restore my eyesight."
52 Jesus said to him, "Go your way. Your faith has made you whole." The blind man received his sight immediately and followed Jesus along the way.

Mark 11:1-end

1 When they arrived at Jerusalem, Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives Jesus sent two of his disciples out,
2 He said to them, "Go over to that village. When you enter it you will see a colt tied up that no man has ever ridden on. Unloosen his rope and bring him to me."
3 "If anyone asks you, 'Where are you going with that colt?' Tell them the Lord needs it and he will send it here immediately."
4 And they went as they were told and found the colt tied outside by a gate where the two streets meet and they untied him.
5 Someone close by asked them, "Where are you going with that colt?"
6 They said what the Lord had instructed them to say and the men let them go.
7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their coats on him so Jesus could ride upon the colt.
8 Many people placed their coats on the path along the way while others cut branches off the trees and laid them in His path.
9 The ones who went in front of Him and those who followed Him said, "Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."
10 "Blessed is the kingdom of our father David coming in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."
11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After He had looked around at everything and since evening was coming He went out to Bethany with The Twelve.
12 In the morning after they left Bethany He was hungry.
13 He saw a fig tree in the distance with leaves on it. He thought He might find something to eat on it. When He got to the fig tree it didn't have anything but leaves on it because it wasn't in season.
14 Jesus said to the fig tree, "Nobody will eat fruit from you from now on and forever." His disciples heard Him say this.
15 When they came to Jerusalem Jesus went into the temple and started

throwing out the merchants doing business in the temple. He overturned the bankers tables and the chairs of the ones who sold doves.

16 Jesus also wouldn't allow anyone to carry a vessel through the temple.

17 He told them, "Isn't it written,"

'My house will be called by
all nations the house of prayer?'

"But you have made it a house of thieves."

18 The scribes and chief priests heard Him and schemed how they could destroy Him. They feared Him because all the people were astonished at His teachings.

19 When evening came He left the city.

20 In the morning as they were passing by the fig tree they saw it had dried from the roots up.

21 Peter remembered what Jesus had done said, "Master, look, the fig tree which you cursed has withered away."

22 Jesus answered Peter by saying, "Have faith in God."

23 "Truly I'm telling you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Leave here and throw yourself into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart but believes what he said will come to pass will receive whatever he requested."

24 "Let me say to you, if you believe you will receive whatever you ask for when you pray you will have it."

25 "When you pray, forgive, if you have anything against anyone so that your Father who is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses also."

26 "If you do not forgive neither will your Father who is in Heaven forgive your trespasses."

27 They returned to Jerusalem and as He was walking in the temple the chief priests, the scribes and the older wiser ones came to Him.

28 They said to Him, "By what authority do you perform miracles? Who gave you the authority to do these things?"

29 Jesus replied, "I would like to ask you one question and if you answer me I will tell you by what authority I do these things."

30 "Was the baptism of John from Heaven or from men? Give me your answer."

31 They discussed it among themselves. They said, "If we say 'From heaven' he will ask 'Why did you not believe John then?'"

32 "But we can't say 'From men.'" They were afraid of what the people might do because everybody knew John was certainly a prophet.

33 They responded to Jesus, "We cannot tell." Then Jesus answered them by saying, "And neither am I going to tell you by what authority I do these things."

Mark 12:1-end

1 Jesus started to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a grape arbor and placed a hedge around it. Then he dug a place for the winepress. He built a tower then rented the grape arbor to caretakers and left for a distant country."

2 "When grape season came he sent his servant to the caretakers so he could receive his rent from the fruit of the grape arbor."

3 "The caretakers grabbed the servant, beat him and sent him away empty handed."

4 "The man sent another servant to the caretakers they threw stones at him. He was wounded in the head and they sent him away badly bruised."

5 "The man sent another servant and they killed him along with many others."

They beat some and killed others."

6 "The man had one other son, his best loved son, and he sent him to the caretakers too. He thought, "Surely they will respect my son."

7 "But the caretakers said to each other, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him and we will get his inheritance.'"

8 "The caretakers took the son, killed him and threw him out of the grape arbor."

9 "What will the lord of the vineyard do in return? He will come and destroy the caretakers and give the grape arbor to others."

10 "Haven't you ever read in Scripture,"

'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.'

11 "'This is the Lord's working and it's marvelous to see?'"

12 The priests and scribes wanted to arrest Him but they were afraid of the people. They knew the parable was aimed at them but they left Him and went their way.

13 They sent the Pharisees and Herod's followers to Jesus to try and catch Him in His words.

14 When they came to him they said, "Master, we know you are truthful without regard for what any man says. You teach the way of God with honesty. Is it legal or not to give tax money to Caesar?"

15 "Should we or shouldn't we pay it?" But Jesus recognized their hypocrisy and said to them, "Why do you test me? Bring me a penny so I can see it."

16 They brought the penny to Him. He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They replied, "Caesar's."

17 Then Jesus answered them, "Give Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that belong to God." They were amazed at what He said.

18 Then the Sadducees who say there is no resurrection came to Him asking,

19 "Master, Moses told us 'If a man's brother dies and leaves his widow behind with no children his brother should take his widow and have children by her for his brother.'"

20 "If there were seven brothers and the first married and died without children."

21 "The second married her and died without children and the same thing happened to the third brother."

22 "All seven married her and had no children and finally the woman died."

23 "When the resurrection comes and they have risen whose wife will she be? Seven of them had her as their wife."

24 Jesus answered them, "Aren't you making a mistake because you don't know the scriptures or the power of God?"

25 "When they rise from the dead they won't marry or be given in marriage but will be in the same state as the angels which are in Heaven."

26 "As far as the dead are concerned and whether or not they will rise: haven't you read in the book of Moses how God spoke to him from the bush and said, 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?'"

27 "God is not the God of the dead. He's the God of the living. You have made a large mistake."

28 One of the scribes came to Him after he heard their discussion. Knowing Jesus had answered all of their questions well he asked, "Which is the greatest commandment of all?"

29 Jesus replied, "The greatest commandment of all is,"

'Hear, Oh Israel. The Lord our God is one Lord.'

and,

30 'You will love the Lord your God
with all of your heart,
with all of your soul,
with all of your mind and
with all of your strength.'

"This is the greatest commandment."

31 "The second is like the first,"

'You will love your neighbor as you love yourself.'

"There are no other commandments greater than these."

32 The scribe said to Him, "You have spoken the truth, Master. There is one God and there is no one but Him."

33 "Loving Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul and with all the strength and to love one's neighbors as one's self is greater than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus heard his thoughtful answer He said, "You are close to the kingdom of God." After that nobody dared ask Him a question.

35 Jesus said while teaching in the temple, "Why do the scribes say the Christ is the Son of David?"

36 "David himself by the Holy Spirit said,"

'The LORD said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footrest.'

37 "Therefore if David called him Lord how can he be his son?" The common people were glad to hear what He said.

38 Jesus taught them saying, "Be careful around the scribes. They love to go around in flowing robes and to be greeted in the marketplace."

39 "They seek the best seats in the temple and the highest rooms at banquets."

40 "Then they consume widows' homes and say lengthy pretentious prayers. They will receive greater condemnation."

41 Jesus sat over beside the treasury and witnessed people throwing money into the treasury. Many rich people gave a lot of money.

42 A poor widow came and threw in two pennies.

43 He called His disciples and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has thrown in more than all the money the rich have thrown in the treasury."

44 "What they put in was a little of their abundant wealth but she threw in everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

Mark 13:1-end

1 As Jesus was leaving the temple one of His disciples said to Him, "Master, see how beautiful these stones and buildings are!"

2 Jesus responded, "Do you see these great buildings? There won't be one stone left standing on top of another that will not be thrown to the ground!"

3 As Jesus was sitting in the Mount of Olives close to the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Him privately,

4 "Tell us when these things will happen? What sign will be given to us when all of these things are about to come to pass?"

5 Jesus answered them by saying, "Be careful that nobody deceives you."

6 "Many will come in my name saying, 'I am Christ.' Many will be deceived."

7 "When you hear about wars and rumors of wars don't be troubled. Such things must come to pass but this will not be the end yet."

8 "Nations will rise up against other nations and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many different places and famine and pestilence. This will be the beginning of sorrows."

9 "Watch out for yourselves. Men will deliver you to councils. You will be beaten in the temple and you will be brought before rulers and kings for my sake as a testimony against them."

10 "And the gospel must be published among all nations first."

11 "But when they arrest you and take you to the council don't give any thought beforehand what you will say. Don't think about what you will say but say whatever you are given at that time. It's not you speaking but the Holy Spirit."

12 "Brother will betray his brother to death and the father the son. Children will rise up against their parents and will cause them to be put to death."

13 "You will be hated by everyone for my name's sake. But he that endures to the end will be saved."

14 "When you see the abomination of desolation that Daniel the prophet spoke of standing in a place where it shouldn't be then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Let the reader understand.)"

15 "The one who is on the rooftop should not go down into the house or enter the house or take anything out of the house."

16 "The one who is in the field should not go back to pick up their coat."

17 "The woman with child and those nursing babies will have grief in those days!"

18 "Pray your flight will not take place in winter."

19 "During those days there will be terrible affliction, the likes of which has not been seen since the beginning of the creation God created until this time and never will be again."

20 "Unless the Lord shortened those days nobody would be saved. For the elect's sake who He has chosen He shortened the days."

21 "If anybody tells you, 'Here is Christ' or 'There is Christ' don't believe them."

22 "False Christs and false prophets will come and perform miracles to seduce, if it was possible, even the elect."

23 "Be very careful for I have warned you about these things."

24 'In those days after the tribulation
the sun will be darkened and
the moon will not shine.

25 Stars will fall from the heavens and
the powers of Heaven will shake.'

26 "Then people will see the Son of man coming through the clouds in great power and glory."

27 "He will send his angels to gather his chosen together from the four winds from the farthest parts of earth to the farthest part of Heaven."

28 "Now hear and learn a parable about the fig tree. When her branch is yet tender, and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near."

29 "Similarly, when you see these things coming to pass you will know the time is close by, just outside the door."

30 "What I say is true, this generation will not pass away until all of these things have been accomplished."

31 "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not."

32 "Nobody, not even the heavenly angels or the Son -- only the Father, knows when that day and hour will come."

33 "Listen, watch and pray. Because you don't know when this time will come."

34 "The Son of man is like a person going on a journey. He left his home and gave his servants the authority to rule over his house. He gave everyone their assignments and told one to watch for his return."

35 "Therefore, you watch also because you don't know when the master of the house will return. It could be in the evening, at midnight, before daybreak or at sunrise."

36 "So he won't come suddenly and find you asleep."

37 "And what I'm telling you I say to all, Watch!"

Mark 14:1-end

1 In two days the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread was coming. The chief priests and the scribes searched for a way to take Jesus by trickery and put Him to death.

2 They said to themselves, "It can't be during Passover otherwise there might be an uproar among the people."

3 While in Bethany Jesus was having dinner at Simon the leper house. As He sat there a woman with a stone container of precious oil. She broke open the container and poured it upon His head.

4 Several people were indignant and said, "Why did she waste this precious oil?"

5 "It could have been sold for a great deal of money and been given to the poor." They talked about her maliciously.

6 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you bother her? She has done a good deed for me."

7 "You always have the poor with you and whenever you can you should do good to them, but I am not going to be here long."

8 "She did what she could. She has come in advance to anoint my body for burial."

9 "This is the truth, wherever this Good News is preached in the entire world it will also be told what she did as a memorial to her."

10 Judas Iscariot, one of The Twelve apostles, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus into their hands.

11 When they heard about it they were glad and promised to give him money. Then Judas searched for a way to betray Jesus.

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread when they killed the Passover Lamb, His disciples said to Jesus, "Where do You want us to go and prepare so You can celebrate the Passover?"

13 He sent two of His disciples out by saying, "Go into the city and a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you there. Follow him."

14 "Whichever house he goes into say to the owner, 'Our Master said, 'Where is the guest room where I will celebrate the Passover with my disciples?'"

15 "Then he will show you a large upper room readied with furnishings. Get this room ready for us."

16 His disciples left and went into the city and found a man carrying water as Jesus told them and they readied the upper room for the Passover.

17 In the evening Jesus came together with The Twelve.

18 As they sat down and ate Jesus said, "This is true, one of you eating with me will betray me."

19 His disciples felt very sad and ask Him one by one, "Is it me, Lord?"

Then another would say, "Is it me, Lord?"

20 Jesus replied, "It will be one of The Twelve who dips his bread with me in this bowl."

21 "The Son of man is indeed going as it has been written about him. However grief will come to the one who betrays the Son of man. It would have been better for that one if he had never been born."
22 While they eating Jesus picked up some bread. He blessed it and broke it then gave it to His disciples to eat. He said, "Take this bread and eat. It is my body."
23 Then He picked up the cup and after He had given thanks He gave it to them. All the disciples drank from the cup.
24 Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the new covenant which will be shed for many people."
25 "Truly I tell you, I will not drink anymore of the fruit of the vine until the day I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
26 After they sang a song they went out to the Mount of Olives.
27 Jesus told them, "You will all turn away from me tonight. As it is written,"

'I will strike the shepherd and
the sheep will be scattered.'

28 "After I have risen I will go to Galilee before you."
29 Peter said to Him, "Even if everyone else turns away from You I will not."
30 Jesus told Peter, "Truthfully, this very night before the rooster crows twice you will deny knowing me three times."
31 Peter was even more certain when he said, "Even if I must die with You I will not deny knowing You in any manner." They all said the same thing.
32 Then they came to a place called Gethsemane and Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go to pray."
33 He took Peter, James and John with Him and He became very thoughtful and sorrowful.
34 Jesus said to them, "My soul is full of sorrow to the point of death. Wait here and watch."
35 Jesus went forward a short distance and dropped to the ground. He prayed if it was possible this time might pass Him by.
36 And he said, "Abba, Father, everything is possible with You. Please take this cup I must drink from away from me. However not my will but Your will be done."
37 Then Jesus returned to find His disciples sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, why are you sleeping? Couldn't you watch with me for one hour?"
38 "Watch and pray so you don't fall into temptation. The spirit is ready but the body is weak."
39 Then He went off and prayed the same prayer again.
40 When He came back He found them sleeping again and they didn't know what to say to Him (their eyes were very heavy.)
41 When He came the third time He said to them, "Go ahead and sleep now and rest. The hour has finally come. The Son of man has been betrayed into the hands of sinners."
42 "Get up, let's go. The one who betrays me is coming."
43 While He was still speaking Judas, one of The Twelve came along with a crowd sent by the chief priests, the scribes and the older, wiser men. They had swords and clubs with them.
44 Judas the betrayer had told the mob, "Whoever I kiss, that is Jesus, take him away quickly."
45 As soon as he came Judas went up to Jesus, kissed Him and said, "Master, my master."
46 The mob grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

47 One of Jesus disciples drew a sword and struck a servant of the high priest with it cutting off his ear.

48 Jesus said to them, "Have you come to take me with swords and clubs like I was a common thief?"

49 "Everyday I was in the temple with you teaching and you didn't take me then. But the scriptures must be fulfilled."

50 His disciples all abandoned Him and ran away.

51 Among His followers was a young man who wore a cloth around his body. The other young men grabbed him.

52 The cloth he wore was pulled from him and he ran away from them naked.

53 The mob took Jesus away to the high priest who had assembled all the chief priests, the scribes and the older, wiser men.

54 Peter followed Jesus at a distance all the way into the palace of the high priest. Peter sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

55 The chief priests and the council looked for testimony against Jesus so they could put him to death. They found none.

56 Many testified against Jesus but their testimonies disagreed with one another.

57 Some of them stood up and said,

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days I will build another made without human hands.'"

59 But their testimonies didn't agree either.

60 The high priest stood up in the center and asked Jesus, "Why don't you answer these charges? Is what these witnesses say against you true?"

61 Jesus did not reply or say a word. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of God?"

62 Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of all power and coming in the clouds of Heaven."

63 At this the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we need any other witnesses?"

64 "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned Jesus as guilty and deserving of death.

65 Some began to spit on Him and to covered His eyes and pushed Him around. They said, "Prophecy and tell us who is pushing you." The servants of the chief priest struck Him with the palms of their hands.

66 As Peter was sitting by the fire one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

67 When she saw Peter warming himself she looked at him and said, "You are one of the people who were with Jesus of Nazareth."

68 Peter denied it and said, "I don't know him and I don't understand what you are talking about." He went onto the porch and the rooster crowed.

69 The servant girl saw him again and said to the others standing by, "This is one of his follower."

70 Peter denied it again. And awhile the bystanders said to Peter, "You are one of them. We can see you are a Galilean and your accent betrays you."

71 Peter started to curse and he swore, "I don't know this man you are talking about."

72 The rooster crowed a second time and Peter remembered what Jesus said to him, 'Before the rooster crows twice you will deny knowing me three times.' After he thought about it Peter wept bitterly.

Mark 15:1-end

1 Early in the morning the chief priests held discussions with the older,

wiser men, the scribes and the Sanhedrin. They tied Jesus up and carried Him off to be delivered to Pilate.

2 Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You have spoken it."

3 The chief priests accused Jesus of many things but He didn't answer any of their charges.

4 Pilate said to Jesus, "Don't you have anything to say? Look at how many charges and witnesses they have brought against you."

5 Yet Jesus said nothing and Pilate was amazed.

6 During the Passover it was customary for Pilate to release one prisoner of the people's choosing to them.

7 There was a prisoner named Barabbas who was imprisoned with a group involved in an uprising. Barabbas had committed murder during the uprising.

8 The people came to Pilate and ask him to release someone as was his custom.

9 Pilate answered them, "Do you want me to release 'The King of the Jews' to you?"

10 Pilate knew the chief priests had delivered Jesus because they were jealous.

11 The chief priests stirred the people up to ask Pilate to release Barabbas to them.

12 Pilate said to them again, "What do you want me to do with him whom you call 'The King of the Jews?'"

13 The crowd called out, "Crucify him."

14 Pilate said to them, "Why, what has he done wrong?" The crowd cried out even louder, "Crucify him!"

15 To satisfy the crowd Pilate released Barabbas. Then he brought Jesus out and after he was beaten Pilate ordered Jesus to be taken away and crucified.

16 The soldiers led Jesus away into a hall called The Praetorium and called all of the other soldiers together.

17 They placed a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns they made was placed on His head.

18 Then they addressed and mocked Him, "Greetings to 'The King of the Jews!'"

19 They struck Him on the head with reeds and spit on Him and bowed on their knees worshipping Him as an insult.

20 After they had mocked Him they took the purple robe off, placed His own clothes on and led Him away to be crucified.

21 They made Simon a Cyrenian and father of Alexander and Rufus, who happened to be passing by, bear Jesus' cross.

22 Then they brought Him to Golgotha -- 'The Place of the Skull.'

23 They gave Him wine mixed with myrrh to drink but He did not drink.

24 As they were crucifying Him they divided His clothing by throwing lots to see what each man would get.

25 It was nine o'clock and they crucified Him.

26 Above His head they wrote what they accused Him of, 'THE KING OF THE JEWS.'

27 They crucified two thieves along with Jesus, one at His right hand and the other at His left hand.

28 In this manner the scripture was fulfilled that says,

'He was regarded as a criminal.'

29 The people who passed by Him scolded Him and shook their heads at Him. They said, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,"

30 "Save yourself. Get down off the cross."

31 The chief priests also mocked Him along with the scribes by saying, "He saved others but he can't save himself."
32 "Let 'Christ, the King of Israel' come down from the cross so we can see and believe." The thieves crucified with Him mocked Him too.
33 At noon a darkness came over the entire land and remained until three o'clock.
34 Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'
35 Some of the bystanders when they heard Jesus say this said, "Look, he's calling Elijah."
36 Someone filled a sponge with bitter drink, placed it on a reed and offered it to Him to drink. Others said, "Leave him alone. Let's see whether or not Elijah will come and take him off the cross."
37 Jesus cried out with a loud voice and gave up His Spirit.
38 At that moment the veil in the temple was torn into two pieces, from top to bottom.
39 When the centurion who stood near Jesus saw what was happening and that He cried out to God and delivered His Spirit he said, "To be sure this man was the Son of God."
40 Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, Joseph and Salome watched with other women from a distance.
41 (When He was in Galilee they followed and cared for Him.) There were also many other women who came to Jerusalem with Him.
42 When evening came it was preparation time, in other words, the day before sabbath,
43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honest member of the Sanhedrin who believed the kingdom of God was coming went into Pilate and ask for Jesus' body.
44 Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He called a centurion to ask if it was so.
45 When the centurion told Pilate it was true he ordered the body to be given to Joseph.
46 Joseph bought fine cloth, took Jesus down from the cross and wrapped Him in the cloth. He laid Jesus in a tomb cut out of solid rock. Then he had a stone rolled in front of the door to the tomb.
47 Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, saw where Jesus was laid.

Mark 16:1-end

1 When the sabbath was over Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, bought sweet spices in order to anoint Jesus' body.
2 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week they came to the tomb while the sun was rising.
3 They talked among themselves, "Who will roll the large stone away from the door of the tomb for us?"
4 When they arrived they saw the massive stone had been rolled away.
5 Upon entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side wearing long white clothes and they were very afraid.
6 He told them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen. He isn't here. Look at the place where they laid Him."
7 "Go on your way and tell His disciples and Peter He is going in advance of them into Galilee. You will see Him there just like He told them."
8 They went out quickly and ran away from the tomb. They were astonished and trembling. They didn't tell anyone about this because they were very afraid.
9 Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week. He first appeared to Mary Magdalene. He had thrown seven demons out of her.

10 She went and told His followers about it while they were weeping and mourning.

11 After she told them He was alive the disciples refused to believe her.

12 Then Jesus appeared in another form to two of them while they were walking in the countryside.

13 They went and told it to the others who still refused to believe them.

14 Later Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples as they sat down at dinner. He admonished them for their disbelief and callousness of heart because they refused to believe the ones who had seen Him after He arose.

15 Then Jesus told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to every living thing."

16 "Those who believe and are baptized will be saved. The ones who don't believe will be condemned."

17 "These signs will follow those who believe. In my name will they throw out demons. They will speak with a new tongue."

18 "They can pick up snakes and if they drink any poisonous thing it will not hurt them. They will lay hands on the sick and the sick will recover."

19 After the Lord had spoken to them He was received up into Heaven and sat at the right hand of God.

20 His disciples went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked through them and confirmed His word with the signs that followed. Amen.