

The Four Gospels, Contemporary Christian Version (CCV)

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The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Matthew

Matthew 1

1 The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judas and his brothers and sisters,

3 Judas fathered Phares and Zara of Thamar, Phares fathered Esrom, Esrom fathered Aram,

4 Aram fathered Aminadab, Aminadab fathered Naasson, Naasson fathered Salmon,

5 Salmon fathered Booz of Rachab, Booz fathered Obed of Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,

6 Jesse fathered David the king, David the king fathered Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias,

7 Solomon fathered Roboam, Roboam fathered Abia, Abia fathered Asa,

8 Asa fathered Josaphat, Josaphat fathered Joram, Joram fathered Ozias,

9 Ozias fathered Joatham, Joatham fathered Achaz, Achaz fathered Ezekias,

10 Ezekias fathered Manasses, Manasses fathered Amon, Amon fathered Josias,

11 Josias fathered Jechonias and his brothers and sisters at the time they were taken in captivity to Babylon,

12 After they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias fathered Salathiel, Salathiel fathered Zorobabel,

13 Zorobabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,

14 Azor fathered Sadoc, Sadoc fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,

15 Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,

16 Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus called the Christ.

17 The number of generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations.

From David until the captivity by Babylon there were fourteen generations.

From the Babylonian captivity until Christ was born there were fourteen generations.

18 The birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. His mother Mary going to be married to Joseph. Before the marriage was consumated it was discovered she was with child by the Holy Spirit.

19 Joseph her husband was a good man. He wasn't willing to make her a public example and thought about sending her away quietly.

20 While he was thinking about these things the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream. The angel told him, "Joseph, David's son, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The One she has conceived is from the Holy Spirit."

21 "She will give birth to a son and you will call His name JESUS for He will save His people from their sins."

22 Now all this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord said through His prophet,

23 'A virgin will be with child,
and will give birth to a son,

and they will call His name Immanuel,'
which means, 'God with us.'

24 Joseph awoke from his sleep and did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. He took Mary as his wife.

25 He did not have relations with Mary until after she had given birth to the son. And Joseph named Him JESUS.

Matthew 2:1-99

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea while Herod the king was ruler. Wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.

2 "Where is the one who is born King of the Jews?" they said. "We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard these things he was troubled. All of Jerusalem was disturbed by the reports also.

4 Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes together and asked them where the Christ was to be born.

5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea because it is written by the prophet,"

6 'Bethlehem in Judea,
you are not the least
among the tribes of Judah.
Out of you will come a Governor
who will rule my people Israel.'

7 Herod then called the wise men apart and asked them patiently when the star first appeared.

8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem saying, "Go and search thoroughly for the young child. When you find him come and tell me so I can worship him too."

9 After they finished listening to the king they left. The star they had seen moved ahead of them until it rested over the place where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star they sang with joy.

11 When they went into the house they saw the young child with Mary his mother. They fell to their knees and worshiped him. They opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 They were warned by God in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went to their own country a different way.

13 After they left the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel of the Lord said "Get up, take the young child and his mother and rush to Egypt. Stay there until I come to you again. Herod is looking for the young child to kill him."

14 Then Joseph got up, took the Jesus and Mary and left for Egypt during the night.

15 They stayed in Egypt until after Herod died. This fulfilled the prophecy of the Lord by His prophet which said,

'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

16 When Herod found out the wise men had mocked him he was very angry. He had every child under two years of age in Bethlehem and the surrounding area put to death. Two years before was when the wise men told Herod they first saw the star.

17 This fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy,

18 'In Rama voices crying bitterly
and weeping and great mourning were heard,
Rachel weeping for her children.
She would not be comforted
because they were gone.'

19 Herod died and an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
20 The angel of the Lord said, "Get up. Take the young child and his mother and
return to Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."
21 Joseph got up, took Jesus and Mary and returned to Israel.
22 Joseph heard Archelaus reigned in Judea after his father Herod and he was
afraid to go. He had been forewarned by God in a dream so he turned and went
to Galilee instead.
23 They came and lived in Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets said,

'He will be called a Nazarene.'

Matthew 3:1-99

1 In those days John the Baptist was preaching in the Judean wilderness.
2 John said, "Repent because the kingdom of Heaven is very near."
3 This is the one who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet,

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'

4 John wore clothes made of camel's hair and a leather skirt about his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey for his food.
5 The people of Jerusalem, Judea and the area around Jordan came to him,
6 John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.
7 When he saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized he said, "Oh
generation of snakes who warned you to run away from the coming destruction?"
8 "Bring the fruit that is necessary for repentance."
9 "And don't think to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I'm
telling you God is able to raise up children of Abraham from these stones."
10 "Also the ax is being applied to the root of the tree. Every tree that
doesn't bear good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown in the fire."
11 "I baptize you with water to show your repentance. The One who comes after
me is more powerful than I am. I am not worthy to carry His shoes. He will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
12 "The fan is in His hand. He will clean His barn floor thoroughly and
gather His wheat into the grainery. But He will destroy the chaff with
unquenchable fire."
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John.
14 But John refused Him and said, "I should be baptized by You and You come to
me?"
15 Jesus answered him saying, "Let it be done. It honors us to fulfill all
righteousness." Then John baptized Jesus.
16 After Jesus was baptized He left the water and the heavens opened up to
Him. The Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove and landed on Him.
17 There was a voice from Heaven which said, "This is my dear Son with whom I
am very pleased."

Matthew 4:1-99

1 Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.
2 After Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights He became hungry.
3 The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones be changed into bread."
4 But Jesus answered, "It is written,"

'Man will not live by bread alone, but
by every word that comes out of God's mouth.'

5 Then Satan took Jesus into the holy city and sat Him on a pinnacle of the temple.

6 He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God throw yourself down. It's written,"

'He will give His angels responsibility for you
and in their hands they will bear you,
so that you don't strike your foot against a stone.'

7 Jesus said to Satan, "It's also written,"

'You will not tempt the Lord your God.'

8 Satan took Jesus up to a very high mountain showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 Satan said to Him, "Everything you see I will give to you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to Satan, "Get behind me Satan. It's written,

'You will worship the Lord your God,
and Him only will you serve.'

11 Then Satan left Jesus and angels came and cared for Him.

12 When Jesus heard John had been thrown into prison He went to Galilee.

13 On leaving Nazareth He came to Capernaum and stayed there. Capernaum is on the coast near the border of Zabulon and Nephthalim.

14 In order that which Isaiah prophesied would be fulfilled,

15 'The land of Zabulon and
the land of Nephthalim,
by the way of the sea,
beyond the Jordan River,
Galilee of the Gentiles.

16 The people were in darkness
and saw a great light.
For those in the shadow of death
a light has risen.'

17 From that time forward Jesus began to preach, "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is very near."

18 Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee when He saw two brothers. One was Simon and the other was Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea because they were fishermen.

19 Jesus told them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

20 Then they dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

21 Going on from there Jesus saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee,

and John his brother in a ship with their father. They were mending the nets. He called them.

22 Immediately they left the ship and their father and followed Jesus.

23 Jesus went all around Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and preaching the Good News of the kingdom. He also healed all kinds of sickness and all types of disease found in the people.

24 Jesus' fame spread in Syria. They brought many sick people afflicted with different diseases and in pain, the demon possessed, the mentally ill and those with palsy. Jesus healed them all.

25 Great crowds of people from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan River came to Jesus.

Matthew 5:1-99

1 When He saw the crowds Jesus went up to a mountain. After He was seated His disciples came to Him.

2 Jesus spoke to them and taught them.

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to them."

4 "Blessed are those who grieve. They will be comforted."

5 "Blessed are the humble. They will inherit the earth."

6 "Blessed are the hungry and thirsty for righteousness. They will be satisfied."

7 "Blessed are those who show mercy. They will obtain mercy."

8 "Blessed are those with a pure heart. They will see God."

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers. They will be called the children of God."

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Their's is the kingdom of Heaven."

11 "Blessed are you when men hate and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you for my sake."

12 "Sing and be very glad. Your reward in heaven is great. This is how they persecuted the prophets who came before you."

13 "You are the salt of the earth. If the salt loses its saltiness what will it be salted with? Afterwards it's good for nothing other than to be thrown away and walked on by people."

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on an hill can't be hidden."

15 "People don't light a candle and put it under a basket. They put it on a candlestick so it can give light to everyone in the house."

16 "Let your light shine before men like this so they can see your good works and give your Father in Heaven the glory."

17 "I haven't come to destroy the law or the prophets. I haven't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it."

18 "Truthfully I say this, until heaven and earth pass away one dot or one line will not pass from the law till everything is fulfilled."

19 "Therefore whoever breaks one of the smallest commandments and teaches people these things will be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. Whoever keeps and teach the law will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven."

20 "Listen to me, unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees you will not enter the kingdom of Heaven at all."

21 "You have heard it said from long ago,"

'You will not kill.' And,
'Whoever kills will be
in danger of the judgment.'

22 "But I tell you this, whoever is angry with his brother without cause will be in danger of the judgment. Whoever says to his brother 'Raca' will be

in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool' will be in danger of hell fire."

23 "Accordingly, if you bring your gift to the altar and while there you remember your brother has something against you."

24 "Leave your gift at the altar and go your way. First reconcile your brother and then offer your gift."

25 "Agree with your enemy quickly while you are in the marketplace with him. This is so your adversary doesn't deliver you to the judge. The judge will give you to the officer and you will be thrown in jail."

26 "Truthfully I say to you, you will not be released from jail until you have paid the very last penny."

27 "You have heard from long ago,"

'You will not commit adultery.'

28 "But let me tell you this, whoever looks on a woman with lustful eyes has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, remove it and throw it away. It's better for you that one of your parts is destroyed so your entire body isn't thrown into hell."

30 "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It's better for you that one of your parts is destroyed so your entire body isn't thrown into hell."

31 "It's been said,"

'Let him who sends his wife away
give her divorce papers.'

32 "I say to you, whoever sends his wife away except for fornication causes his wife to commit adultery. Anyone who marries a woman divorced in this manner is committing adultery too."

33 "Again, you have heard it said from long ago,"

'You will not swear yourself to anything,
but perform your promises to the Lord.'

34 "I say, don't take an oath at all. Not by heaven because it's God's throne."

35 "And not by anything on earth because it's God's footrest. Neither by Jerusalem because it's the city of the great King."

36 "Don't swear by your own head either since you can't make one hair white or black."

37 "Instead let your words be, Yes meaning yes and No meaning no. If you use any other words than these they come from the evil one."

38 "You have heard that it has been said,"

'Render an eye for an eye,
and a tooth for a tooth.'

39 "But I say, don't render evil for evil. Instead, if someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other cheek towards them so they can strike you there too."

40 "If anyone sues you in court and wins your coat let them have your overcoat also."

41 "Whoever causes you to walk one mile go two miles with them."

42 "When someone asks something of you give it to them and don't turn away from someone who wants to borrow from you.'

43 "You have heard that it has been said,"

'You will love your neighbor
and hate your enemy.'

44 "I say, love your enemies and bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you and pray for those who abuse you and persecute you."

45 "Showing yourself to be the children of your Heavenly Father. He makes His sun rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

46 "If you love those who love you, what good have you done? Don't the tax collectors do the same thing too?"

47 "And if you only greet your relatives, what are you doing differently than anyone else? Don't the tax collectors do this too?"

48 "Do better than they do, more like your Heavenly Father who is perfect."

Matthew 6:1-99

1 "Don't give to the poor before other men to be seen by them. Otherwise your Heavenly Father will not reward you for the act."

2 "When you give to the poor don't sound a trumpet like the hypocrites do in the temple and streets to receive recognition from other people. Truthfully I say to you their only reward will be the recognition of people."

3 "Don't even allow your left hand know what your right hand is doing when you give to the poor."

4 "So your giving may be in secret. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

5 "When you pray don't be like the hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the temples and on street corners so they can be seen by other people. Truly I tell you they have their reward."

6 "When you pray go into a quiet place and after you have closed the door pray to your Father who lives in secret. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

7 "Don't use needless repetitions like unbelievers do when you pray. They think they will be heard because they talk a lot."

8 "Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him."

9 "Pray like this -- Our Heavenly Father, Holy is Your name."

10 "May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven."

11 "Please give us today our daily bread."

12 "And forgive us our sins and we forgive those who have sinned against us."

13 "Keep us from temptation and deliver us from evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

14 "If you forgive other people their trespasses against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive your trespasses against Him."

15 "If you don't forgive other people their trespasses, then your Father won't forgive your trespasses either."

16 "When you fast don't have a sad face like the hypocrites do. They disfigure their faces so they appear to be fasting. In truth I'm telling you they have their reward."

17 "When you fast comb your hair and wash your face."

18 "This way people can't tell you are fasting. Fast to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

19 "Don't store your treasures here on earth where moths and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal."
20 "Instead store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust can't destroy and where thieves can not break in or steal."
21 "Wherever your treasure is that's where your heart will be too."
22 "The window to the body is the eye. Therefore if your eye has one focus your whole body will be full of light."
23 "But if your vision has been clouded by evil, your entire body will be full of darkness. Therefore if the light in you is darkness then that darkness is very deep!"
24 "Nobody can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other or he will cling to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth at the same time."
25 "Therefore I'm telling you, don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink or what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing!"
26 "Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant, harvest or store grain in barns and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you much more valuable than they are?"
27 "Who among you can add one foot to his height?"
28 "And why do you worry about clothes? Consider the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work and they don't make cloth."
29 "But even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as well as a lily."
30 "So, if God clothes grass in the field which is here today and is thrown in the oven tomorrow won't He clothe you even better. Oh you with little faith?"
31 "Don't worry yourselves by saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we obtain clothing?'"
32 "(The Gentiles search after all these things.) Your Heavenly Father knows you need all these things."
33 "Instead seek the kingdom of God first and His righteousness and everything else will be given to you."
34 "Don't be concerned about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. There is enough evil to worry about today."

Matthew 7:1-99

1 "Don't judge others so you won't be judged."
2 "With whatever standard you judge others you will be judged. The measuring cup you use to dispense justice will be the same one that's used to dispense justice to you."
3 "Why do you worry about the speck of dust in your brother's eye, but fail to consider the large stick in your own eye?"
4 "Why do you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck of dust from your eye,' when you have a large stick in your own eye?"
5 "You hypocrite. First take the stick out of your own eye. Then you can see clearly enough to take the speck of dust out of your brother's eye."
6 "Don't give that which is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before pigs. They will trample it under their feet, turn on you and tear you apart."
7 "Ask and it will be given you. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you:"
8 "Everyone that asks receives. Those who seek find. For those who knock it will be opened."
9 "Who among you would give his son a stone when he asked for bread?"
10 "Or if he asked for a fish would you give him a snake?"
11 "If you know how to give good gifts to your children and are imperfect,

how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to His children who ask Him?"

12 "Whatever you would have people do to you do to them. This is according to the law and the prophets."

13 "Go in at the straight gate. Wide is the other gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction. Many go in by that gate."

14 "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leads to life. Very few find it."

15 "Beware of false teachers who come to you dressed like sheep. Inside they are hungry wolves."

16 "By their fruits you will know them. Do men gather grapes off thorny bushes or figs from thistle plants?"

17 "In the same way every good tree bears good fruit, but a rotted tree bears bad fruit."

18 "A good tree doesn't bear bad fruit, just like a rotted tree can't bear good fruit."

19 "Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

21 "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Only those who do the will of my Father in Heaven."

22 "In that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, haven't we prophesied in your name? Haven't we thrown out demons in your name? Haven't we performed many miracles in your name?"

23 "And then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Leave me, you who lead sinful lives.'"

24 "Whoever hears what I have said to them and does these things I would say is like a wise person who built their house on solid rock."

25 "When the rain came down it flooded and winds blew. The wind beat on the house but it did not crumble because it's foundation was a rock."

26 "Everyone who hears my sayings and doesn't do them is like a foolish person who built their house on a foundation of sand."

27 "When the rain came down it flooded and winds blew. The wind beat on the house and it fell because it was built on sand. The collapse was spectacular."

28 After Jesus ended His teachings the people were amazed at His doctrine.

29 Because He taught them like one who was given all authority to teach and not like the scribes taught.

Matthew 8:1-99

1 When Jesus came down from the mountain a large group of people followed him.

2 A leper came to Him and worshiped Him saying, "Lord, if you will you can heal me."

3 Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. He said, "I do will it. Be healed." Immediately his leprosy was healed.

4 Jesus said to the man, "Don't tell anybody what has happened here. Go about your business, show yourself to the priest and make an offering as Moses commanded for a testimony."

5 When Jesus entered Capernaum a Roman centurion came to Him begging.

6 He said, "Lord, my servant lies at home sick with palsy and is tormented terribly."

7 Jesus said to the centurion, "I will come and heal him."

8 But the centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come into my home. Only say the word and my servant will be healed."

9 "I am a man of authority and have soldiers under me. If I say to this man 'Go' he goes, to another 'Come' he comes and to my servant 'Do this' he does

it."

10 When Jesus heard this He was impressed and told the others who followed Him, "Truthfully I tell you, I haven't found anyone else in all of Israel with such great faith."

11 "Let me tell you this too, many will come from the east and west and sit with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven."

12 "However the children of the kingdom will be thrown outside into absolute darkness. They will be crying and wailing and grinding their teeth in anger."

13 Jesus said to the centurion, "Go about your business. Since you have believed it will be done for you." And his servant was healed that very hour.

14 Now when Jesus came to Peter's house He saw Peter's wife's mother lying there sick with a fever.

15 When He touched her hand the fever left her. She got up and served them.

16 When evening arrived many demon-possessed people were brought to Him. He threw the demons out by His word and He healed all the sick.

17 The prophecy Isaiah spoke was fulfilled which says,

'He took our infirmities upon Himself
and bore our sicknesses.'

18 When Jesus saw so many people around Him He gave orders to leave for the other side.

19 A scribe came to Jesus and said, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go."

20 But Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests but the Son of man doesn't have any place to lay his head."

21 One of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father."

22 But Jesus said to him, "Stay with me and let the dead bury their dead."

23 When Jesus got on board a boat His disciples followed Him.

24 Shortly a great storm came over the sea and was so violent the boat was covered with the waves. Jesus was sleeping.

25 His disciples woke Him and said, "Lord, save us, we are going to die!"

26 Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid? Oh you with little faith?"

Then He got up and scolded the winds and the sea and a great calm came over them.

27 The men were amazed and said to themselves, "What kind of man is this, even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

28 When they arrived at the other side they came into the country of the Gergesenes. Two men who were possessed by demons met Him there. They came out of the tombs and were very fierce. Nobody dared pass their way.

29 They cried out to Jesus, "What business do we have with you, Jesus, you Son of God? have you come here to torment us before the time?"

30 There was a herd of pigs feeding a distance from them.

31 The demons begged Him, "If you throw us out let us go into the herd of pigs."

32 Jesus said to them "Go." When the demons came out of the men they went into the herd of pigs and the entire herd of pigs ran rapidly down a steep embankment into the sea and died in the water.

33 Those watching the pigs ran into the city and told what had happened to the demon-possessed men and pigs.

34 Then the entire city came out to meet Jesus. When they saw Him they asked Him to leave their country.

Matthew 9

1 Jesus boarded a boat and went to the other shore of the sea to His own

town.

2 Several people brought Him a man lying on a bed who was sick with palsy. Jesus saw their faithfulness and said to the sick man, "Son, be cheerful. Your sins are forgiven."

3 But the scribes thought to themselves, "This man speaks blasphemy."

4 Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

5 "Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk?'"

6 "So you will know the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins, (then He said to the sick man,) 'Get up, pick up your bed and go home.'"

7 Then the sick man got up and left for his home.

8 When the gathering saw what happened they were amazed and they praised God, who had given such power to men.

9 As Jesus was leaving there He saw a man named Matthew. He was accepting tax monies when Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed Him.

10 Later Jesus sat down to dinner in the house many tax collectors and sinful people came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 When the Pharisees saw this they said to His disciples, "Why does your Master eat with tax collectors and sinful people?"

12 When Jesus heard them He said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, only the sick people need one."

13 "Go and study to learn what this means, I will have mercy and not sacrifice. I have come to call sinners to repentance not the righteous."

14 Then the disciples of John the Baptist came to Him asking, "Why do the we and the Pharisees fast regularly, but your disciples never fast?"

15 Jesus answered them, "Can the children of the bridal party mourn while the groom is with them? The day will come when the groom will be taken from them and then they will fast."

16 "People don't put a piece of new cloth on an old garment. The stitches which are put in the garment make holes in the old garment and the tear is worse than before."

17 "People also don't put new wine in old bottles. Then the old bottles break, the wine runs out and the bottles are destroyed. They put new wine in new bottles and both the bottles and the wine are preserved."

18 While He was saying these things to them a ruler came and worshiped Him. He said to Jesus, "My daughter has just died. If You come and lay Your hand on her she will live."

19 Jesus got up and followed him along with His disciples.

20 Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the edge of His clothing.

21 She thought to herself, "If I can just touch His clothing then I will be healed."

22 Jesus turned around and saw her. He said, "Daughter, be at peace for your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment on.

23 When Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the musicians and others making a commotion,

24 He said to them, "Give way. The young lady is not dead. She is only asleep." But they ridiculed Him.

25 After the people were told to leave Jesus went in and took her by the hand and she got up.

26 The story of what happened spread throughout the land.

27 When Jesus left there two blind men followed Him crying, "Have mercy on us Son of David."

28 When he arrived at the house, the blind men came to Him. Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes and said, "May it be to you according to your faith."
30 Suddenly they could see. Jesus instructed them by saying, "See that no one knows about this."
31 However when they left they spread word about Him throughout that country.
32 As they left someone brought Him a man unable to speak possessed by a demon.
33 When the demon had been thrown out the man spoke. The crowds were amazed and said, "We have never seen anything like this in Israel."
34 But the Pharisees said, "He throws out demons by the power of the prince of demons."
35 Jesus went around all the cities and villages, teaching in their temples, preaching the Good News of the kingdom and healing all sorts of sickness and disease in the people.
36 When He saw the crowds Jesus was moved with compassion for them. They were weak and scattered all over like sheep without a shepherd.
37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but there aren't many workers."
38 "Pray the Lord of the harvest will send more workers to bring in His harvest."

Matthew 10:1-99

1 When He called His twelve disciples to Him again, He gave them power to cast out evil spirits and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease.

2 The names of The Twelve apostles are:

Simon, called Peter,
Andrew his brother,
James and John his brother -- the sons of Zebedee,
3 Philip, Bartholomew,
Thomas, Matthew the tax collector,
James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus,
4 Simon Zelotes and
Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Him.

5 Jesus sent The Twelve out commanding them, "Don't go where the Gentiles or Samaritans are."

6 "Instead go look for the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

7 "And on your way preach, saying, 'The kingdom of Heaven is close by.'"

8 "Heal the sick, cleanse those with leprosy, raise the dead and throw out demons. Freely you have received so freely give."

9 "Don't take any gold or silver or coins in your wallets,"

10 "Also don't take any paper money on your journey or extra coat or shoes or a cane. The worker is deserves his pay."

11 "Whatever city or town you enter, ask who in town is a worthy person. Stay there until you leave that city."

12 "When you come into a household greet those who live there."

13 "If the household is worthy, allow your peace to come upon the house. If it isn't allow your peace to return to you."

14 "If someone fails to greet you or won't listen to you, when you leave that house or city shake the dust off of your feet."

15 "Truthfully I say to you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment than for that city."

16 "Listen to me, I send you out as sheep in the middle of wolves. Therefore be as wise as snakes but harmless as doves."

17 "Beware of men. They will deliver you up to the councils and beat you in their temples."
18 "You will be brought before governors and kings because of me and for a testimony against them and the Gentiles."
19 "But when they bring you before them don't give any thought about how or what you will say. What you should say will be given to you that very hour."
20 "It is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking in you."
21 "Brother will deliver his brother up to death, and the father will deliver his child up to death. Children will rise against their parents, and cause them to be put to death."
22 "All men will hate you because of my name. The one who endures until the end will be saved."
23 "When they persecute you in one city leave for another city. Truthfully I tell you, you will not have gone through all of the towns of Israel before the Son of man will come."
24 "The disciple is not above his teacher and the servant is not above his master."
25 "It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If they call the master of the house 'Prince of Demons' won't they call the members of his house even worse things?"
26 "Don't fear them. There is nothing closed up that won't be uncovered and and nothing hidden that will not be known."
27 "What I'm telling you in darkness speak in the light. What you hear whispered in your ear shout from every housetop."
28 "Don't worry about those who can kill the body and aren't able to harm the soul. Instead fear He who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell."
29 "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? and one of them does not fall to the ground without your Father allowing it."
30 "The very hairs of your head are all numbered."
31 "Don't worry then. You are more valuable than many sparrows."
32 "I will testify to my Father in Heaven about anyone who testifies about me to people here on earth."
33 "But if someone denies me to people here on earth I will also deny him before my Father in Heaven."
34 "Don't think I came to bring peace on earth. I didn't come to bring peace, I came to bring a sword."
35 "I have come to set a man against his father, the daughter against her mother and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."
36 "A man's enemies will be those in his own household."
37 "The one who loves father or mother more than me isn't worthy of me. The one who loves his son or daughter more than me also isn't worthy of me."
38 "The one who doesn't pick up his cross and follow me isn't worthy of me."
39 "The one who finds his life will lose it. The one who loses his life for my cause will find it."
40 "The one who receives you receives me and the one who receives me receives Him who sent me."
41 "The one who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. The one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward."
42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple alone, this is true, he won't lose his reward in any manner."

Matthew 11:1-99

1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples He left to teach and preach in their cities.

2 John the Baptist heard about Christ's works while he was in prison and sent two of his disciples out.

3 They said to Him, "Are you the One who is to come or should we look for someone else?"

4 Jesus answered them saying, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard."

5 "The blind regain their sight, the deaf hear again, dead people get up and walk around and the Good News is preached to the humble."

6 "And whoever is not offended by me is blessed."

7 And when they left Jesus began to teach the crowds about John the Baptist, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A blade of grass blown about by the wind?"

8 "What did you come out here to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in the kings' palaces."

9 "So, what were you expecting to see? A prophet? Yes, and I say you have seen much more than a prophet."

10 "For John is the one written about,"

'Look, I send my messenger to you to
prepare the way in front of you.'

11 "I say this in truth, Among those born of a woman there is none greater than John the Baptist. Even so, the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John."

12 "And from the time of John the Baptist until today the kingdom of heaven suffers from violence and the violent ones take it by force."

13 "All the prophets and the law prophesied until John."

14 "And if you will accept it, this is Elijah who was to come."

15 "If someone has ears to hear, let them hear."

16 "What would I compare this generation to? They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling to their playmates,"

17 "Saying, 'We played our instruments for you and you haven't danced. We sang a sad song to you and you did not cry.'"

18 "John didn't eat or drink when he came and they said, 'He has a demon.'"

19 "The Son of man ate and drank when he came and they said, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinful people.' But then wisdom is justified by her results."

20 Then Jesus began to reproach the cities where most of his miracles were performed because they hadn't changed their ways.

21 "You will be sorry, Chorazin! You will be sorry, Bethsaida! If Tyre and Sidon saw the miracles you saw they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

22 "Let me tell you this, it will be better for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you."

23 "And you, Capernaum, who was raised to Heaven, will be brought down to hell. If the miracles performed in you were done in Sodom it would still be standing today."

24 "I say to you, it will be better for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

25 Then Jesus said, "Thank you Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because you have hid these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to little ones."

26 "As it should be, Father. Because it was good in your eyes."

27 "All things are given to me by my Father. Nobody knows the Son except the Father. Neither does any person know the Father except the Son and to whoever

the Son will reveal Him."

28 "Come to me, all you who are tired and loaded down with care and I will give you rest."

29 "Get in the harness with me and learn about me. I have a gentle, humble heart and you will find rest for your souls."

30 "My harness is easy and the load I give you is light."

Matthew 12:1-99

1 On the sabbath Jesus and His disciples were hungry as they were going through the fields. They began to pick some grain and eat.

2 When the Pharisees saw this they said to Him, "Look at your disciples. It's not legal to do what they are doing on the sabbath!"

3 Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those with him became hungry."

4 "He entered the tabernacle of God and ate the showbread. This was not lawful for David or those with him to eat. The showbread may only be eaten by the priests?"

5 "Or haven't you read in the law how on the sabbath the priests in the temple violate the sabbath and yet they are innocent?"

6 "Let me tell you this, someone is here that is greater than the temple."

7 "But if you knew what this meant, 'I will have mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have blamed those with no guilt."

8 "The Son of man is Lord of the sabbath also."

9 When He left there He went into the temple.

10 There was a man whose hand was withered. So they could accuse Him the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Is it legal to heal on the sabbath?"

11 And Jesus replied, "Who among you if he had only one sheep and it fell into a hole on the sabbath would not grab it and lift it out?"

12 "How much more important then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is legal to do good on the sabbath."

13 Then Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man reached out and it was healed just like his other hand.

14 Then the Pharisees left and consulted with each other against Jesus to decide how they would destroy Him.

15 When Jesus found out about it He withdrew from there. Large crowds followed Him and He healed all of the sick.

16 He instructed them not to make Him known.

17 So the prophecy by Isaiah would be fulfilled,

18 'Look at my servant whom I have chosen.

My loved one in whom I am well pleased.

My spirit is upon Him and He will judge the nations.'

19 'He will not struggle or cry and nobody will hear His voice in the streets.'

20 'Until He sends judgment out to victory

He will not break even a bruised reed and

He will not quench even a smoldering fire.'

21 'And the Gentile nations will trust in His name.'

22 Then a blind man unable to speak and possessed by a demon was brought to Jesus. He healed him and he was able to see and talk.

23 All of the people were amazed and said, "Isn't this the son of David?"

24 When the Pharisees heard it, they said, "This man doesn't throw demons out by his own power but by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons."

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against

itself is destroyed and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."

26 "And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. Then how will his kingdom stand?"

27 "And if by Beelzebub I throw out demons in whose name do your followers throw them out? For this reason they will be your judges."

28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God the kingdom of God has come to you."

29 "For otherwise how can someone enter a strong man's house, and take his property unless he first binds the strong man? then he will ransack his house."

30 "The one who is not with me is against me and the one who doesn't gather with me spoils my harvest."

31 "Therefore I say to you, all kinds of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven anyone."

32 "Whoever says a word against the Son of man it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven in this world or the world to come."

33 "If a tree is good its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad its fruit will be bad. The tree is known for its fruit."

34 "Oh you generation of snakes, how can you evil ones speak any good things? Out of the heart the mouth speaks."

35 "A good man out of the wealth of his heart brings out good things. An evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out wicked things."

36 "Let me say this, people will be required to give an account for every idle word they say when the judgment day comes."

37 "By your own words you will be justified and by your own words you will be condemned."

38 Then the scribes and Pharisees said, "Master, give us a sign so we know who you are."

39 Jesus answered them, "A wicked and sinful generation needs a sign. No sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah the prophet."

40 "Just as Jonah was three days and nights in the whale's stomach so will the Son of man be three days and nights in the bowels of the earth."

41 "The people of Nineveh will rise with this generation at the judgement and will condemn it. They repented at the preaching of Jonah and someone greater than Jonah is here."

42 "The queen of the south will rise up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it. She came from the ends of the earth to hear Solomon's wisdom and now someone greater than Solomon is here."

43 "When a demon leaves a man he walks through dry places seeking rest and can't find any."

44 "Then he says, 'I will go back to the house where I used to live.' When he gets there he finds it empty, swept, and locked up."

45 "Then he goes and takes with him seven other demons more wicked than himself. Then they go in and live in his house. The final state of this man is worse than the first. That's the way it will be for this wicked generation."

46 While He talked to the people His mother and brothers stood outside wanting to speak with Him.

47 Then someone said to Him, "Your mother and brothers are outside and they want to talk with you."

48 Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? and who are my brothers?"

49 He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Look, my mother and my brothers!"

50 "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven those are my brothers, my

sisters and my mother."

Matthew 13:1-99

1 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat down at the seashore.

2 Such large crowds had gathered around Him that He boarded a boat and sat down while the crowd stood on shore.

3 He told them many parables. Jesus said, "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 100 times the original seed, some 60 times, some 30 times."

9 "Whoever has ears to hear let them hear."

10 His disciples came and asked, "Why do you speak in parables?"

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

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

13 "So I speak to them in parables because they see but are blind and hear but are deaf and they don't understand."

14 "The prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled by them."

'They will hear with their ears but won't understand and they will see with their eyes but won't grasp the light.

15 Their hearts have died within them.

They are hard of hearing and their eyes have grown weak.

Otherwise they would be able to see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, would believe and change and I would heal them.'

16 "Your eyes and ears are blessed for they see and hear."

17 "Truly I tell you this, prophets and holy men wanted to see what you see and hear what you have heard yet they did not see or hear these things."

18 "Therefore listen to the parable of the farmer."

19 "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."

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

21 "By themselves they have no root so they endure for a little while then they fall away whenever trials or ridicule because of the Good News comes their way."

22 "The one that received the seed in a thorny place heard the Good News but the worries of this world and the deceit of its money chokes out the young plant and it does not bear any good fruit."

23 "The one that received the seed in good ground heard the Good News and understood it. They yield good fruit, some yield 100 times, some 60 times and some 30 times."

24 Jesus told them another parable, "The kingdom of Heaven is like a man who

sowed good seed in his field."

25 "While they were asleep their enemy came into the field and scattered the seed of weeds among the good wheat and left."

26 "When the wheat sprang up and came to a head the weeds came up also."

27 "The landowner's servants said to him, 'Didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?'"

28 "'Our enemy has done this,' he said. The servants asked, 'Do you want us to go and pull the weeds out?'"

29 "The owner replied, 'No, while you are pulling up the weeds you might disturb the wheat too.'"

30 "'Let them grow together until the harvest and then I will say to the harvesters, 'First gather the weeds in bundles to burn them but place the wheat in my barn.'"

31 Then Jesus told them another parable, "The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed a man planted in his field."

32 "The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds. But when it grows up it is the largest of herbs. It becomes a tree and birds come and nest in its branches."

33 Then He told them another parable, "The kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman mixed with three measures of flour. Then the yeast was spread throughout the mix."

34 Jesus spoke all of these things to the crowd in parables. He didn't say anything to them that wasn't a parable.

35 This fulfilled the prophecy which says,

'I will speak in parables.
I will tell things
that have been secrets since
the creation of the world.'

36 Then Jesus sent the crowd away and went into the house. His disciples came to Him and said, "Tell us about the parable of the weeds in the field."

37 Jesus told them, "He that sowed the good seed is the Son of man."

38 "The field is the world and the good seeds are the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one."

39 "The enemy who sowed those weeds is Satan while the harvest is the end of the world. The harvesters are the angels."

40 "Just like the weeds were gathered and burned in the fire that's the way it will be at the end of this world."

41 "The Son of man will send His angels out and they will gather the offensive things out of his kingdom along with those who continue to sin."

42 "They will be thrown into a fiery furnace crying and grinding their teeth in anger."

43 "In that day the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

44 "Also, the kingdom of Heaven is like a valuable object buried in a field. When a person finds such a treasure they hide it again, go sell everything they have and buy the field."

45 "Then again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a store owner looking for pearls to sell."

46 "When they found a very valuable pearl they went and sold their other merchandise and bought the pearl."

47 "Also, the kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net which was thrown into the sea and caught all kinds of fish."

48 "When they pulled up the net it was full. They put the good catch in containers and threw the bad away."

49 "This is the way it will be at the end of the world. Angels will come and divide the sinful from the righteous."
50 "The angels will cast the sinful into the fiery furnace and they will be crying and grinding their teeth in anger."
51 Jesus said to them, "Do you understand everything I have told you?" The disciples said, "Yes, Lord, we understand."
52 Then He said to them, "Every scribe who comes into the kingdom of Heaven by these teachings is like a person who owns a home and has in their closets old and new things that they bring out."
53 Then when Jesus had finished telling parables He left there.
54 When Jesus came into His home country He taught in the temple. They were astonished by His teachings and wondered, "How did this man gain the kind of wisdom and miracles he has shown us?"
55 "Isn't this the son of a carpenter and Mary? Aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?"
56 "His sisters are all here with us? Then where has this man gotten all these gifts?"
57 They were offended by Him. So Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only dishonored in his own country and in his own house."
58 Jesus didn't perform many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 14:1-99

1 During that time the fame of Jesus reached Herod Antipas.
2 He said to his servants, "This must be John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead. Therefore he is able to perform miracles."
3 Herod had captured John, tied him up and imprisoned him at the request of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.
4 John had told him, "It isn't legal for you to have her."
5 Herod would have killed John but he was afraid of the crowd who said John was a prophet.
6 But while they were celebrating Herod's birthday Herodias' daughter danced for him and pleased Herod.
7 Then he swore by an oath to give her whatever she wanted.
8 The daughter was instructed by her mother and said, "Give me John the Baptist's head on a tray."
9 Herod was upset but because he swore an oath in front of witnesses he ordered it to be done.
10 John was beheaded in prison.
11 And his head was brought on a tray and given to the daughter and she gave it to her mother.
12 And John's disciples came, took the body and buried it. Then they went to tell Jesus.
13 When Jesus heard about John's death He went by boat to a desert spot a good distance away. When the people heard about it they followed Him on foot, leaving their cities.
14 Jesus went out and saw large crowds and felt compassion towards them. He healed the sick people among them.
15 When evening came His disciples said, "This is a desert and it's growing dark, send the crowds home so they can go into the towns and buy food."
16 But Jesus said to His disciples, "They don't have to go, give them something to eat."
17 They replied, "We only have five loaves of bread and two fish."
18 Jesus said, "Bring them here to me."
19 And He told the crowd to sit down on the grass. Then He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up to Heaven, blessed it, divided

it and gave the loaves of bread to His disciples. The disciples then gave the bread to the crowd.

20 They all ate and were filled. Then they gathered twelve baskets full of bread which was leftover.

21 About five thousand men in addition to all the women and children had been fed there.

22 Then Jesus told His disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side before Him while He dismissed the crowd.

23 After He dismissed the crowd He went up into a mountain alone to pray. When evening came He was there by Himself.

24 The winds blew harshly against the boat that was now in the middle of the sea. It was being thrown about by the waves.

25 Early in the morning before dawn Jesus walked on the sea to reach them.

26 When His disciples saw Him walking on the sea they were afraid and cried out in fear, "It's a spirit."

27 Jesus soon spoke to them, "Don't worry, it's me. Don't be afraid."

28 Peter called to Him, "Lord, if it's You tell me to come to You on the water."

29 Jesus replied, "Come." When Peter got out of the boat he began to walk on water to reach Jesus."

30 But when Peter saw how windy it was he became afraid and began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me."

31 Then Jesus stretched out His hand and grabbed Peter and said, "Oh you with little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 When they got into the boat the wind stopped.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Jesus. They said, "It's true, You are the Son of God."

34 When they had finished their crossing they came to the land of Gennesaret.

35 And when the people of that country learned He was there they sent word into the countryside to bring to Him all who were sick and diseased.

36 They asked just to be able to touch the edge of His clothing. Those who touched it were healed completely.

Matthew 15:1-99

1 Afterwards scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem asked Jesus,

2 "Why don't your disciples keep the tradition of the elders? for they don't wash their hands before they eat."

3 Jesus then asked them, "Why is it you also break the commandment of God by your tradition?"

4 "For God commanded, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Let the one who curses their father or mother be put to death.'"

5 "But you say, 'Whoever says their father or mother, 'What I have to give you as a gift I must give to God,'"

6 "'And then fails to honor their father or mother will be set free.' By your tradition you have overridden the commandment of God and made it meaningless."

7 "You hypocrites, Isaiah marked you well when he prophesied,"

8 'My people draw close to me with words
and honor me with their speeches
but their heart is far away from me.

9 They worship me in futility by teaching
as doctrine the commandments of men.'

10 Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, "Listen to me and understand."

11 "It isn't what goes into a persons mouth but what comes out of a persons mouth that marks them as filthy and unfit."

12 His disciples came and said to Him, "Do you know the Pharisees were offended when they heard You say this?"

13 Jesus answered, "Each plant which wasn't planted by my Father in Heaven will be pulled out by the roots."

14 "Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of a blind people. If the blind lead the blind both will fall into the pit."

15 Then Peter said, "Tell us the meaning of this parable."

16 Jesus replied, "You still don't understand?"

17 "Don't you know whatever enters the mouth goes to the stomach and then passes out of the body?"

18 "But that which comes out of the mouth as words comes from a persons heart. These words mark a person as clean or filthy."

19 "Out of the heart comes evil thought, murder, sexual immorality, thievery, lying and blasphemy against God."

20 "This is what marks a person as unclean and not dirty hands when he eats."

21 Then Jesus left for the area of Tyre and Sidon.

22 A Canaanite woman came to Him and cried out, "Have mercy on me Lord, You Son of David, my daughter is troubled by a demon."

23 Jesus didn't answer her. Then His disciples came to Him asking, "Please send her away. She follows us begging and crying."

24 Jesus answered, "I have only been sent for the lost sheep of Israel."

25 The woman returned and worshiped Him, "Lord, please help me."

26 He answered, "It isn't good to take my children's food and to throw it to the dogs."

27 The woman replied, "That's true Lord, but the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered, "Woman your faith is very great. What you have asked will be done. And her daughter was healed from that moment on."

29 Then Jesus left and came to the sea of Galilee. He went up into a mountain and was seated there.

30 And great crowds followed Him bringing with them the lame, blind, crippled, the speechless and many others. They placed the sick at Jesus' feet and He healed them.

31 When the crowd saw the speechless speak, the crippled healed, the lame walk, and the blind regain their sight they glorified the God of Israel.

32 Jesus called His disciples to Him, "I have compassion for this group of people. They have been with us three days and they haven't had anything to eat. I won't send them away hungry because they will faint on their way home."

33 His disciples said to Him, "In the middle of this wilderness how are we going to get enough bread to feed such a large crowd?"

34 Jesus said to them, "How many loaves of bread do you have?" They replied, "Seven loaves and a few small fish."

35 Jesus told the crowd to sit on the ground.

36 He took the seven loaves of bread and the fish and gave thanks. Then He divided them and gave it to His disciples. Then the disciples gave it to the multitude.

37 Everyone ate and were filled up. There was seven baskets full of leftover fish.

38 Four thousand men ate not counting the women and children who also ate.

39 Then Jesus sent the crowd away and boarded a boat and went to the shore of Magdala.

Matthew 16:1-99

1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and asked Him for a sign from heaven.

2 He answered them, "When it's evening you say, 'The sky is red, there will be good weather tomorrow.'"

3 "And in the morning you say, 'Today the weather will be bad because the sky is red and cloudy.' Oh, you hypocrites. You can read the face of the sky but you can't read the signs of the times?"

4 "An evil, perverted generation seeks a sign but you won't be given one except the sign of the prophet Jonah." Then He left them.

5 When His disciples got to the other side they realized they had no bread.

6 Jesus said to them, "Be careful you aren't affected by the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

7 They discussed this among themselves, "He says this because we forgot to bring bread."

8 When Jesus perceived what they were thinking he said, "Oh, you with little faith. Why do you think among yourselves 'It's because we forgot to bring bread?'"

9 "Don't you understand yet or remember the five loaves of bread that fed five thousand and how many baskets of leftover bread you picked up?"

10 "Or the seven loaves of bread that fed four thousand and how many baskets you picked up then?"

11 "How can you fail to understand that I wasn't speaking to you about bread when I said you should avoid the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?"

12 Then they grasped the truth of how He was not talking about the yeast in bread but about the doctrines and teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

13 When Jesus came to the border of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of man is?"

14 They responded, "Some say you are John the Baptist and some say Elijah while others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 Then Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered him, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, only my Father in Heaven."

18 "Let me also tell you this, You are Cephas the stone and upon the Rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will never prevail against it."

19 "I will give to all of you the keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

Whatever you will bind on earth will be bound in Heaven.

Whatever you will release on earth will be released in Heaven."

20 Then He charged His disciples that they should not tell anyone that He was Jesus the Christ.

21 From then on Jesus started to show His disciples the plan. How He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes. How He would be killed and raised again the third day.

22 Peter took Jesus aside and started to lecture Him.

"This will never happen to you Lord."

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me Satan, you are an offense to me. You don't love the things of God but the things of man."

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let them sacrifice everything and pick up their cross and follow me."

25 "The one who would save their life will lose it and the one who loses their life for my cause will find it."

26 "What good has it done a person if they get the entire world and lose their very own soul? what would a person be willing to give in trade for their soul?"

27 "The Son of man will come with angels in His Father's glory. Then He will reward everyone according to how they have lived."

28 "Truthfully I say to you, there are some standing here that won't taste death before they behold the Son of man coming in His kingdom."

Matthew 17:1-99

1 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother up to a high mountain away from everyone else.

2 Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shined like the sun, and His clothing was as white as the light.

3 Moses and Elijah appeared to the disciples and talked with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we are here. If You will allow us, we will build three tabernacles here. One for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While Peter was still speaking a bright cloud passed above them. A voice in the cloud said, "This is my dear Son whom I love and am very pleased with. Listen to Him."

6 When the disciples heard the voice they fell on the ground and were very afraid.

7 Jesus came and touched them. He said, "Get up, and don't be afraid."

8 When they looked up they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they came down from the mountain, Jesus told them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of man has risen from the dead."

10 His disciples asked Him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus answered, "Elijah really will come first and restore everything."

12 "But I tell you this, Elijah already has come and they didn't know him.

They did to him whatever they wanted. In the same manner the Son of man is going to suffer by their hands."

13 Then the disciples understood He spoke to them about John the Baptist.

14 When they reached the crowd a man came and knelt to Jesus. He said,

15 "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has epilepsy and is very troubled. Very often he falls into the fire and many times into the water."

16 "I brought him to Your disciples and they couldn't cure him."

17 Jesus cried out, "Oh faithless and perverted people, how long will I be with you? how long will I put up with you? bring him here to me."

18 Jesus cast out the demon and the child was cured from that very moment.

19 Then the disciples took Jesus aside and asked Him, "Why couldn't we cast the demon out?"

20 Jesus said to them, "Because you didn't have faith. Truly, If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed you will say to a mountain, 'Leave here and go there,' the mountain will move and nothing will be impossible for you."

21 "This type can only be cast out by prayer and fasting."

22 While they stayed in Galilee Jesus told them, "The Son of man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."

23 "They will kill him and the third day he will be raised again." The disciples were extremely sad.

24 When they came to Capernaum the ones who collect tribute money for the temple came to Peter. They asked him, "Doesn't your master pay the temple tribute?"

25 He said, "Yes, He does." When he came into the house, Jesus stopped him and said, "What do you think, Simon? who do the rulers of earth collect taxes and tribute money? from their own children or strangers children?"

26 Peter said to Jesus, "From strangers children." Jesus said to him, "Are the children free then?"

27 "So we don't offend them, go to the sea and throw a line in. Open the mouth of the first fish that you catch and you'll find a coin. Take the coin and give it to them for you and me."

Matthew 18:1-99

1 The disciples then asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?"

2 Jesus called a little child to Himself and set the child in the middle of them.

3 He said, "I tell you the truth, Unless you are changed and become like little children you won't enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

4 "Whoever will become as humble as this little child, that one is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven."

5 "Whoever receives a little child like this in my name receives me."

6 "Whoever harms one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for them to hang a millstone around their neck so they could drown in the sea."

7 "Grief to the world for its wrongs! for wrongs will come, but grief to the person by whom wrongs came!"

8 "If your hand or foot cause you to do wrong, cut it off and throw them away. It's better for you to walk into life crippled than to have two hands and two feet to be thrown into a neverending fire."

9 "If your eye causes you to do wrong then remove it and throw it away. It's better for you to walk into life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into a neverending fire."

10 "Be careful you don't despise one of these little ones. I'm telling you that their angels are always in full view of my Father in Heaven."

11 "The Son of man has come to save that which was lost."

12 "What do you think? if a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes down the wrong path, won't he leave the ninety-nine and go into the mountains to look for the one that lost its way?"

13 "And when he finds it, I'm telling you he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that didn't lose their way."

14 "It's your Heavenly Father's will that not one of these little ones perish."

15 "If your brother sins against you discuss it between you and him only. If he listens to you, you have found your brother."

16 "If he won't listen take with you one or two others so that two or three witnesses can remember every word that is said."

17 "If he still won't listen tell it to the entire church and if he doesn't listen to the church consider him a heathen and sinner."

18 "Truly I tell you, Whatever you will bind on earth will be bound in Heaven and whatever you will release on earth will be released in Heaven."

19 "Let me repeat to you, If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for my Father in Heaven will do it for you."

20 "Wherever two or more have come together in my name I am there with them."

21 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, how often can my brother sin against me and have me forgive him? seven times?"

22 Jesus said to Peter, "Not seven times but I tell you seventy times seven."

23 "The kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who wanted to know what his servants owed him."

24 "When he began to calculate one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents."

25 "He didn't have the money to pay his debt. So the king ordered him to be sold along with his wife, his children and all he owned so the payment could

be collected."

26 "The servant fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, be patient with me and I will pay you everything I owe you."

27 "The king was compassionate and released him and forgave the debt."

28 "Then the same servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him a little money. He grabbed and choked him and said, 'Pay me what you owe me.'"

29 "The other servant kneeled down and begged him, 'Be patient with me and I will pay you everything I owe you.'"

30 "He wasn't patient. Instead he had the other servant thrown into prison until the debt could be paid."

31 "When the other servants saw what happened they were troubled and told the king what happened."

32 "Then the king when he had called the first servant said, "Oh, evil servant, I forgave your large debt since you asked me."

33 "Shouldn't you have had compassion on your friend just like I was compassionate to you?"

34 "The king was very angry and sent him to prison until he could pay his entire debt."

35 "This is what my Father in Heaven will do to you if you don't genuinely forgive your brother for every sin he has ever committed against you."

Matthew 19:1-99

1 When Jesus finished these teachings He left Galilee and came to the border of Judea beyond the Jordan.

2 Large crowds followed Him and He healed the sick in that place.

3 Pharisees also came to Him and tried Him saying, "Is it legal for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?"

4 Jesus answered them, "Haven't you read the One who made them in the beginning made them male and female."

5 "And said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will cling to his wife and the two will be one?'"

6 "Then they are no longer two but only one. Therefore what God has joined together man is not to divide."

7 The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Then why did Moses tell us to give a divorce decree and to send her away?"

8 Jesus said to them, "Because of your hard heartedness Moses allowed you to send your wives away. In the beginning it wasn't that way."

9 "Also, Whoever sends his wife away except due to sexual immorality and marries someone else commits adultery. Whoever marries the wife who was sent away commits adultery too."

10 His disciples said to him, "If this is the case between husband and wife, perhaps it's better not to marry."

11 He said to them, "Not all people can accept this teaching only those who who have been given such a calling."

12 "Some eunuchs were like this from birth. Some eunuchs were made eunuchs by other men. And there are some who have made themselves eunuchs for the cause of the kingdom of Heaven. If anyone is able to accept this teaching, let them accept it."

13 Then little children were brought to Him so He could touch them and pray for them. The disciples scolded those who brought the children.

14 But Jesus told them, "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 Then He blessed the little children and prayed for them. Then He left that place.

16 Someone came to him and said, "Good Master, what do I need to do to gain eternal life?"

17 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? there is not one good except God. If you would enter into eternal life keep the commandments."

18 He said to Jesus, "Which ones should I keep?" Jesus said, "You will not murder, You will not commit sexual immorality, You will not steal, You will not testify falsely against another,"

19 "Honor your father and mother, Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

20 The young man said to Jesus, "I've done all these things since I was a child. What else do I need to do?"

21 Jesus said, "If you want to be blameless go, sell everything you have, give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

22 When the young man heard this teaching he went away very sad because he was very wealthy.

23 Jesus then told his disciples, "Truthfully I say, It will be difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven."

24 "Let me say it this way, It's easier for a camel to go through city door than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

25 When His disciples heard this they were greatly distressed. "Then who can be saved?" they asked Him.

26 Jesus looked at them and said, "It's impossible for men, but all things are possible with God."

27 Peter said to Him, "We have given up everything to follow You. What will we receive?"

28 Jesus said to them, "Truthfully I say this to you who have followed me, when the Son of man sits on His throne of glory, you will also sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel."

29 "Everyone who has given up houses and brothers and sister and father and mother and wife and children and land for my cause will inherit the same a hundred times over along with eternal life."

30 "The first will be last and the last will be first."

im to prison until he could pay his entire debt."

35 "This is what my Father in Heaven will do to you if you don't genuinely forgive your brother for every sin he has ever committed against you."

Matthew 20:1-99

1 "The kingdom of heaven is like a homeowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his grapevines."

2 "When he reached an agreement with the workers for a dollar a day, he told them to go into the grape arbors."

3 "About nine o'clock he went to the market and saw other men standing there with nothing to do."

4 "He told them, 'You go into my grape arbors also and whatever is right I'll give you.' Then they left for the grape arbors."

5 "He went into the market about noon and three o'clock in the afternoon and did the same thing."

6 "At about five o'clock he found some others standing with nothing to do, and said to them, "Why did you stand here all day not doing anything?"

7 "They replied, 'Because nobody hired us.' Then he said, 'You go into my grape arbors also and whatever is right I'll pay you.'"

8 "When evening came the homeowner said to his gardener, 'Call the workers and pay them starting with the last and going to the first.'"

9 "The workers who were hired at five o'clock came and their pay was one

dollar."

10 "When the first workers hired came they thought they would get more, but they were paid a dollar also."

11 "When they got their pay they grumbled about the owner of the house."

12 "They said, 'The last ones hired worked only one hour and you gave them the same thing we were paid. We worked all day when it was very hot.'"

13 "The homeowner answered, 'I didn't do you any wrong friend. Didn't you agree to work for a dollar a day.'"

14 "'Take what we agreed to and go. I will give the same pay to the last one hired.'"

15 "'Can't I do what I want to with my property? Or are you jealous because I was good to someone else.'"

16 "Therefore, the last will be first and the first last. Many will be called, but few will be chosen."

17 Jesus went to Jerusalem and took The Twelve disciples aside along the way and said,

18 "We are coming to Jerusalem. The Son of man will be betrayed into the hands of the chief priests and the scribes. He will be condemned to death by them."

19 "They will deliver him to the Gentiles who will mock and beat and crucify him. On the third day he will rise again."

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came and worshiped Him and ask Him to do her a favor.

21 Jesus said to her, "What do you need?" She said to Him, "Grant me the favor of allowing my two sons to sit at Your right and left hands in Your kingdom."

22 Jesus answered, "You don't understand what you are asking me to do. Can they drink from the same bitter cup I'm going to drink? Will they undergo the same baptism I'm going to be baptized with?" The sons said to Him, "We can do these things."

23 Jesus said to them, "You will drink from my cup and undergo my baptism. However, to sit at my right and left hand isn't mine to give. That honor will be given to those who have been made ready by my Father."

24 When the other ten disciples heard this they were indignant about the other two brothers.

25 But Jesus called and told them, "You know the Gentile princes rule over them and the greatest exercise authority over them."

26 "But it will not be the same way among you. Whoever wants to be great among you let him take care of the others."

27 "Whoever would be the highest of you let him be a servant to the others."

28 "Just as the Son of man didn't come to be cared for but to care for others and to give his life so many might live."

29 As they left Jericho a large crowd followed Jesus.

30 When two blind men sitting by the side of the road heard Jesus was passing and cried out, "Oh Lord, Son of David, show us mercy."

31 The crowd scolded them because they should have kept quiet. But they cried even more and said, "Oh Lord, Son of David, show us mercy."

32 Jesus stopped and called them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

33 They said, "Lord, please give us our sight."

34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their vision and then they followed him.

Matthew 21:1-99

1 When they came close to Jerusalem and were on the Mount of Olives at Bethpage sent Jesus two disciples out.

2 He told them, "Go into the village over there and you will find a donkey and a colt tied there. Untie them and bring them to me."

3 "If anyone says anything to you tell them, 'The Lord needs them and immediately he will send them with you.'"

4 This was done so the prophecy would be fulfilled that says,

5 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your King comes to you meekly, riding on a donkey with a colt the foal of a donkey.'

6 The disciples went and did what Jesus ordered them to do.

7 They brought the donkey and her colt and placed their clothing over them and sat Jesus on the donkey.

8 A very large crowd placed their clothing on the road while others cut down tree branches and laid them on the road.

9 The multitudes that went in front and those who followed cried out, saying, "Hosanna, Save Us! Son of David. He is blessed who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna to the highest."

10 When Jesus arrived at Jerusalem the entire city was in an uproar and were saying, "Who is this man?"

11 The following said, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the prophet of Galilee."

12 Jesus went into the temple and threw out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the bankers tables and the seats of those who were selling doves.

13 Then He said to them, "It's written, 'My house will be called the House of Prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves."

14 Blind and crippled people came to Him in the temple and He healed them.

15 When the chief priests and scribes saw the miracles He performed and heard the children saying, 'Hosanna Son of David!' they were very unhappy.

16 They said to Him, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" And Jesus replied, "Haven't you ever read, 'Out of the mouths of babies and nursing infants you have ordered praise?'"

17 Jesus left Jerusalem and went to Bethany and slept there.

18 In the morning as he was returning to Jerusalem He was hungry.

19 He saw a fig tree along the way and went up to it. There was no fruit on the tree, only leaves. Jesus said to the fig tree, "May you never bear fruit again." And the fig tree withered and died.

20 When the disciples saw this they were amazed. "How quickly the fig tree died!" they remarked.

21 Jesus said to them, "I speak the truth. If you have faith and don't doubt you won't only do what has been done to the fig tree. But if you say to a mountain, 'Leave here and throw yourself into the sea,' it will happen."

22 "Everything you ask for in faith and prayer will be given to you."

23 When He went into the temple the chief priests and older, wiser men came to Him while He was teaching and demanded, "By what authority do you do these things? and who gave you this authority?"

24 Jesus responded, "Let me ask you a question. If you answer me I will tell you the same way by what authority I do these things."

25 "John's baptism, where did it come from? from heaven or from men?" They discussed it among themselves. "If we say 'From heaven,' he will ask us, 'Why didn't you believe him then?'"

26 "But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the people because they all say John was a prophet."

27 Then they answered Jesus, "We can't tell." And Jesus said to them, "And I'm not telling you by what authority I do these things."

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons and he said to the first son, 'Go work today in my grapevines.'"

29 He said to his father, 'No, I'm not going.' Later he felt sorry and went to

work on the grapevines."

30 "His father went to the second and told him the same thing. The second son said, 'I'm going sir,' and then he didn't go."

31 "Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "In like manner tax collectors and prostitutes will be in the kingdom of God before you are."

32 "John came telling you about righteousness and you wouldn't believe him. And even though you saw these things you didn't repent and believe him."

33 "I'll tell you another parable. There was a homeowner who planted grape arbors. He built fences around them with a press and tower and rented it to others to care for while he went to a foreign country."

34 "When harvest time came he sent his servants to the caretakers to get his portion of the grapes."

35 "The caretakers grabbed his servants. They beat one, killed another and stoned the third servant."

36 "The homeowner then sent more servants than he did the first time and the caretakers did the same thing to these servants."

37 "The third time he sent his son thinking, 'They will respect my son.'"

38 "But when the caretakers saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the owner's heir. Let's kill him and take his inheritance.'"

39 "Then they captured him, took him out of the grape arbor and killed him."

40 "When the lord of the house comes what do you think he will do to these caretakers?"

41 They answered Jesus, "He will destroy those evil men and give his grape arbors to other caretakers who will bring him fruit at harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in Scripture, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's working and it's marvelous to see?'"

43 "So I tell you this, The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to others who will produce for the kingdom."

44 "Whoever trips on this stone will be broken. But whoever it falls on will be ground into powder."

45 When the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables they understood He meant them.

46 They would have held Him but they were afraid of the crowd who thought Jesus was a prophet.

Matthew 22:1-99

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables,

2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding celebration for his son,"

3 "He sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding, but they wouldn't come."

4 "He sent other servants out and said, 'Tell those who are invited to the wedding that I have prepared a dinner. My ox and cattle have been prepared and everything is ready. Come to the wedding.'"

5 "But they made fun of him and went their own ways. One went to care for his farm while another went to take care of his store."

6 "And the rest took his servants and treated them badly and killed them."

7 "When the king heard of this he was extremely angry and sent his armies out and they destroyed both the murderers and their city."

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready but the guests were not prepared.'"

9 "Go out in the street and as many as you find invite them to the wedding."

10 "The servants went out in the street and brought back as many as they

could find, bad and good and the wedding had many guests."

11 "When the king came and saw the guests he saw a man who didn't have wedding clothes on."

12 "The king said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless."

13 "The king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet, take him away and throw him outside where it's dark.' They will be crying and grinding their teeth in anger."

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

15 Then the Pharisees talked between themselves about how they might trip Jesus in His teachings.

16 They sent their followers and Herod's followers out to Jesus.

They said, "Teacher we know you teach the truth and God's way. Also, you are don't have any favorites because you don't consider the position of a man."

17 "So tell us, What do you think? Is it proper to pay the tax to Caesar?"

18 Jesus perceived what they were trying to do and said, "Why do you try me, you hypocrites?"

19 "Show me the tax money." And they brought Him a coin.

20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is on this coin?"

21 Then the Pharisee's followers said to Him, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

22 When they heard what Jesus had to say they were amazed. They left him and went on their way.

23 Later that same day the Sadducees, who believe there is no resurrection, came to Jesus asking,

24 "Master, Moses said, 'If a man dies and has no children his brother should marry his brother's wife and by her have children for his brother.'"

25 "We have with us seven brothers. The first married and died and since he had no children he left his wife to his brother."

26 "The same thing happened to the second and the third all the way to the seventh."

27 "And at the end the woman died too."

28 "When the resurrection comes whose wife out of the seven will she be? She had been married to each of the seven?"

29 Jesus answered by saying, "By not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God you are wrong in your thinking."

30 "When the resurrection comes no one will marry and they won't be given in marriage. They will be like the angels of God in Heaven."

31 "As far the resurrection of the dead is concerned, haven't you read what God said to you,"

32 "'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living.'"

33 When the crowd heard this they were amazed at His teachings.

34 When the Pharisees heard He had silenced the Sadducees they got together.

35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question trying to trap Him.

36 "Master, under the law which commandment is the greatest?"

37 Jesus said to him, "You will love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul and mind."

38 "This is the first commandment and the greatest."

39 "And the second one is similar, "You will love your neighbor as much as you love yourself."

40 "All law and prophecy depends on these two commandments."

41 While the Pharisees were together, Jesus asked them,

42 "What do you think of the Christ? whose son is he?" They said to him, "The Son of David."

43 Jesus said to them, "Then how does David speaking in the Spirit call him Lord when he says,"
44 "The LORD God said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footrest?'"
45 "If David called him Lord how can he be his son?"
46 Nobody was able to answer Him and neither did anyone dare ask Him any other questions from that day on.

Matthew 23:1-99

1 Then Jesus spoke to His disciples and the crowd.
2 He said, "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' place."
3 "Therefore do whatever they ask you to do. But don't live like they do. For they say obey and then don't obey themselves."
4 "They place heavy loads, too heavy to bear, on people's shoulders but won't lift a finger to remove the burden."
5 "Everything they do is to be seen by other people. They make their prayer boxes large and the hem of their temple robes wide."
6 "At banquets they seek out the highest rooms and the best seats in the synagogues."
7 "They like to be greeted at the market and to be called 'Master Teacher' by other people."
8 "Don't let anyone call you Rabbi. For you have one Master and he is the Christ. All of you are equally brothers."
9 "Don't call anyone on earth father. You only have one Father and He is in Heaven."
10 "Also don't let anyone call you Master. You have only one Master and he is Christ."
11 "The one who would be greatest of you will be your servant."
12 "Whoever lifts themselves up will be brought down. Those who humble themselves will be lifted up."

The Seven Grievances Against the Scribes and Pharisees

13 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You have closed up the kingdom of Heaven against people. You aren't going in yourselves and you prevent those who are going in from entering."
14 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You take the houses of women who have lost their husbands and pray long prayers to show how religious you are. You will receive greater condemnation because of these things."
15 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over sea and land to make one convert and when you convert him you make him twice the child of hell that you are."
16 "Grief to you blind guides who say, 'It doesn't mean anything if someone swears by the temple, but if someone swears by the gold of the temple he must do it!'"
17 "You fools and blind men, which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?"
18 "You also say, 'It is nothing if someone swears by an altar. But whoever swears by the gift that is on it will be held accountable.'"
19 "You fools and blind men, which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?"
20 "Whoever swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it."
21 "Whoever swears by the temple, swears by it and by the One who lives in the temple."
22 "And whoever swears by Heaven, swears by the throne of God and He who sits on the throne."

23 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! you pay a percentage of what you earn to the temple, even for your spices of mint, anise and cummin. But you forgot the important things of the law. These are fair judgement, having mercy and being faithful. These are the things you should have done as well as tithing."

24 "You blind guides strain your food to find a flea then you swallow a camel."

25 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! you clean the outside of the cup and saucer while they are filled with things you accumulated by greed and dishonesty."

26 "You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and saucer and then the outside will be clean too."

27 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! you are like whitewashed tombs, beautiful outside but full of dead people's bones and all kinds of dirty things inside."

28 "On the outside you look holy to other people but inside you are filled with deceit and sinfulness."

29 "Grief to the scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! you build tombs for the prophets and adorn the gravesites of those who lived holy lives."

30 "You say, 'If we had been alive when our fathers lived we wouldn't have helped them kill the prophets.'"

31 "You testify against yourselves that you are the children of those who killed the prophets."

32 "You will finish filling the cup your fathers began to fill."

33 "You snakes, you are a generation of vipers. How can you escape condemnation to hell?"

34 "I send prophets, wise men and scribes to you. You will kill some of them and crucify others. You will beat some in your temples and chase them from town to town."

35 "So that the blood of all the innocents spilled on earth will be on you. From the innocent blood of Abel to the innocent blood of Berekiah's son Zechariah who you murdered between the temple and the altar."

36 "I tell you the truth, all of these things will come to this generation."

37 "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that killed the prophets and have stoned those who were sent to you. How many times I would have gathered your children together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings and you wouldn't come!"

38 "Look at your house, it has been abandoned."

39 "I tell you this, you won't see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Matthew 24:1-99

1 Then Jesus left the temple. His disciples came to Him to discuss the temple buildings.

2 Jesus said to them, "Don't you see all these things? I'm telling you the truth, Not one stone will be left on top of another that won't be thrown to the ground."

3 While He was seated in the Mount of Olives the disciples questioned Him privately. They said, "Tell us when all of these things will happen? What will be the sign that You are coming and of the end of the world?"

4 Jesus answered by saying, "Be careful that no one deceives you."

5 "Many will come using my name and say, 'I am Christ.' They will deceive many people."

6 "You will hear about wars and rumors of wars. Don't worry. All of these things must happen, but the end of the world won't be here yet."

7 "Nation will war against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will

no food, disease and earthquakes in many different places."
8 "All of this signals the beginning of troubles."
9 "They will imprison you and wound you and kill you. Every nation will hate you because you follow me and my way."
10 "Many will lose faith and betray and hate each other."
11 "False prophets will come and deceive many people."
12 "Since sinfulness will be everywhere love for God will die."
13 "The one who endures to the end will be saved."
14 "The Good News of the kingdom will be preached to the entire world as a witness against the nations and then the end will come."
15 "When you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place as Daniel prophesied (may the reader understand),"
16 "Then those who are in Judea run to the mountains."
17 "If someone is outside their house they shouldn't go back to get anything."
18 "The ones working in the field shouldn't go back to get their clothes either."
19 "It will be pitiful for those who are pregnant or nursing babies in those days!"
20 "Pray that you don't have to run in wintertime or on the sabbath."
21 "At that time there will be terrible troubles like the world has not seen from Creation until now and will never see again."
22 "If those days weren't shortened nobody would survive but for the sake of the chosen people those days will be shortened."
23 "If anyone tells you, 'Look, here is Christ,' or 'There is Christ,' don't believe them."
24 "Many false Christs and false prophets will come and do amazing things, so much so, that if it was possible they would almost fool the chosen ones."
25 "Look, I am telling you before the time comes."
26 "Therefore if they tell you, 'Christ is in the desert,' don't go. Or if they say 'He is in a secret place,' don't believe them."
27 "The Son of man will come like lightning from the east and shine as far as the west."
28 "Wherever the body is vultures will gather around it."
29 "The sun will be darkened immediately after the trials of those days, the moon will not glow, stars will fall from Heaven and other powers will be shaken."
30 "Then the Son of man's signal will appear in Heaven. All of the people of earth will cry out. And they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with all power and glory."
31 "He will send his angels out with a blast of a trumpet and they will gather his chosen ones from every corner of the universe."
32 "Learn this parable about a fig tree. When its branch is tender and it grows new leaves you know summer is close by."
33 "In the same way, when you see all these things happening you will know the time has come, it's just outside the gate."
34 "I'm telling you the truth. This generation will not pass away before all these things will happen."
35 "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never die."
36 "No one except my Father knows the time appointed for these things to happen."
37 "As it was in Noah's time so it will be when the Son of man comes."
38 "In the days before the flood everyone was eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until Noah entered the ark."
39 "They didn't know what was coming until the flood came and washed them all

away. This is the way the coming of the Son of man will be."

40 "On that day there will be two working in the field. One will be taken and the other will be left."

41 "Two women will be grinding flour. One will be taken and the other will be left."

42 "Therefore be vigilant. Because you don't know which hour your Lord will return."

43 "If the man of the house knew when the thief was coming he would have stayed awake so his possessions wouldn't have been stolen."

44 "So be ready. When you think he isn't coming back the Son of man will return."

45 "The master of the house has appointed supervisors over his house because they were faithful and wise servants. They feed the others at the appropriate time."

46 "The servant is blessed who is doing his lord's will when he comes."

47 "To be sure he will make him supervisor over everything he owns."

48 "If an evil servant says to himself, 'My lord won't be back for awhile,'"

49 "And begins to strike the servants in his charge and eat and drink with the drunkards,"

50 "The lord of this evil servant will come at a time when the servant isn't looking for him. In the hour he doesn't expect him,"

51 "He will cut the servant into pieces and send him to his reward with the hypocrites. Then there will be crying and grinding of teeth in anger."

Matthew 25:1-99

1 "In that day the kingdom of Heaven will be like ten maidens who took their lanterns and went out to meet the groom."

2 "Five were wise and five were foolish."

3 "The foolish ones took their lamps but forgot the oil."

4 "But the wise ones took oil in containers with them."

5 "The groom did not come immediately so they grew tired and slept."

6 "At midnight someone cried out, 'Wake up, the groom is coming. Go out and meet him.'"

7 "Then all the maidens rose and got their lanterns ready."

8 "The foolish ones said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, our lanterns have gone out.'"

9 "The wise ones answered, 'No. There isn't enough for all of us. Go to the oil merchant and buy some oil for yourselves.'"

10 "While the foolish maidens went to buy oil the groom came. The wise ones who were ready went into the wedding celebration with him and the door was closed."

11 "The foolish maidens came back and said, 'Lord, Lord, please open the door.'"

12 "But the Lord answered, 'I'm sorry, I don't know who you are.'"

13 "Therefore watch because you don't know the day or the hour that the Son of man will return."

14 "The kingdom of Heaven is like someone who went to a foreign country. He called his servants and they delivered his belongings to him."

15 "He gave one of them five talents, to the second he gave two talents and to the third he gave one talent. He gave everyone according to their abilities. Then he left on his trip."

16 "The one who had received five talents traded with others and gained five more talents."

17 "The one who received two also gained two others."

18 "The one who only received one talent dug a hole and buried his masters

money."

19 "After awhile the servant's master returned to settle accounts with them."

20 "The one who had received five talents brought five other talents and said, 'Lord, you gave me five talents and look, I have gained five other talents.'"

21 "His master said to him, 'You did well my faithful servant. You have been faithful with the few things I gave you. I will give you responsibility for many things. Come, celebrate with me.'"

22 "The one who had received two talents brought two other talents and said, 'Lord, you gave me two talents and look, I have gained two other talents.'"

23 "His master said to him, 'You did well my faithful servant. You have been faithful with the few things I gave you. I will give you responsibility for many things. Come, celebrate with me.'"

24 "Then the one who had received one talent came to him. He said, 'Lord, I know you as a harsh person, harvesting where you haven't thrown seed and gathering grain where you haven't cut down the stalks of wheat.'"

25 "'I was afraid and I buried the talent you gave me in the earth so it would still be here when you came back.'"

26 "His master said, 'You wicked, lazy servant. You knew I harvest where I didn't sow seed and gather grain where I haven't cut.'"

27 "'You should have at least put my money with the bankers and when I came back I would have my own with interest.'"

28 "'Therefore take the one talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.'"

29 "Everyone who has some more will be given and given abundantly. But from the one who has nothing everything will be taken away."

30 "'Throw the lazy servant outside into the darkness.' There will be crying and grinding of teeth in anger."

31 "When the Son of man returns in his glory with the angels he will sit on a throne of glory."

32 "All nations will be gathered before him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats."

33 "His sheep will be placed at his right hand, but the goats will be placed on his left."

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Blessed of my Father, come and take your inheritance of the kingdom that was yours from the creation of the world.'"

35 "'I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me water. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"

36 "'I was naked and you put clothes on me. I was sick and you stayed with me. I was in prison and you visited me.'"

37 "Then the righteous will ask him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? or thirsty and gave you water?'"

38 "When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you? or naked and placed clothes on you?'"

39 "'Or when did we see you sick, or in prison and visited you?'"

40 "The King will answer, 'Truthfully, when you have done this to the least of these my children you have done it to me.'"

41 "To those on his left hand he will say, 'Leave me, you evil ones. Go into the eternal fire prepared for Satan and his followers.'"

42 "'I was hungry and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty and you gave me no water. I was a stranger and you kept me out.'"

43 "'I was naked and you didn't give me any clothes. I was sick and in prison and you didn't visit me.'"

44 "They too will answer him by saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry thirsty, as a stranger, naked, sick or in prison and failed to take care of you?'"

45 "The King will answer, 'Truthfully, when you failed to do this to the least of these my children you failed to do it to me.'"

46 "These ones will be sent away into eternal condemnation while the righteous are sent into eternal life."

Matthew 26:1-99

1 After awhile when Jesus finished these teachings He told His disciples,
2 "You know that in two days the Passover Feast will be held and the Son of man will be betrayed and crucified."

3 The chief priest, the scribes and the older, wiser men held a meeting at the high priest Caiaphas' palace.

4 They plotted to capture Jesus by a deception and kill Him.

5 But they said, "It can't be done on the day of the Passover Feast or the people will raise a commotion."

6 Meanwhile Jesus was in Bethany at the Simon the leper's home.

7 A woman came to Him holding an white stone vase of expensive oils. She poured it on His head while He was seated at dinner.

8 When His disciples saw this they were upset and said, "Why did she waste this expensive oil?"

9 "It could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor."

10 When Jesus heard what they were saying he said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? She was doing a good deed to me."

11 "The poor are always with you. But I won't be here much longer."

12 "She poured these oils on my body to prepare me for my burial."

13 "I'm telling you the truth, Wherever this Good News is preached the world over the story of what this woman did will be told as a memorial to her."

14 Then Judas Iscariot, one of The Twelve disciples, went to the chief priest.

15 He said to them, "What will you give me for delivering him to you?"

They agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver.

16 From then on Judas watched for the chance to betray Jesus.

17 On the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do You want us to prepare the Passover Feast for You?"

18 Jesus answered, "Go into the city to a man and say, 'The Master says, 'My time has come. I will keep Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

19 The disciples did as Jesus told them to and got the Passover meal ready."

20 When evening came Jesus sat down with The Twelve disciples.

21 As they were eating He said, "This is true, one of you is going to betray me."

22 The disciples were very sad and each of them began to ask, "Is it me Lord?"

23 Jesus told them, "The one who dips his food with me in the bowl is the one who will betray me."

24 "The Son of man will go as it was prophesied about him. But grief to the man who betrays the Son of man! It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

25 Then Judas his betrayer asked, "Master, is it me?" Jesus replied, "You have said it."

26 While they were eating Jesus picked up bread. He blessed it and divided it. Then He gave it to the disciples saying, "Take this bread and eat. This is my body."

27 Then He picked up the cup and gave thanks to God. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink it, each of you."

28 "This is my blood of the new covenant which will be spilled for many as an offering for their sin."
29 "I tell you that I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine, until the day I drink it again with you in my Father's kingdom."
30 After they sang a song of praise they went to the mount of Olives.
31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will turn away because of me tonight. Prophecy says, 'I will strike the shepherd and his flock of sheep will be scattered everywhere.'"
32 "After I have risen again I will come to you in Galilee."
33 Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else turns away from You I will never leave You."
34 Jesus said to him, "In truth, tonight, before the rooster crows you will deny knowing me three times."
35 Peter said to him, "Even if I have to die with You I won't deny You." All of the other disciples said the same thing.
36 Then they came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to His disciples, "Stay here while I go pray over there."
37 He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons with Him and became full of sorrow and sadness.
38 Then Jesus said to them, "My soul is sorrowed to the point of death. Wait and watch with me here."
39 He went a little further alone. He dropped face down and prayed, "Oh, Father, if it is possible take this cup away from me. However, let your will be done and not mine."
40 He came back to find His disciples sleeping. He said, "Peter, couldn't you watch with me for one hour?"
41 "Watch and pray so you aren't taken in temptation. The spirit is willing, but the person is weak."
42 He went away a second time and prayed, "Oh, Father, if this cup cannot be taken from me except I drink from it may Your will be done."
43 When He came back He found them asleeping again. They were tired.
44 He went away a third time and prayed the same words.
45 He returned to His disciples and said to them, "Go ahead and sleep now and have your rest. The hour has come and the Son of man has been betrayed into the hands of sinners."
46 "Get up, let's get going. Look, the one is close by who betrays me."
47 While He was still speaking Judas came in a large crowd with swords and staffs sent by the chief priests and the wiser, older men.
48 Judas had given them a signal, "Whoever I kiss, he is the one. Arrest him."
49 Judas came up to Jesus saying, "Hello, master." Then Judas kissed him.
50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they grabbed Jesus and took him prisoner.
51 One of Jesus' disciples pulled out a sword, swung it striking one of the high priest's servants and cut off his ear.
52 Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back where it belongs. Everyone who picks up the sword will die by the sword."
53 "Don't you know I could pray to my Father and He would immediately give me more than twelve armies of angels?"
54 "But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?"
55 During that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Why have you come out to get me with swords and staffs like I was a common thief? Haven't I sat teaching you every day in the temple? You didn't try to detain me then."
56 "This was all done so that the prophetic writings in Scripture would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples abandoned him and ran away.

57 Those who arrested Jesus took Him away to the place where Caiaphas the high priest, the scribes and the older, wiser men were waiting.

58 Peter followed Jesus from a distance to the high priest's palace. He went in and sat with the servants to see what happened.

59 The chief priests, the older, wiser men and the Sanhedrin looked for false testimony against Jesus. Then they would be able to put Him to death.

60 They didn't find any even though many witnesses testified.

Finally the last two witnesses came.

61 Both testified, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple and build it again in three days.'"

62 The high priest got up and said to Jesus, "Don't you have anything to say? What about the testimony these witnesses have brought against you?"

63 Jesus said nothing. The high priest said to Him, "I order you to swear by the living God. Tell us whether or not you are the Christ, the Son of God."

64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it. Nonetheless I will tell you this, The next time you see him the Son of man will be sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He speaks blasphemy. We don't need any further witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy."

66 "What do you think?" They answered, "He is guilty and to be put to death."

67 Then they spit in Jesus' face and pushed him around while others struck him with their hands.

68 They said, "Prophecy to us Christ. Who hit you?"

69 Peter went outside the palace and a maid came to him and said, "You were with this Jesus of Galilee."

70 But he denied it before everyone saying, "I don't know what you are talking about."

71 And when he went out onto the porch another maid saw him. She said to everyone who was there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth also."

72 Peter denied it with an oath, "I don't know the man."

73 Awhile later bystanders came to Peter and said, "You are one of his followers. Your speech betrays you."

74 Peter cursed himself and swore to them, "I don't know the man." Immediately the rooster crowed.

75 Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus, 'Before the rooster crows you will deny knowing me three times.' Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:1-99

1 When morning came the chief priests and older, wiser men met together to agree to put Jesus to death.

2 They tied Him up and took Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 When Judas the betrayer saw Jesus being condemned he felt very sorry and returned the thirty silver pieces to the chief priests and the older, wiser men.

4 He said, "I have sinned because I betrayed innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? It's your problem."

5 Judas threw the silver pieces on the temple floor. He left the temple and went out and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It's not legal to put these back in the treasury because it's blood money."

7 They conferred amongst themselves and bought the potter's field with the money to bury poor people in.

8 This is the reason to this day the field is called 'The Field of Blood.'

9 The prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled which said, "They took the thirty silver pieces as the children of Israel appraised His value,"

10 "And bought a potter's field with them, as the Lord instructed me."
11 Jesus stood before the governor and the governor asked Him,
"Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "If you say it is so."
12 When the chief priests and older, wiser men accused Him of wrongdoing
Jesus said nothing.
13 Then Pilate said to him, "Can't you hear how many things they are
testifying about against you?"
14 Jesus didn't say one word. At this the governor was astonished.
15 It was a time of feasting and the governor was expected to release to the
people a prisoner of their choosing.
16 At that time they held a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.
17 When the crowd was gathered, Pilate said to them, "Who do you want me to
release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ?"
18 Pilate knew they had delivered Jesus to him because they were jealous..
19 After he sat down on the seat of judgment his wife sent word to him,
"Don't have anything to do with this holy man. I suffered terribly today in my
dream because of him."
20 The chief priests and older, wiser men talked the crowd into asking for
Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.
21 The governor asked, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"
The crowd said, "Give us Barabbas."
22 Pilate said to them, "What should I do with Jesus who is called the
Christ?" They all answered him, "Crucify him!"
23 The governor said, "Why, what has he done wrong?" But they cried out even
more and said, "Let him be crucified."
24 When Pilate saw he could not prevail and the crowd made a commotion he
washed his hands in water before them and said, "I am innocent of the blood of
this just man, it's your doing."
25 All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children."
26 Then he released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus beaten he delivered
him to be crucified.
27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the common hall where they
brought all the soldiers together.
28 They stripped His clothes from Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.
29 After they made a crown of thorns they put it upon His head. They placed
a reed in His right hand and bowed down before Him. They mocked Him, "All hail,
the King of the Jews!"
30 They spit on Him, took the reed and beat Him on the head.
31 After they mocked Him they took the robe off, put His own clothing on Him
and led Him away to be crucified.
32 As they were on their way out they came to a man named Simon of Cyrene.
They made him carry Jesus' cross.
33 When they came to a place called Golgotha or the place of the skull,
34 They gave Him bitter drink mixed with gall. When He tasted it he would not
drink.
35 They crucified Him and divided His clothing among themselves by casting
lots. This fulfilled the prophecy that says, "They divided my clothing among
themselves and for my robes they cast lots."
36 They sat down and watched Him hanging there.
37 Over His head they wrote, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."
38 Two thieves were crucified with Him. One was crucified on His right hand and
the other on His left.
39 The ones who passed by mocked Him, shaking their heads,
40 Saying, "You can destroy the temple and build it again in three days, save
yourself. If you are the Son of God get down from the cross."

41 The chief priests, the scribes and the older, wiser men mocked Him saying,
42 "He saved others but he can't save himself. If he is the King of Israel,
let him come down from the cross now and we will believe him."
43 "He trusted in God, let God deliver him now if he wants him. He said, "I
am the Son of God."
44 One of the thieves who was crucified with Him also threw insults at Him.
45 From noon until three darkness came over all the land.
46 About three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama
sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you left me?"
47 When they heard this some of the ones standing by said, "This man is
calling for Elijah."
48 And one of them got a sponge, filled it with bitter drink, put it on a reed,
and placed it to His lips.
49 The others said, "Leave him alone. Let's see whether or not Elijah will
come to save him."
50 After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice He gave up His spirit.
51 Immediately the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, the
earth quaked and rocks split into pieces.
52 Graves opened up and the bodies of many saints which were asleep arose.
53 They came out of their graves after His resurrection, went into the holy
city and were seen by many.
54 There was a centurion and others with him watching Jesus. When they saw
the earthquake and everything that happened they were greatly afraid and said,
"Surely this man was the Son of God."
55 Many women were there who followed Jesus from Galilee and took care of
Him. They were watching from a distance.
56 Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of
James and John were there.
57 When evening came Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy man who was also a
follower of Jesus,
58 He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus body. Pilate ordered the body to be
delivered to him.
59 After Joseph received the body he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,
60 He placed the body in his own new tomb carved out of rock. Then he rolled
a large stone in front of the entrance to the grave and left.
61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat against another tomb watching.
62 On the day after the day of the preparation the chief priests and
Pharisees came to Pilate.
63 They said, "Sir, we remember while he was still alive the deceiver said,
'After three days I will rise again.'"
64 "Order the grave to be guarded until the third day. Otherwise his disciples
might come by night and steal his body. Then they would tell the people, 'He
has risen from the dead.' This would be an even greater deception than the
others."
65 Pilate said to them, "You can have a guard. Go and make it as secure as
you can."
66 They left and sealed the tomb and made the grave secure and placed a
guard there.

Matthew 28:1-99

1 At the end of the sabbath as it was beginning to dawn on the first day of
the week Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the grave.
2 There was a violent earthquake. The angel of the Lord descended from heaven,
rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it.
3 His face shined like lightning and his clothing was as white as snow.

4 In fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
5 The angel called to the women, "Don't be afraid, I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified."
6 "He isn't here. He has risen like He said He would. Come, see where the Lord was laid."
7 "Now go and tell His disciples that 'He has risen from the dead. He is going to Galilee before you. You will see Him there.' And now I have told you.
8 The women quickly left the tomb with trembling and great joy. They ran to tell His disciples what they had been told.
9 Jesus met them as they were on their way to tell His disciples. He said, "Greetings." They came to Him, grabbed Him by the ankles and worshiped him.
10 Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee and they will see me there."
11 When the women had gone on their way several guards came to the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened.
12 After they got together with the older, wiser men and they schemed and gave a lot of money to the soldiers.
13 They said, "Say, 'His disciples came at night and took his body away while we slept.'"
14 "If the governor hears about this we will talk to him and protect you."
15 They took the money and did as they were told. This is the story that is told among Jews even to this day.
16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had appointed them as His disciples.
17 When they saw Jesus they worshiped him but some had doubts.
18 Jesus spoke to them, "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth."
19 "Therefore go and teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."
20 "Teach them to keep everything I have commanded you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world." Amen.