

# MARK

## The Messiah's Herald

**1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>A</sup>

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:<sup>B</sup>

See, I am sending  
my messenger ahead  
of you;

he will prepare your way.<sup>C,D</sup>

**3** A voice of one crying out  
in the wilderness:

Prepare the way  
for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!<sup>E</sup>

<sup>4</sup>John came baptizing<sup>F</sup> in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with<sup>G</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. <sup>10</sup>As soon as he came up out of the

water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."

## The Temptation of Jesus

<sup>12</sup>Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving him.

## Ministry in Galilee

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>H,I</sup> of God: <sup>15</sup>"**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!**"

## The First Disciples

<sup>16</sup>As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen.

<sup>17</sup>"**Follow me,**" Jesus told them, "**and I will make you fish for<sup>J</sup> people.**"

<sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

<sup>A</sup>1:1 Some mss omit *the Son of God* <sup>B</sup>1:2 Other mss read *in the prophets* <sup>C</sup>1:2 Other mss add *before you* <sup>D</sup>1:2 Mal 3:1 <sup>E</sup>1:3 Is 40:3 <sup>F</sup>1:4 Or *John the Baptist came* <sup>G</sup>1:8 Or *in* <sup>H</sup>1:14 Other mss add *of the kingdom* <sup>I</sup>1:14 Or *gospel* <sup>J</sup>1:17 Or *you to become fishers of*

## Driving Out an Unclean Spirit

<sup>21</sup> They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

<sup>23</sup> Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!"

<sup>25</sup> Jesus rebuked him saying, "**Be silent, and come out of him!**" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

<sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!<sup>A</sup> He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

## Healings at Capernaum

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew's house with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her,<sup>B</sup> and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town was assembled at the door, <sup>34</sup> and he

healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

## Preaching in Galilee

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "**Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come.**"

## A Man Cleansed

<sup>39</sup> He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. <sup>40</sup> Then a man with leprosy<sup>C</sup> came to him and, on his knees,<sup>D</sup> begged him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Moved with compassion,<sup>E</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. "**I am willing,**" he told him. "**Be made clean.**" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. <sup>43</sup> Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, <sup>44</sup> telling him, "**See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.**"<sup>F</sup> <sup>45</sup> Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in

<sup>A</sup>1:27 Other mss read "What is this? What is this new teaching? For with authority at once" <sup>C</sup>1:40 Gk *lepros*; a term for various skin diseases, also in v. 42; see Lv 13–14 <sup>D</sup>1:40 Other mss omit on his knees <sup>E</sup>1:41 Other mss *Moved with indignation* <sup>F</sup>1:44 Or *against them*

deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

### The Son of Man Forgives and Heals

**2** When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they were not able to bring him to <sup>A</sup> Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. <sup>5</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, **"Son, your sins are forgiven."**

<sup>6</sup> But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: <sup>7</sup> "Why does he speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>8</sup> Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, **"Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?"** <sup>10</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he told the paralytic — <sup>11</sup> "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

<sup>12</sup> Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God,

saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

### The Call of Levi

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went out again beside the sea. The whole crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> Then, passing by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, **"Follow me,"** and he got up and followed him.

<sup>15</sup> While he was reclining at the table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating <sup>B</sup> with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who were following him. <sup>16</sup> When the scribes who were Pharisees <sup>C</sup> saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat <sup>D</sup> with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, he told them, **"It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

### A Question about Fasting

<sup>18</sup> Now John's disciples and the Pharisees <sup>E</sup> were fasting. People came and asked him, "Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, **"The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> But the time <sup>F</sup> will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day."** <sup>21</sup> No

<sup>A</sup>2:4 Other mss read *able to get near*    <sup>B</sup>2:15 Lit *reclining together*    <sup>C</sup>2:16 Other mss read *scribes and Pharisees*    <sup>D</sup>2:16 Other mss add *and drink*    <sup>E</sup>2:18 Other mss read *The disciples of John and of the Pharisees*    <sup>F</sup>2:20 Or *the days*

one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made.<sup>22</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins."

### Lord of the Sabbath

<sup>23</sup> On the Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to make their way, picking some heads of grain.<sup>24</sup> The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "Have you never read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry — <sup>26</sup> how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence — which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests — and also gave some to his companions?"<sup>27</sup> Then he told them, "The Sabbath was made for<sup>A</sup> man and not man for the Sabbath."<sup>28</sup> So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

**3** Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a shriveled hand.<sup>2</sup> In order to accuse him, they were watching him closely to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath.<sup>3</sup> He told the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand before us."<sup>4</sup> Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.<sup>5</sup> After looking around at them with anger, he was grieved

at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.<sup>6</sup> Immediately the Pharisees went out and started plotting with the Herodians against him, how they might kill him.

### Ministering to the Multitude

<sup>7</sup> Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea,<sup>8</sup> Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing.<sup>9</sup> Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush him.<sup>10</sup> Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him.<sup>11</sup> Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!"<sup>12</sup> And he would strongly warn them not to make him known.

### The Twelve Apostles

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him.<sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles,<sup>B</sup> to be with him, to send them out to preach,<sup>15</sup> and to have authority to<sup>C</sup> drive out demons.<sup>16</sup> He appointed the Twelve:<sup>D</sup> To Simon, he gave the name Peter;<sup>17</sup> and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother John, he gave the name "Boanerges" (that is, "Sons of Thunder");<sup>18</sup> Andrew;

<sup>A</sup>2:27 Or because of <sup>B</sup>3:14 Other mss omit he also named them apostles <sup>C</sup>3:15 Other mss add heal diseases, and to <sup>D</sup>3:16 Other mss omit He appointed the Twelve

Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot,<sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

### A House Divided

<sup>20</sup> Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat.<sup>A</sup> <sup>21</sup> When his family heard this, they set out to restrain him, because they said, "He's out of his mind."

<sup>22</sup> The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons."

<sup>23</sup> So he summoned them and spoke to them in parables: "**How can Satan drive out Satan?** <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. <sup>27</sup> But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

<sup>28</sup> "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. <sup>29</sup> But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"<sup>B</sup> — <sup>30</sup> because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

### True Relationships

<sup>31</sup> His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to him and called him.

<sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him and told him, "Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters<sup>C</sup> are outside asking for you."

<sup>33</sup> He replied to them, "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**"

<sup>34</sup> Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!** <sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

### The Parable of the Sower

**4** Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore.<sup>2</sup> He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them, <sup>3</sup> "Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn't have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn't deep. <sup>6</sup> When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn't produce fruit. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times."<sup>9</sup> Then he said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen."

### Why Jesus Used Parables

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those around him with the Twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> He answered them, "**The secret of the kingdom**

<sup>A</sup>3:20 Or eat a meal; lit eat bread <sup>B</sup>3:29 Other mss read is subject to eternal judgment <sup>C</sup>3:32 Other mss omit and your sisters

of God has been given to you, but to those outside, everything comes in parables<sup>12</sup> so that

**they may indeed look,  
and yet not perceive;  
they may indeed listen,  
and yet not understand;  
otherwise, they might  
turn back  
and be forgiven.**"<sup>A,B</sup>

### The Parable of the Sower Explained

<sup>13</sup> Then he said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand all of the parables?"<sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word.

<sup>15</sup> Some are like the word sown on the path. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word sown in them.<sup>C16</sup> And others are like seed sown on rocky ground. When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy.<sup>17</sup> But they have no root; they are short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away.

<sup>18</sup> Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word,<sup>19</sup> but the worries of this age, the deceitfulness<sup>D</sup> of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.<sup>20</sup> And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown."

### Using Your Light

<sup>21</sup> He also said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it to be put on a lampstand?"<sup>22</sup> For there

is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light.

<sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen."<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. By the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and more will be added to you.<sup>25</sup> For whoever has, more will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

### The Parable of the Growing Seed

<sup>26</sup> "The kingdom of God is like this," he said. "A man scatters seed on the ground.<sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day; the seed sprouts and grows, although he doesn't know how.<sup>28</sup> The soil produces a crop by itself — first the blade, then the head, and then the full grain on the head.<sup>29</sup> As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come."

### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>30</sup> And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it?"<sup>31</sup> It's like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground.<sup>32</sup> And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade."

### Using Parables

<sup>33</sup> He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand.<sup>34</sup> He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately,

<sup>A</sup>4:12 Other mss read *and their sins be forgiven them hearts* <sup>D</sup>4:19 Or *seduction*

<sup>B</sup>4:12 Is 6:9-10 <sup>C</sup>4:15 Other mss read *in their*

however, he explained everything to his own disciples.

### Wind and Waves Obey Jesus

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he told them, **“Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea.”**

<sup>36</sup> So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.

<sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, **“Silence! Be still!”** The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> Then he said to them, **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**

<sup>41</sup> And they were terrified<sup>A</sup> and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

### Demons Driven Out by Jesus

**5** They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.<sup>B</sup> <sup>2</sup> As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. <sup>3</sup> He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore — not even with a chain — <sup>4</sup> because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains,

he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

<sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. <sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don’t torment me!” <sup>8</sup> For he had told him, **“Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”**

<sup>9</sup> **“What is your name?”** he asked him.

“My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” <sup>10</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons<sup>C</sup> begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.”

<sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

<sup>14</sup> The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

<sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to beg him to leave their region.

<sup>18</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus

<sup>A</sup>4:41 Or *were filled with awe* <sup>B</sup>5:1 Some mss read *Gadarenes*; other mss read *Gergesenes*

<sup>C</sup>5:12 Other mss read *All the demons*

did not let him but told him, **“Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.”**<sup>20</sup> So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

### A Girl Restored and a Woman Healed

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had crossed over again by boat<sup>A</sup> to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the sea. <sup>22</sup> One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet<sup>23</sup> and begged him earnestly, “My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well<sup>B</sup> and live.” <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following and pressing against him.

<sup>25</sup> Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years<sup>26</sup> had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse. <sup>27</sup> Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing.<sup>28</sup> For she said, “If I just touch his clothes, I’ll be made well.”<sup>29</sup> Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

<sup>30</sup> Immediately Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, **“Who touched my clothes?”**

<sup>31</sup> His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, **‘Who touched me?’**”

<sup>32</sup> But he was looking around to see who had done this. <sup>33</sup> The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> **“Daughter,”** he said to her, **“your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction.”**

<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader’s house and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?”

<sup>36</sup> When Jesus overheard<sup>C</sup> what was said, he told the synagogue leader, **“Don’t be afraid. Only believe.”**<sup>37</sup> He did not let anyone accompany him except Peter, James, and John, James’s brother. <sup>38</sup> They came to the leader’s house, and he saw a commotion — people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, **“Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.”**<sup>40</sup> They laughed at him, but he put them all outside. He took the child’s father, mother, and those who were with him, and entered the place where the child was. <sup>41</sup> Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, **“Talitha koum”<sup>D</sup>** (which is translated, **“Little girl, I say to you, get up”**). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded. <sup>43</sup> Then he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this

<sup>A</sup>5:21 Other mss omit *by boat*    <sup>B</sup>5:23 Or *she might be saved*    <sup>C</sup>5:36 Or *ignored*    <sup>D</sup>5:41 An Aramaic expression

and told them to give her something to eat.

### Rejection at Nazareth

**6** He left there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.<sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. “Where did this man get these things?” they said. “What is this wisdom that has been given to him, and how are these miracles performed by his hands?”<sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? And aren’t his sisters here with us?” So they were offended by him.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, **“A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his household.”**<sup>5</sup> He was not able to do a miracle there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.<sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief. He was going around the villages teaching.

### Commissioning the Twelve

<sup>7</sup> He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs and gave them authority over unclean spirits.<sup>8</sup> He instructed them to take nothing for the road except a staff — no bread, no traveling bag, no money in their belts,<sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on an extra shirt.<sup>10</sup> He said to them, **“Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that place.<sup>11</sup> If any place does not welcome you or listen to you, when you leave**

**there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”**<sup>A</sup>

<sup>12</sup> So they went out and preached that people should repent.<sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons, anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

### John the Baptist Beheaded

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about it, because Jesus’s name had become well known. Some<sup>B</sup> said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that’s why miraculous powers are at work in him.”<sup>15</sup> But others said, “He’s Elijah.” Still others said, “He’s a prophet, like one of the prophets from long ago.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod heard of it, he said, “John, the one I beheaded, has been raised!”

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to arrest John and to chain him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her.<sup>18</sup> John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”<sup>19</sup> So Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not,<sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing he was a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him he would be very perplexed,<sup>C</sup> and yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> An opportune time came on his birthday, when Herod gave a banquet for his nobles, military commanders, and the leading men of Galilee.<sup>22</sup> When Herodias’s own daughter<sup>D</sup> came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests.

<sup>A</sup>6:11 Other mss add *Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom or Gomorrah on judgment day than for that town.* <sup>B</sup>6:14 Other mss read *He* <sup>C</sup>6:20 Other mss read *When he heard him, he did many things* <sup>D</sup>6:22 Other mss read *When his daughter Herodias*

The king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I'll give it to you."<sup>23</sup> He promised her with an oath: "Whatever you ask me I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"John the Baptist's head," she said.

<sup>25</sup> At once she hurried to the king and said, "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a platter immediately."<sup>26</sup> Although the king was deeply distressed, because of his oaths and the guests<sup>A</sup> he did not want to refuse her.<sup>27</sup> The king immediately sent for an executioner and commanded him to bring John's head. So he went and beheaded him in prison,<sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.<sup>29</sup> When John's disciples heard about it, they came and removed his corpse and placed it in a tomb.

### Feeding of the Five Thousand

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught.<sup>31</sup> He said to them, "**Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.**" For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

<sup>32</sup> So they went away in the boat by themselves to a remote place,<sup>33</sup> but many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.<sup>B</sup>

<sup>34</sup> When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like

sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

<sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples approached him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late.<sup>36</sup> Send them away so that they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> "**You give them something to eat,**" he responded.

They said to him, "Should we go and buy two hundred denarii<sup>C</sup> worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

<sup>38</sup> He asked them, "**How many loaves do you have? Go and see.**"

When they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."<sup>39</sup> Then he instructed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.<sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.<sup>41</sup> He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves. He kept giving them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.<sup>42</sup> Everyone ate and was satisfied.<sup>43</sup> They picked up twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish.<sup>44</sup> Now those who had eaten the loaves were five thousand men.

### Walking on the Water

<sup>45</sup> Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

<sup>46</sup> After he said good-bye to them, he went away to the mountain to pray.<sup>47</sup> Well into the night, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land.<sup>48</sup> He

<sup>A</sup>6:26 Lit and those reclining at the table    <sup>B</sup>6:33 Other mss add and gathered around him

<sup>C</sup>6:37 A denarius = one day's wage

saw them straining at the oars,<sup>A</sup> because the wind was against them. Very early in the morning<sup>B</sup> he came toward them walking on the sea and wanted to pass by them.<sup>49</sup> When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out,<sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke with them and said, **“Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”**<sup>51</sup> Then he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded,<sup>52</sup> because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

### Miraculous Healings

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret and anchored there.

<sup>54</sup> As they got out of the boat, people immediately recognized him.

<sup>55</sup> They hurried throughout that region and began to carry the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.<sup>56</sup> Wherever he went, into villages, towns, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch just the end of his robe. And everyone who touched it was healed.

### The Traditions of the Elders

**7** The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him.

<sup>2</sup> They observed that some of his disciples were eating bread with unclean — that is, unwashed

— hands.<sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, keeping the tradition of the elders.<sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they have washed. And there are many other customs they have received and keep, like the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches.)<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why don’t your disciples live<sup>D</sup> according to the tradition of the elders, instead of eating bread with ceremonially unclean<sup>E</sup> hands?”

<sup>6</sup> He answered them, **“Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:**

**This people honors me  
with their lips,  
but their heart is far  
from me.**

<sup>7</sup> **They worship me in vain,  
teaching as doctrines  
human commands.**<sup>F</sup>

<sup>8</sup> **Abandoning the command of God, you hold on to human tradition.”**<sup>G</sup>

<sup>9</sup> He also said to them, **“You have a fine way of invalidating God’s command in order to set up<sup>H</sup> your tradition!”**<sup>10</sup> For Moses said: **Honor your father and your mother;**<sup>I</sup> and **Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.**<sup>J</sup>

<sup>11</sup> But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or mother: Whatever benefit you might have received from me is *corban*’” (that is, an offering devoted to God),<sup>12</sup> **“you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.**<sup>13</sup> **You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have**

<sup>A6:48</sup> Or *them being battered as they rowed*    <sup>B6:48</sup> Lit *Around the fourth watch of the night = 3 to 6 a.m.*    <sup>C7:4</sup> Other mss omit *and dining couches*    <sup>D7:5</sup> Lit *walk*    <sup>E7:5</sup> Other mss read *with unwashed*    <sup>F7:6-7</sup> Is 29:13    <sup>G7:8</sup> Other mss add *The washing of jugs, and cups, and many other similar things you practice.*    <sup>H7:9</sup> Or *to maintain*    <sup>I7:10</sup> Ex 20:12; Dt 5:16    <sup>J7:10</sup> Ex 21:17; Lv 20:9

handed down. And you do many other similar things.”

<sup>14</sup>Summoning the crowd again, he told them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>Nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile him but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”<sup>A</sup>

<sup>17</sup>When he went into the house away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>He said to them, “Are you also as lacking in understanding? Don’t you realize that nothing going into a person from the outside can defile him?<sup>19</sup> For it doesn’t go into his heart but into the stomach and is eliminated” (thus he declared all foods clean). <sup>20</sup>And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, <sup>22</sup>adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, self-indulgence, envy,<sup>B</sup> slander, pride, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within and defile a person.”

### A Gentile Mother’s Faith

<sup>24</sup>He got up and departed from there to the region of Tyre.<sup>C</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not escape notice. <sup>25</sup>Instead, immediately after hearing about him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was a Gentile,<sup>D</sup> a Syrophenician by birth, and she was asking him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed

first, because it isn’t right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

<sup>28</sup>But she replied to him, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told her, “Because of this reply, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.”<sup>30</sup> When she went back to her home, she found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

### Jesus Does Everything Well

<sup>31</sup>Again, leaving the region of Tyre, he went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through<sup>E</sup> the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking and begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>So he took him away from the crowd in private. After putting his fingers in the man’s ears and spitting, he touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Looking up to heaven, he sighed deeply and said to him, “*Ephphatha!*”<sup>F</sup> (that is, “Be opened!”). <sup>35</sup>Immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak clearly. <sup>36</sup>He ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more they proclaimed it.

<sup>37</sup>They were extremely astonished and said, “He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

### Feeding Four Thousand

**8** In those days there was again a large crowd, and they had nothing to eat. He called the disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup>“I have compassion on the crowd, because they’ve

<sup>A</sup>7:15 Some mss include v. 16: “If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.” <sup>B</sup>7:22 Or evil eye

<sup>C</sup>7:24 Many early mss add and Sidon <sup>D</sup>7:26 Or a Greek (speaker) <sup>E</sup>7:31 Or into <sup>F</sup>7:34 An Aramaic expression