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PRESENTED TO

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BY

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ON THIS DATE



For God loved the world in this way:  
He gave his one and only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
will not perish but have eternal life.

**JOHN 3:16**

# HOW CAN THE BIBLE HELP YOU?

Your Bible can help you in all life situations. Open it to find the verses below and read them. When you are angry, afraid, or sad, look to the Bible for help.

## THE BIBLE CAN HELP YOU WHEN YOU ARE ...

**AFRAID**—Isaiah 41:10; Hebrews 13:6

**ANGRY**—Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 5:21–26

**DISCOURAGED**—Romans 8:28

Feeling bad about **HURTING SOMEONE**—Luke 6:37

Feeling **GUILTY** about something you have done—1 John 1:9

Feeling **GREEDY**—Ecclesiastes 5:10; Hebrews 13:5

**HAVING PROBLEMS** with a friend—  
Luke 6:31; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:7

Having problems with **YOUR PARENTS**—Ephesians 6:1–3

Needing to know **GOD'S WILL**—Proverbs 3:5–6

**SAD**—John 14:27

**SICK**—Jeremiah 17:14

**TEMPTED**—1 Corinthians 10:13

**TEMPTED TO BE SELFISH**—1 John 4:7–8

**TEMPTED TO LIE**—Colossians 3:8–9

Tempted to **GET BACK AT SOMEONE** who hurt you—Romans 12:17–21

**WORRIED**—Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 4:6,19

## STUDYING YOUR BIBLE

*Bible study is exciting and can help you know what is true and what is not, how God wants you to live, and how to make good choices for the rest of your life. Read these Bible verses to discover why God wants you to study His Word: Psalm 119:105; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14–17; Hebrews 4:12.*

*Bible study is more than reading your Bible. If you are ready to begin an energizing discovery of truth, decide on what to study: a Bible book, a Bible person, or a Bible topic.*

**BIBLE BOOK** Start with one of the Gospels such as Mark. Read a summary about the book. Read about ten verses each day. If the verses talk about a place, look at one of the maps in this Bible to locate that place. Find a notebook and answer these questions: Who is the Bible writer talking to? What did God want the first readers or hearers to know or do? What does God want me to know or do?

**PERSON** Look at the “Kids in the Bible” article inserted in the New Testament in this Bible. Read the Bible verses listed. In your notebook, answer as many of these questions as you can: Where did this person live? Whom did he know? What did he do? What can I learn from this person?

**BIBLE TOPIC** Find a topic such as “The Ten Plagues of Egypt” (see the full-color article inserted among the pages of Exodus in this Bible). After reading the Bible verses, list in your notebook two or three things the Bible says about the topic. Then write what this means to you and what God wants you to do.

# BIBLE

## SKILLS

*Studying God's Word is important. You probably already have some Bible skills, and as you get older, you will learn more and more. Look at the checklist below and see how many skills you have already mastered. Check those off the list. Then ask your parents and Bible class teachers to help you learn new skills. The more you learn about the Word, the more you'll know about God and how to live your life for Him.*

### LEVEL 1 SKILLS

- I can locate the two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- I can pronounce the names of all the books of the Bible.
- I can find a book in the Bible by using the list of books in my Bible.
- I can read a Bible reference and locate the verse in my Bible.
- I can memorize a Bible verse. A verse I have memorized is \_\_\_\_\_
- I know some of the books of the Bible in order.
- I am beginning to learn the five divisions of the Old Testament and the five divisions of the New Testament.
- I read my Bible every day.

### LEVEL 2 SKILLS

- I can identify if a book is in the Old Testament or the New Testament.
- I can pronounce some of the people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible.

- I can locate a verse in my Bible in a short time.
- I can find information about a person, place, or thing in the Bible by reading the verse.
- I can memorize Bible verses and short Bible passages. One passage I have memorized is \_\_\_\_\_
- I know all of the books of the Bible in order and can say them.
- I can identify which books of the Bible tell about Abraham, Moses, Daniel, and Jesus.
- I can identify some of the people whom God used to write the books of the Bible.
- I can name the ten divisions of the Old and New Testaments.
- I am beginning to use Bible study resources such as a Bible dictionary, a concordance, and an atlas.
- I read my Bible every day and find truths in it to apply to my life.

### LEVEL 3 SKILLS

- I can locate any verse in my Bible in a short time.
- I can tell someone what verses and passages in the Bible mean to me.
- I can identify important Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.
- I can name the ten divisions of the Old and New Testaments in a short time.
- I can identify which Bible books belong in each division.
- I can easily use Bible study resources such as a Bible dictionary, a concordance, and an atlas.
- I can apply truths from the Bible to the personal and social issues I face each day.



# TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

TRY TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITHOUT USING YOUR BIBLE. USE YOUR BIBLE TO CHECK YOUR WORK.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the first color mentioned in the Bible? (Genesis 1:30)
2. Who beat his talking donkey three times? (Numbers 22:28)
3. Who was a left-handed judge who stabbed a fat king? (Judges 3:15-23)
4. What king had thousands of horses and chariots? (1 Kings 4:26)
5. Who made an iron ax head float? (2 Kings 6:1-6)
6. Which king of Judah became king when he was seven years old? (2 Kings 11:21-12:1)
7. What fruit was used to heal King Hezekiah's open sore? (2 Kings 20:7)
8. Who baked bread on a fire made from cow dung? (Ezekiel 1:3; 4:15)
9. Where did Peter find money to pay taxes? (Matthew 17:24-27)
10. What happened to the money the priests paid Judas? (Matthew 27:6-7)
11. Who ate locust and wild honey? (Mark 1:6)
12. Who fell out of a window while Paul was preaching? (Acts 20:9-10)

## ANSWERS

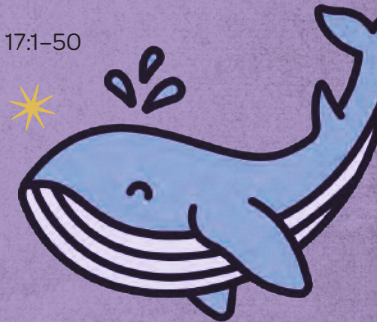
- A. Bought a graveyard
- B. Elisha
- C. Figs
- D. Balaam
- E. Solomon
- F. In a fish's mouth
- G. Eutyclus
- H. Green
- I. John (the Baptist)
- J. Joash
- K. Ezekiel
- L. Ehud

Answers:  
1. H, 2. D, 3. L,  
4. E, 5. B, 6. J,  
7. C, 8. K, 9. F, 10. A,  
11. I, 12. G.

# FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

The Bible is full of real stories about real people. When you read these stories, you learn about God and Jesus. You also discover how people reacted to different situations. As you read, ask yourself: What would I have done if I were in that story? How would I have treated the other people in the story? Would I have obeyed God? What are your favorite Bible stories? If they are not listed below, write the titles of the Bible stories you like to read and hear.

1. **CREATION** ✨ Genesis 1-2
2. **ADAM AND EVE** ✨ Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-4:2
3. **NOAH** ✨ Genesis 6:9-9:17
4. **MOSES** ✨ Exodus 2:1-4:17
5. **DAVID & GOLIATH** ✨ 1 Samuel 17:1-50
6. **DANIEL & THE LIONS' DEN** ✨ Daniel 6:1-23
7. **JONAH** ✨ Jonah
8. **JESUS'S BIRTH** ✨ Luke 2:1-20
9. **JESUS'S CRUCIFIXION & DEATH** ✨ John 19
10. **JESUS'S RESURRECTION** ✨ John 20:1-18



11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_

# HOW DO I HAVE QUIET TIME WITH GOD?

*Having quiet time with God is more than sitting still and being quiet. A quiet time is reading the Bible, praying, and listening to God in a quiet setting for at least five to ten minutes every day. If you miss some days, ask God to help you remember to have a quiet time more often. Here is how to get started:*

- ↘ Decide the best time to have a quiet time, such as early in the morning or just before you go to bed at night.
  - ↘ Find a private place where you will not be interrupted, such as your bedroom.
  - ↘ Ask God to help you listen to Him as you read the Bible and pray.
  - ↘ Read some Bible verses. A devotional magazine or book will suggest verses to read.
  - ↘ In a journal or notebook, make a list of things and people to pray for.
- ↘ Pray:
    - Praise and thank God.
    - Ask God to forgive you.
    - Pray for other people. Pray for yourself.
    - Tell God you will do what He wants you to do.
    - Ask God to bless you.
    - Listen for God to speak to you.
  - ↘ In one or two sentences, write in your journal what you think God wants you to remember from your quiet time today.



You have just had a quiet time! Thank God for the time you spent with Him and ask Him to help you do it again tomorrow.

## THE BOOKS OF LAW

*The Bible is made up of sixty-six different books. The books are separated into ten divisions. The first five books of the Bible are in the division called the Pentateuch, or the books of Law. Although the focus is on the law, these books also deliver the plan of an even greater influence on God's people in the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.*

**GENESIS** is about the beginning of things, including how God created the world and everything in it, the great flood, the tower of Babylon, and the beginnings of the nation of Israel. Moses wrote this book. Even with the introduction of sin, God begins the plan of His redemption through His only Son, Jesus Christ.

**EXODUS**, also written by Moses, tells about the departure, or exodus, of the people of Israel from Egypt. Exodus also describes their wandering in the wilderness and how God gave His law to the people of Israel. Just as God used Moses to free His people from slavery in Egypt, God would one day free His people from slavery to sin through Jesus Christ.

**LEVITICUS** is a continuation of the history told in the book of Exodus. Moses wrote this book, and it contains the ceremonial and religious law. The Israelite tribe of Levi had the job of making sure the people followed that law. The laws recorded in this book would one day be completed with the perfect sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

**NUMBERS** tells of the census, or numbering, of the people of Israel and the history of their journey after leaving Egypt. God shows His continual care and love by providing for His people, a care and love that would ultimately point to Christ and the cross. Moses wrote this book.

**DEUTERONOMY** was written mostly by Moses and consists of a second account of the giving of the law. Moses shared the good news of another leader who would come after him, Jesus Christ. The book ends with Moses's death.



# CREATION

*One of the most important things God tells us about Himself in the Bible is that He created everything. There is no place you can go that God has not created and not a thing in the universe that He has not made.*

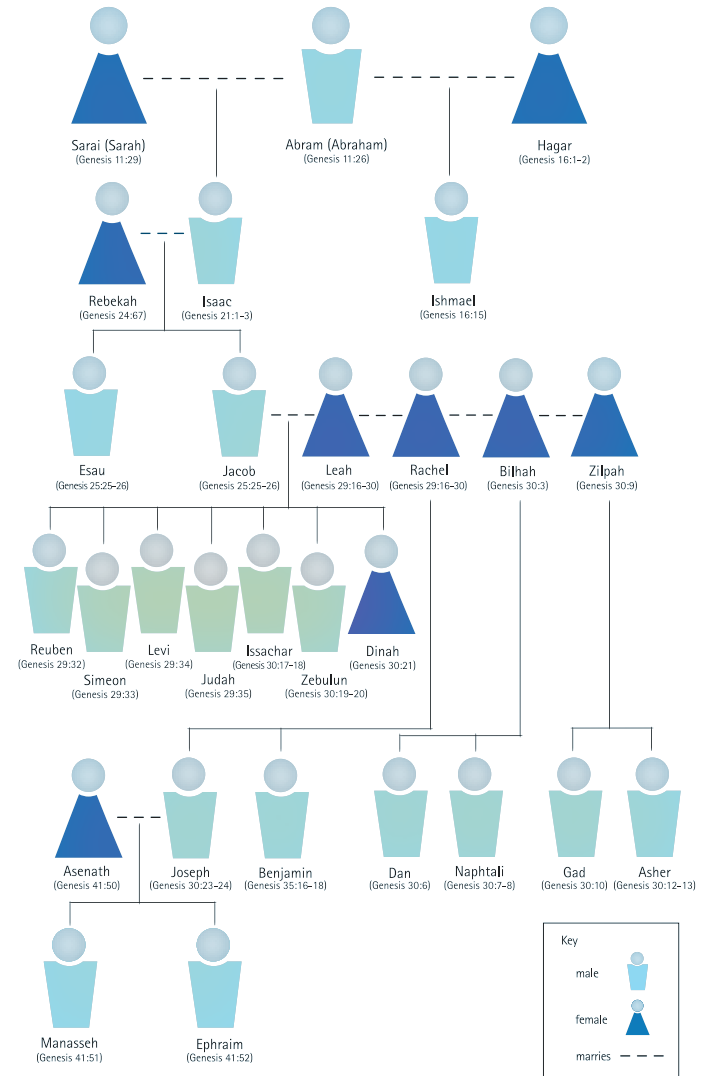
Sometimes He makes things instantly, as He did with Adam and Eve. Sometimes He makes things by giving them a way to grow or change, like a seed that will become a tree or a caterpillar that will turn into a butterfly. And sometimes what He makes is used by people to build with and turn into other things such as houses or machines. But nobody can make something out of nothing—except for God. That’s how powerful He is!

The book of Genesis tells us a lot about God’s creation of the world, but it doesn’t tell us all the things we sometimes wish we knew. For example, we know that some creatures lived a long time ago but don’t exist anymore. Yes, it would be interesting to know how they fit into what the Bible says about the creation. But the main thing the Bible tells us about creation is not its date or how God did it; the most important thing is that God is the one who did it. Creation is not an accident. It did not happen by chance, and it did not always exist. God made the universe on purpose and for a reason.

When God was busy making the world, He wasn’t just making all the things you can see and touch; He was also making things that are invisible. He made the gravity that holds you on the ground. He made the sounds you can hear plus lots of other sounds your ears don’t even know are there. He made the numbers you use to count with. He made the way you know about what’s right and wrong. He even made time.

Think about that. Look around the room or out the window. Everything you see right now, everything you will ever see, touch, or hear was made by God on purpose. Every place you have ever been and every place you will ever go—even if it is all the way across the universe—was made by God. It all points to Him—including you! He made it all, and He rules it all, and those are just a few of the reasons He deserves our worship and praise.

# FAMILY OF ABRAHAM



# THE NAMES OF GOD

*Bibles printed in English use several words for God's names. These names come from the Hebrew language. The Hebrew people described God by the actions He took toward His people or by the qualities of who He is. Think about all God's names, and praise Him for who He is.*

HEBREW NAME	REF.	MEANING	ENGLISH NAME
Elohim	Genesis 1:1	Powerful God	God
Adonai	Genesis 15:2	Lord	Lord God
El Elyon	Genesis 14:19-20	God Most High	God Most High
El Shaddai	Genesis 17:1	God Almighty	God Almighty
Jehovah Jireh	Genesis 22:14	The Lord Provides	The LORD Will Provide
Yahweh	Exodus 3:14	Israel's Covenantal God	I AM
Jehovah Rophe	Exodus 15:26	The Lord Heals	The LORD Who Heals You
Jehovah Nissi	Exodus 17:15-16	The Lord Is My Banner	The LORD Is My Banner
Jehovah Mekadesh	Leviticus 20:8	The Lord Who Sanctifies You	The LORD Who Sets You Apart
Jehovah Shalom	Judges 6:24	The Lord Is Peace	The LORD Is Peace
Jehovah Tsidkenu	Jeremiah 23:6	The Lord Is Our Righteousness	The LORD Our Righteousness
Jehovah Shammah	Ezekiel 48:35	The Lord Is There	The LORD Is There

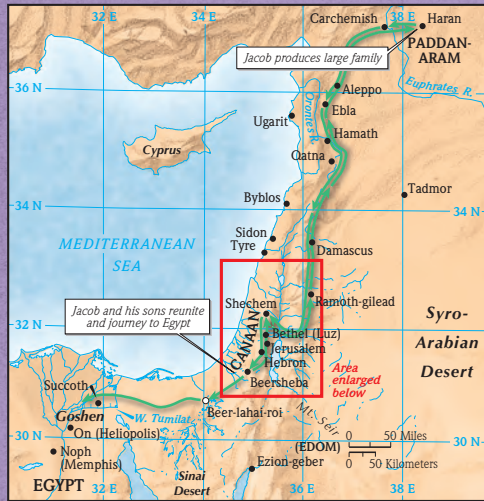
# THE 10 PLAGUES



*When God wanted Pharaoh to free the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt, Pharaoh refused to let them go. Through Moses, God sent ten plagues on the country of Egypt.*

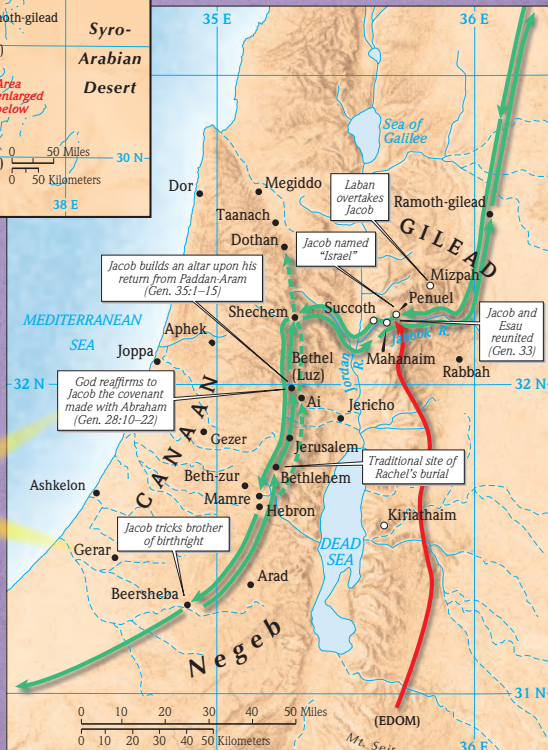
- 1. WATER TURNED TO BLOOD**  
The waters of the Nile turned to blood. ✨ **EXODUS 7:14-25**
- 2. FROGS** Frogs infested the land of Egypt. ✨ **EXODUS 8:1-15**
- 3. GNATS** Small stinging insects infested the land of Egypt. ✨ **EXODUS 8:16-19**
- 4. SWARMS OF FLIES** Swarms of flies infested the land of Egypt. ✨ **EXODUS 8:20-32**
- 5. DEATH OF LIVESTOCK** A serious disease infested the cattle belonging to Egyptians. ✨ **EXODUS 9:1-7**
- 6. BOILS** A skin disease infected the Egyptians. ✨ **EXODUS 9:8-12**
- 7. HAIL** A storm destroyed the grain fields of Egypt but spared the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived. ✨ **EXODUS 9:13-35**
- 8. LOCUSTS** An infestation of locusts stripped the land of Egypt of plant life. ✨ **EXODUS 10:1-20**
- 9. DARKNESS** A deep darkness covered the land of Egypt for three days. ✨ **EXODUS 10:21-29**
- 10. DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN** The firstborn male of every Egyptian family died. ✨ **EXODUS 11:1-12:30**

# THE TRAVELS OF JACOB & JOSEPH



**TRAVELS OF JACOB**  
GEN. 28-33; 35

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Jacob's journey
- Jacob's sons seek pasturage
- Esau's journey



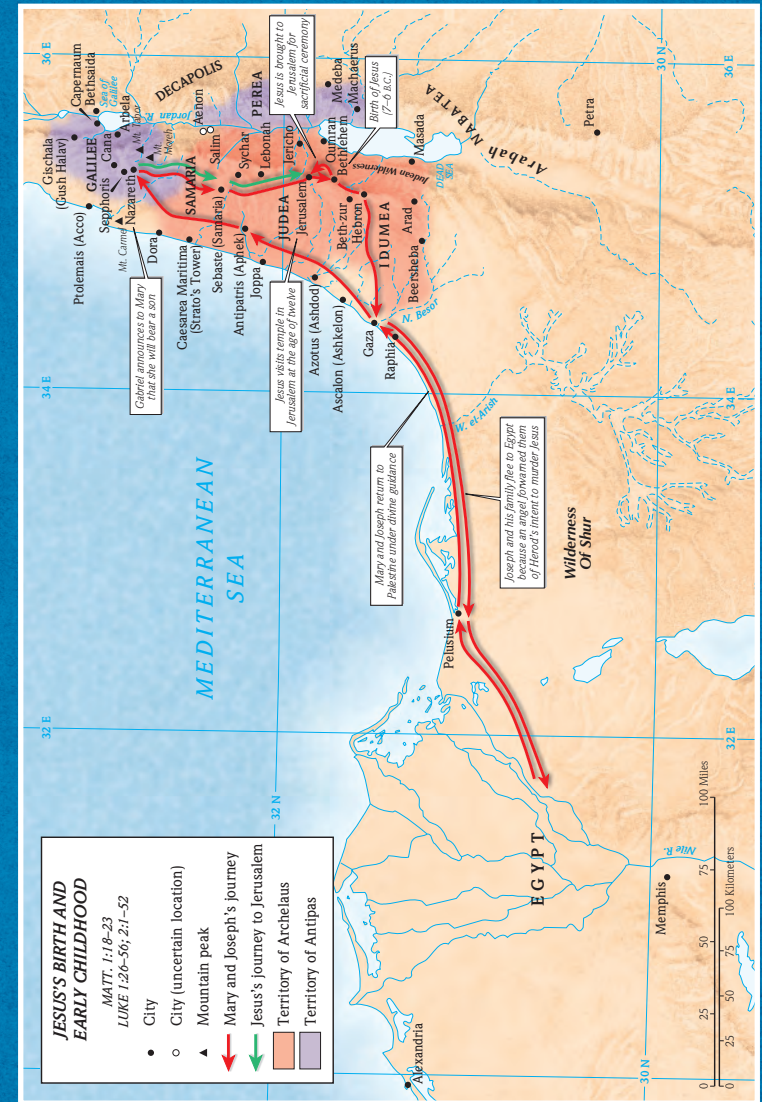
**THE JOURNEYS OF JOSEPH**  
GEN. 37; 39-46

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Migration of Jacob and his sons
- Migration of Jacob's sons
- Joseph's journey into slavery
- Joseph's brothers' and Jacob's journeys from Canaan

# THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL & JUDAH



# JESUS'S BIRTH AND EARLY CHILDHOOD





# CHURCHES OF THE REVELATION



# MATTHEW

## The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

**1** An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Ru 4:18-22; Mk 12:26

### From Abraham to David

- 2** Abraham fathered<sup>A</sup> Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers, Gn 29:35
- 3** Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram, Gn 46:12
- 4** Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- 5** Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse, Ru 1:4; 2:1
- 6** and Jesse fathered King David.

### From David to the Babylonian Exile

- David fathered Solomon<sup>B</sup> by Uriah's wife, 1Sm 16:1; 17:12
- 7** Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,<sup>C</sup>
- 8** Asa<sup>C</sup> fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,<sup>D</sup> Joram fathered Uzziah, 1Kg 14:31
- 9** Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,

- 10** Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon,<sup>E</sup> Amon fathered Josiah, 2Kg 16:20
- 11** and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 2Kg 24:6,14; Is 5:13

### From the Exile to the Messiah

- 12** After the exile to Babylon Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
- 13** Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor, Gn 10:10
- 14** Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,
- 15** Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,
- 16** and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.

**17** So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Messiah, fourteen generations. 2Kg 24:14; Jr 27:20; Dn 9:25-26

### The Nativity of the Messiah

**18** The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged<sup>F</sup> to Joseph, it was discovered before they

<sup>A</sup>1:2 In vv. 2-16 either a son, as here, or a later descendant, as in v. 8 <sup>B</sup>1:6 Other mss add *King*  
<sup>C</sup>1:7,8 Other mss read *Asaph* <sup>D</sup>1:8 = Jehoram <sup>E</sup>1:10 Other mss read *Amos* <sup>F</sup>1:18 Or *betrothed*

came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. Mt 12:46; 13:17; Mk 10:12; Lk 1:27,35

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Mt 27:19; Jn 6:20

<sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> **See, the virgin will  
become pregnant  
and give birth to a son,  
and they will  
name him Immanuel,<sup>A</sup>**

which is translated "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her <sup>25</sup> but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. <sup>B</sup> And he named him Jesus. Mt 1:6; 13:49; Lk 1:1

### Wise Men Visit the King

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him." <sup>C</sup> Gn 25:6; 1Kg 4:30; Lk 1:5; 2:4-7

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of

the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born. Mt 16:21  
<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> **And you, Bethlehem,  
in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least  
among the rulers  
of Judah:  
Because out of you  
will come a ruler  
who will shepherd  
my people Israel."** <sup>D</sup> 25m 5:2

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him." <sup>E</sup> Mk 5:6; Lk 1:7; Ac 13:6; Rv 1:16

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. <sup>F</sup> Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route. Ps 72:10; Is 60:6; Mt 1:18; 12:46

### The Flight into Egypt

<sup>13</sup> After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take

<sup>A</sup>1:23 Is 7:14 <sup>B</sup>1:25 Other mss read to her firstborn son <sup>C</sup>2:2 Or to pay him homage <sup>D</sup>2:6 Mc 5:2

<sup>E</sup>2:8 Or and pay him homage <sup>F</sup>2:11 Or they paid him homage

the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." <sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. <sup>15</sup> He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.** <sup>A</sup> Mt 1:20; 13:49

### The Massacre of the Innocents

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: <sup>Is 59:7; Mk 10:34</sup>

<sup>18</sup> **A voice was heard  
in Ramah,  
weeping,<sup>B</sup> and  
great mourning,  
Rachel weeping  
for her children;  
and she refused  
to be consoled,  
because they are no more.<sup>C</sup>**

### The Return to Nazareth

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead." <sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father

Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. Mt 1:20; 13:49; Lk 1:5,11; Jd 5

### The Herald of the Messiah

**3** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" <sup>3</sup> For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: <sup>Mk 1:3-8; Lk 3:2-17; Jn 1:6-8,19-28</sup>

**A voice of one crying out  
in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way  
for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!<sup>D</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>Mt 23:37; Mk 1:5; Lk 3:3; Jn 15:22</sup>

<sup>7</sup> When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruit consistent with <sup>E</sup> repentance. <sup>9</sup> And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore,

<sup>A</sup>2:15 Hs 11:1 <sup>B</sup>2:18 Other mss read *Ramah, lamentation, and weeping,* <sup>C</sup>2:18 Jr 31:15 <sup>D</sup>3:3 Is 40:3  
<sup>E</sup>3:8 Lit *fruit worthy of*

every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Mt 16:1; 22:23

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with<sup>A</sup> water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove<sup>B</sup> his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out." Is 4:4; Mk 1:4,8; Jn 1:26,33; Ac 1:5

### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "**Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John allowed him to be baptized.

<sup>16</sup> When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, <sup>C</sup> and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." Mt 24:35; Lk 12:33; Ac 17:24; Eph 6:9

### The Temptation of Jesus

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13

<sup>4</sup> He answered, "**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"<sup>D</sup> Dt 8:3

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

**He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**"<sup>E</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Jesus told him, "**It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.**"<sup>F</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."<sup>G</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus told him, "**Go away, H Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**"<sup>I</sup> Dt 6:13; 1Ch 21:1

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

### Ministry in Galilee

<sup>12</sup> When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> **Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.**

<sup>A</sup>3:11 Or in <sup>B</sup>3:11 Or to carry <sup>C</sup>3:16 Other mss omit for him <sup>D</sup>4:4 Dt 8:3 <sup>E</sup>4:6 Ps 91:11-12

<sup>F</sup>4:7 Dt 6:16 <sup>G</sup>4:9 Or and pay me homage <sup>H</sup>4:10 Other mss read "Get behind me" <sup>I</sup>4:10 Dt 6:13

16 **The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**<sup>A,B</sup> Is 9:1-2

17 From then on Jesus began to preach, **“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.”**

### The First Disciples

18 As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. 19 **“Follow me,”** he told them, **“and I will make you fish for people.”** 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mk 7:31

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### Teaching, Preaching, and Healing

23 Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every<sup>D</sup> disease and sickness<sup>E</sup> among the people. 24 Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. 25 Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis,

Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. Mk 1:35-39; 13:54; 24:14; Lk 4:42-44

### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

5 When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then<sup>F</sup> he began to teach them, saying: Mk 3:13; Lk 9:28; 18:14

### The Beatitudes

3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit,** Is 57:15; 66:2  
**for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.** Mt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14

4 **Blessed are those who mourn,** Is 61:2; Mt 11:29; 21:5; Jn 16:20  
**for they will be comforted.**

5 **Blessed are the humble,** Ps 37:11  
**for they will inherit the earth.**

6 **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** Is 55:1-2  
**for they will be filled.**

7 **Blessed are the merciful,**  
**for they will be shown mercy.**

8 **Blessed are the pure in heart,** Ps 24:4  
**for they will see God.**

9 **Blessed are the peacemakers,**  
**for they will be called sons of God.** Mt 5:45; Lk 6:35; 1Jn 3:1

10 **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,**  
**for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.** Mt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14

11 **“You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how**

<sup>A</sup>4:16 Lit dawned on them <sup>B</sup>4:15-16 Is 9:1-2 <sup>C</sup>4:19 Or you fishers of <sup>D</sup>4:23 Or every kind of <sup>E</sup>4:23 Or physical ailment <sup>F</sup>5:2 Lit Then opening his mouth

they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>Mt 2:23; Ac 7:52; 2Tm 3:12</sup>

### Believers Are Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? <sup>A</sup> It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

<sup>Mk 9:50; Lk 14:34</sup>

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>Pr 4:18; Jn 8:12</sup>

### Christ Fulfills the Law

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter <sup>B</sup> or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. <sup>Mt 7:12; Rm 3:31; 10:4; 13:8; Gl 3:24</sup>

### Murder Begins in the Heart

<sup>21</sup> “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, <sup>C</sup> and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister <sup>D</sup> will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults <sup>E</sup> his brother or sister will be subject to the court. <sup>F</sup> Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hell-fire. <sup>G</sup> <sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you’re on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to <sup>H</sup> the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny. <sup>Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17</sup>

### Adultery Begins in the Heart

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery**. <sup>J</sup> <sup>28</sup> But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and

<sup>A</sup>5:13 Or *how can the earth be salted?* <sup>B</sup>5:18 Or *not one iota*; *iota* is the smallest letter of the Gk alphabet. <sup>C</sup>5:21 Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17 <sup>D</sup>5:22 Other mss add *without a cause* <sup>E</sup>5:22 Lit *Whoever says ‘Raca’*; an Aramaic term of abuse that puts someone down, insulting one’s intelligence <sup>F</sup>5:22 Lit *Sanhedrin* <sup>G</sup>5:22 Lit *the gehenna of fire* <sup>H</sup>5:25 Other mss read *judge will hand you over to* <sup>I</sup>5:26 Lit *quadrans*, the smallest and least valuable Roman coin, worth 1/64 of a daily wage <sup>J</sup>5:27 Ex 20:14; Dt 5:18

throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. Ex 20:14; Dt 5:18; 2Sm 11:2; Jb 31:1

### Divorce Practices Censured

<sup>31</sup> “It was also said, **Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce.** <sup>A</sup> <sup>32</sup> But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Dt 24:1; Jr 3:1; Mt 19:7,9; Mk 10:4

### Tell the Truth

<sup>33</sup> “Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord.** <sup>B</sup> <sup>34</sup> But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one. Lv 19:12; Nm 30:2

### Go the Second Mile

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, **An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.** <sup>C</sup> <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, don’t resist <sup>D</sup> an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup> As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let

him have your coat as well. <sup>41</sup> And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Ex 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21; Lk 6:29-30

### Love Your Enemies

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor** <sup>E</sup> and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies <sup>F</sup> and pray for those who <sup>G</sup> persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be <sup>H</sup> children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? <sup>I</sup> Don’t even the Gentiles <sup>J</sup> do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Lv 19:18; Dt 23:6; Lk 6:27; 10:29

### How to Give

**6** “Be careful not to practice your righteousness <sup>K</sup> in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so

<sup>A</sup>5:31 Dt 24:1 <sup>B</sup>5:33 Lv 19:12; Nm 30:2; Dt 23:21 <sup>C</sup>5:38 Ex 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21 <sup>D</sup>5:39 Or *don't set yourself against, or don't retaliate against* <sup>E</sup>5:43 Lv 19:18 <sup>F</sup>5:44 Other mss add *mistreat you and* <sup>G</sup>5:45 Or *may become, or may show yourselves to be* <sup>H</sup>5:47 Or *doing that is superior; lit doing more* <sup>I</sup>5:47 Other mss read *tax collectors* <sup>K</sup>6:1 Other mss read *charitable giving*

that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>A</sup> Mt 23:5; Lk 6:24

### How to Pray

<sup>5</sup> “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>7</sup> When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.<sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him. Mt 6:16; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:24; 18:11

### The Lord’s Prayer

<sup>9</sup> “Therefore, you should pray like this: Lk 11:1-13

Our Father in heaven,  
your name be honored as holy.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today  
our daily bread.<sup>C</sup>

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven  
our debtors. Pr 30:8; Rm 4:4; Gl 5:3

<sup>13</sup> And do not bring us  
into<sup>D</sup> temptation, Mt 26:41  
but deliver us  
from the evil one.<sup>E</sup> Mt 5:37

<sup>14</sup> “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father

will forgive you as well.<sup>15</sup> But if you don’t forgive others,<sup>F</sup> your Father will not forgive your offenses. Mk 11:25; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

### How to Fast

<sup>16</sup> “Whenever you fast, don’t be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they disfigure their faces so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,<sup>18</sup> so that your fasting isn’t obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>B</sup>

Is 58:5; Mt 18:35; Jms 2:13

### God and Possessions

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up for yourselves treasures<sup>G</sup> on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.<sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Pr 23:4; Mt 19:21; Lk 12:33; 18:22; Heb 13:5

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light.<sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness! Mt 4:16; 8:12

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Lk 16:13; Gl 1:10; Jms 4:4

<sup>A</sup>6:4 Other mss read *will himself reward you openly necessary bread, or our bread for tomorrow.* <sup>B</sup>6:18 Other mss add *openly* <sup>C</sup>6:11 Or *our*  
*evil*; some later mss add *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

<sup>F</sup>6:15 Other mss add *their wrongdoing* <sup>G</sup>6:19 Or *valuables*

## The Cure for Anxiety

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any of you add one moment to his life span<sup>A</sup> by worrying?<sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don't labor or spin thread. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you — you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God<sup>B</sup> and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Lk 10:41; 12:22-31; Php 4:6; 1Pt 5:7

## Do Not Judge

**7** "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. <sup>2</sup> For you will be judged by the same standard with which you judge others, and you will be measured by the same measure you use. <sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the splinter in your brother's eye

but don't notice the beam of wood in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' and look, there's a beam of wood in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup> Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.

Mk 4:24-25; Lk 6:37-42

## Ask, Search, Knock

<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door<sup>C</sup> will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## Entering the Kingdom

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. <sup>14</sup> How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it. Mt 26:8; Mk 14:4; Lk 13:23-24

<sup>15</sup> "Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly

<sup>A6:27</sup> Or add a single cubit to his height <sup>B6:33</sup> Other mss omit of God <sup>C7:7</sup> Lit and it

are ravaging wolves. <sup>16</sup> You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> So you'll recognize them by their fruit. <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me, you law-breakers!**' <sup>A,B</sup> Ps 143:10; Mt 3:2; 18:3; Mk 9:43

## The Two Foundations

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash." Mt 12:36; Lk 6:47-49

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because

he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes. Mt 11:1; 13:53-54; 19:1; 22:23; 26:1

## A Man Cleansed

**8** When he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> Right away a man with leprosy<sup>c</sup> came up and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>3</sup> Reaching out his hand, Jesus touched him, saying, "**I am willing; be made clean.**" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus told him, "**See that you don't tell anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.**" Mt 9:30; 17:9; Mk 5:43; 7:36; 8:30

## A Centurion's Faith

<sup>5</sup> When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, pleading with him, <sup>6</sup> "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible agony." Lk 7:1-10; Jn 4:46-54

<sup>7</sup> He said to him, "**Am I to come and heal him?**"<sup>D</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "Lord," the centurion replied, "I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under my command.<sup>E</sup> I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this!' and he does it."

<sup>10</sup> Hearing this, Jesus was amazed and said to those following him, "**Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith.** <sup>11</sup> I tell you that many will come from east and west to share

<sup>A</sup>7:23 Lit *you who work lawlessness* <sup>B</sup>7:23 Ps 6:8 <sup>C</sup>8:2 Gk *leprosy*; a term for various skin diseases, also in v. 3; see Lv 13-14 <sup>D</sup>8:7 Or "I will come and heal him." <sup>E</sup>8:9 Lit *under me*

the banquet<sup>A</sup> with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus told the centurion, “Go. As you have believed, let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that very moment. <sup>B</sup> Is 49:12; 59:19; Mk 1:11

### Healings at Capernaum

<sup>14</sup> Jesus went into Peter’s house and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup> So he touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and began to serve him. <sup>16</sup> When evening came, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> so that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: Mk 1:29-34

**He himself took  
our weaknesses  
and carried our diseases.** <sup>C</sup>

### The Cost of Following Jesus

<sup>18</sup> When Jesus saw a large crowd<sup>D</sup> around him, he gave the order to go to the other side of the sea. <sup>19</sup> A scribe approached him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” Mt 14:22; Mk 4:35; Lk 8:22

<sup>20</sup> Jesus told him, “**Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.**” Dn 7:14; Mt 9:6

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” another of his disciples said, “first let me go bury my father.”

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus told him, “**Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.**”

### Wind and Waves Obey Jesus

<sup>23</sup> As he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly, a violent storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves — but Jesus kept sleeping. <sup>25</sup> So the disciples came and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to die!” Mt 10:1; Mk 4:36-41; Lk 8:22-25

<sup>26</sup> He said to them, “**Why are you afraid, you of little faith?**” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey him!” Mk 1:27; Lk 5:9

### Demons Driven Out by Jesus

<sup>28</sup> When he had come to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, <sup>E</sup> two demon-possessed men met him as they came out of the tombs. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. <sup>29</sup> Suddenly they shouted, “What do you have to do with us, <sup>F</sup> Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” Mk 5:1-17; Lk 8:26-37

<sup>30</sup> A long way off from them, a large herd of pigs was feeding. <sup>31</sup> “If you drive us out,” the demons begged him, “send us into the herd of pigs.”

<sup>32</sup> “Go!” he told them. So when they had come out, they entered the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. <sup>33</sup> Then the men who tended them fled. They went into the city and reported everything, especially what had happened to those who were demon-possessed. <sup>34</sup> At that, the whole town went out to meet Jesus. When

<sup>A</sup>8:11 Lit *recline at the table* <sup>B</sup>8:13 Or *that hour*; lit *very hour* <sup>C</sup>8:17 Is 53:4 <sup>D</sup>8:18 Other mss read *saw large crowds* <sup>E</sup>8:28 Other mss read *Gergesenes* <sup>F</sup>8:29 Other mss add *Jesus*

they saw him, they begged him to leave their region. 1K9:17:18; Lk 5:8

## The Son of Man Forgives and Heals

**9** So he got into a boat, crossed over, and came to his own town. <sup>2</sup> Just then some men<sup>A</sup> brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, **“Have courage, son, your sins are forgiven.”** Mt 4:13; Mk 5:21

<sup>3</sup> At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, “He’s blaspheming!”

<sup>4</sup> Perceiving their thoughts, Jesus said, **“Why are you thinking evil things in your hearts?”** <sup>5</sup> For which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?

<sup>6</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — then he told the paralytic, **“Get up, take your stretcher, and go home.”** <sup>7</sup> So he got up and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck<sup>C,D</sup> and gave glory to God, who had given such authority to men. Mt 12:25; Lk 6:8

## The Call of Matthew

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, **“Follow me,”** and he got up and followed him. Mt 10:3; Mk 2:14-22; Lk 5:27-38

<sup>10</sup> While he was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

<sup>12</sup> Now when he heard this, he said, **“It is not those who are well**

**who need a doctor, but those who are sick.** <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice.** <sup>E</sup> For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.” <sup>F</sup> Mk 2:17; Lk 5:31

## A Question About Fasting

<sup>14</sup> Then John’s disciples came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” Mt 11:2; 14:12; 15:2

<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to them, **“Can the wedding guests<sup>G</sup> be sad while the groom is with them? The time<sup>H</sup> will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.** <sup>16</sup> No one patches an old garment with unshrunk cloth, because the patch pulls away from the garment and makes the tear worse. <sup>17</sup> And no one puts<sup>I</sup> new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. No, they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

## A Girl Restored and a Woman Healed

<sup>18</sup> As he was telling them these things, suddenly one of the leaders came and knelt down before him, saying, “My daughter just died,<sup>J</sup> but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup> So Jesus and his disciples got up and followed him. Mt 8:2-3; Mk 5:22-43; Lk 8:41-56

<sup>20</sup> Just then, a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years approached from behind and touched the end of his robe, <sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I’ll be made well.” <sup>K</sup> Lv 15:25; Nm 15:38; Dt 22:12; Mt 14:36; 23:5

<sup>A</sup>9:2 Lit then they <sup>B</sup>9:4 Or minds <sup>C</sup>9:8 Other mss read amazed <sup>D</sup>9:8 Lit afraid <sup>E</sup>9:13 Hs 6:6

<sup>F</sup>9:13 Other mss add to repentance <sup>G</sup>9:15 Lit the sons of the bridal chamber <sup>H</sup>9:15 Lit days <sup>I</sup>9:17 Lit

And they do not put <sup>J</sup>9:18 Lit daughter has now come to the end <sup>K</sup>9:21 Or be saved

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. **"Have courage, daughter,"** he said. **"Your faith has saved you."**<sup>A</sup> And the woman was made well from that moment.<sup>B</sup> Mt 15:28; Mk 10:52; Lk 7:50; 17:19

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house, he saw the flute players and a crowd lamenting loudly. <sup>24</sup> **"Leave,"** he said, **"because the girl is not dead but asleep."** And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> Then news of this spread throughout that whole area. Jr 9:17

### Healing the Blind

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" Mt 1:1; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; Mk 10:47

<sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men approached him, and Jesus said to them, **"Do you believe that I can do this?"** Mk 11:24; Jn 3:16

They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, **"Let it be done for you according to your faith."**<sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus warned them sternly, **"Be sure that no one finds out."**<sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him throughout that whole area.

### Driving Out a Demon

<sup>32</sup> Just as they were going out, a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to him. <sup>33</sup> When the demon had been driven out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed, saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!"

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons." Mk 3:22; Jn 7:20

### The Lord of the Harvest

<sup>35</sup> Jesus continued going around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every<sup>C</sup> disease and every sickness.<sup>D,E</sup> <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, **"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."** Mt 4:23; 14:14; 15:32; Mk 8:2

### Commissioning the Twelve

**10** Summoning his twelve disciples, he gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out and to heal every<sup>C</sup> disease and sickness.<sup>E</sup> <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: First, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;<sup>F</sup> <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot,<sup>G</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. Mt 9:35; Mk 3:13-19; 6:13-16

<sup>5</sup> Jesus sent out these twelve after giving them instructions: **"Don't take the road that leads to the Gentiles, and don't enter any Samaritan town. <sup>6</sup> Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim, 'The kingdom of**

<sup>A</sup>9:22 Or *has made you well* <sup>B</sup>9:22 Lit *hour* <sup>C</sup>9:35; <sup>10</sup>:1 Or *every kind of* <sup>D</sup>9:35 Other mss add *among the people* <sup>E</sup>9:35; <sup>10</sup>:1 Or *physical ailment* <sup>F</sup>10:3 Other mss read *and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus* <sup>G</sup>10:4 Lit *the Cananaean*

heaven has come near.’<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with leprosy,<sup>A</sup> drive out demons. Freely you received, freely give.<sup>9</sup> Don’t acquire gold, silver, or copper for your money-belts.<sup>10</sup> Don’t take a traveling bag for the road, or an extra shirt, sandals, or a staff, for the worker is worthy of his food.<sup>11</sup> When you enter any town or village, find out who is worthy, and stay there until you leave.<sup>12</sup> Greet a household when you enter it,<sup>13</sup> and if the household is worthy, let your peace be on it; but if it is unworthy, let your peace return to you.<sup>14</sup> If anyone does not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that house or town.<sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. 2K<sup>g</sup> 17:24; L<sup>k</sup> 9:52; 17:16; J<sup>n</sup> 4:9

### Persecutions Predicted

<sup>16</sup> “Look, I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves.<sup>17</sup> Beware of them, because they will hand you over to local courts<sup>B</sup> and flog you in their synagogues.<sup>18</sup> You will even be brought before governors and kings because of me, to bear witness to them and to the Gentiles.<sup>19</sup> But when they hand you over, don’t worry about how or what you are to speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour,<sup>20</sup> because it isn’t you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you. G<sup>n</sup> 3:1; L<sup>k</sup> 10:3; R<sup>m</sup> 16:19; P<sup>h</sup>p 2:15

<sup>21</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child.

Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.<sup>22</sup> You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. For truly I tell you, you will not have gone through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.<sup>24</sup> A disciple<sup>C</sup> is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master.<sup>25</sup> It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master. If they called the head of the house ‘Beelzebul,’ how much more the members of his household! M<sup>c</sup> 7:6; M<sup>t</sup> 10:35-36; M<sup>k</sup> 13:12; A<sup>c</sup> 8:1

### Fear God

<sup>26</sup> “Therefore, don’t be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won’t be uncovered and nothing hidden that won’t be made known.<sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper,<sup>D</sup> proclaim on the housetops.<sup>28</sup> Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>29</sup> Aren’t two sparrows sold for a penny?<sup>E</sup> Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s consent.<sup>F</sup><sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head have all been counted.<sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. M<sup>t</sup> 24:17; M<sup>k</sup> 4:22; L<sup>k</sup> 8:17; 12:2-9

### Acknowledging Christ

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before

<sup>A</sup>10:8 G<sup>k</sup> *lepros*; a term for various skin diseases; see Lv 13–14 <sup>B</sup>10:17 Or *sanhedrins* <sup>C</sup>10:24 Or *student*  
<sup>D</sup>10:27 Lit *in the ear* <sup>E</sup>10:29 G<sup>k</sup> *assarion*, a small copper coin <sup>F</sup>10:29 Lit *ground apart from your Father*

my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup> Don't assume that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I came to turn

**a man against his father,  
a daughter against  
her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against  
her mother-in-law;  
<sup>36</sup> and a man's enemies  
will be  
the members**

**of his household.**<sup>A</sup> Ps 41:9  
<sup>37</sup> The one who loves a father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; the one who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Anyone who finds his life will lose it, and anyone who loses his life because of me will find it. Mt 16:25; Lk 9:24; 14:25-27

### A Cup of Cold Water

<sup>40</sup> "The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet<sup>B</sup> will receive a prophet's reward. And anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous<sup>C</sup> will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple,<sup>D</sup> truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward."  
Mt 18:5; Lk 10:16; Jn 13:20; Gl 4:14

<sup>A</sup>10:35-36 Mt 7:6

<sup>B</sup>10:41 Lit prophet in the name of a prophet

<sup>C</sup>10:41 Lit person in the name of a righteous person

<sup>D</sup>10:42 Lit little ones in the name of a disciple

<sup>E</sup>11:5 Gk leprosy; a term for various skin diseases; see Lv 13-14

<sup>F</sup>11:10 Mal 3:1

<sup>G</sup>11:11 Lit arisen

### John the Baptist Doubts

**11** When Jesus had finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns. <sup>2</sup> Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples <sup>3</sup> and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Mt 7:28; 9:35; 11:27

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy<sup>F</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, <sup>6</sup> and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."  
Is 8:14-15; 35:5; 61:1; Lk 4:18; Jms 2:5

<sup>7</sup> As these men were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who wear soft clothes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: Mt 3:1; Eph 4:14

**See, I am sending  
my messenger  
ahead of you;**

**he will prepare your way  
before you.**<sup>F</sup> Mal 3:1; Mk 1:2

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, <sup>6</sup> but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering

violence,<sup>A</sup> and the violent have been seizing it by force.<sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.<sup>14</sup> And if you're willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who is to come.<sup>15</sup> Let anyone who has ears<sup>B</sup> listen. Mai 4:5; Mt 17:10-13; Mk 9:11-13

### An Unresponsive Generation

<sup>16</sup> "To what should I compare this generation? It's like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to other children:

<sup>17</sup> We played the flute for you,  
but you didn't dance;  
we sang a lament,  
but you didn't mourn!<sup>C</sup>

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated<sup>D</sup> by her deeds."<sup>E</sup> Mt 3:4; 9:10; Lk 1:15; 7:36

<sup>20</sup> Then he proceeded to denounce the towns where most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent:<sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes long ago.<sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.<sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until today.<sup>24</sup> But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of

Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." Mk 6:45; Lk 9:10; 10:12-15; Jn 12:21

### The Son Gives Knowledge and Rest

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants.<sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure.<sup>F</sup> <sup>27</sup> All things have been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires<sup>G</sup> to reveal him. Ps 8:2; Lk 10:21-22

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Jr 31:25; Jn 7:37; 13:15; Eph 4:20; Php 2:5

### Lord of the Sabbath

**12** At that time Jesus passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some heads of grain.<sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." Mt 10:1; 26:56; Mk 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5

<sup>3</sup> He said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry:<sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God, and they ate<sup>H</sup> the bread of the Presence — which is not lawful for him or for those with him

<sup>A</sup>11:12 Or has been forcefully advancing <sup>B</sup>11:15 Other mss add to hear <sup>C</sup>11:17 Or beat your chests in grief <sup>D</sup>11:19 Or declared right <sup>E</sup>11:19 Other mss read children <sup>F</sup>11:26 Lit was well-pleasing in your sight <sup>G</sup>11:27 Or wills, or chooses <sup>H</sup>12:4 Other mss read he ate

and they will gather from his kingdom all who cause sin<sup>A</sup> and those guilty of lawlessness.<sup>B</sup> <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Let anyone who has ears<sup>C</sup> listen. Mt 8:12; Jn 8:44

### The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and of the Priceless Pearl

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field. Is 55:1

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one priceless<sup>D</sup> pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it.

### The Parable of the Net

<sup>47</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a large net thrown into the sea. It collected every kind of fish, <sup>48</sup> and when it was full, they dragged it ashore, sat down, and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw out the worthless ones. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out, separate the evil people from the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mt 3:2; 13:39-40,44; 22:10; 25:32

### The Storehouse of Truth

<sup>51</sup> "Have you understood all these things?"<sup>E</sup>

They answered him, "Yes."

<sup>52</sup> "Therefore," he said to them, "every teacher of the law<sup>F</sup> who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom treasures new and old." Mt 12:35; 28:19

### Rejection at Nazareth

<sup>53</sup> When Jesus had finished these parables, he left there. <sup>54</sup> He went to his hometown and began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? <sup>55</sup> Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother called Mary, and his brothers James, Joseph,<sup>G</sup> Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup> And his sisters, aren't they all with us? So where does he get all these things?"<sup>57</sup> And they were offended by him. Mk 6:1-6

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his household."

<sup>58</sup> And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief. Jr 11:21; 12:6; Lk 4:24; Jn 4:44

### John the Baptist Beheaded

**14** At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus. <sup>2</sup> "This is John the Baptist," he told his servants. "He has been raised from the dead, and that's why miraculous powers are at work in him." Mk 6:14-29; Lk 3:19; 9:7-9

<sup>3</sup> For Herod had arrested John, chained<sup>H</sup> him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, <sup>4</sup> since John had been telling him, "It's not lawful for you to have her."<sup>5</sup> Though Herod

<sup>A</sup>13:41 Or stumbling <sup>B</sup>13:41 Or those who do lawlessness <sup>C</sup>13:43 Other mss add to hear <sup>D</sup>13:46 Or very precious <sup>E</sup>13:51 Other mss add Jesus asked them <sup>F</sup>13:52 Or every scribe <sup>G</sup>13:55 Other mss read Josés; Mk 6:3 <sup>H</sup>14:3 Or bound

wanted to kill John, he feared the crowd since they regarded John as a prophet. Lv 18:16; 20:21; Mt 4:12; 11:2; Jn 3:24

<sup>6</sup> When Herod's birthday celebration came, Herodias's daughter danced before them<sup>A</sup> and pleased Herod. <sup>7</sup> So he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she answered, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." <sup>9</sup> Although the king regretted it, he commanded that it be granted because of his oaths and his guests. <sup>10</sup> So he sent orders and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. <sup>12</sup> Then his disciples came, removed the corpse,<sup>B</sup> buried it, and went and reported to Jesus.

### Feeding of the Five Thousand

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard about it, he withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore,<sup>C</sup> he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick. Jn 6:1-13

<sup>15</sup> When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late.<sup>D</sup> Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Mt 10:1; 26:56; Mk 3:7; 16:20; Lk 6:13

<sup>16</sup> "They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat."

<sup>17</sup> "But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to him.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup> Then he commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. <sup>21</sup> Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. 15m 9:13

### Walking on the Water

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he<sup>E</sup> made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. <sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance<sup>F</sup> from land,<sup>G</sup> battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning.<sup>H</sup> <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and they cried out in fear. Mk 6:45-51; Lk 6:12

<sup>27</sup> Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Dt 31:6; Is 41:13; 43:1-2; Mt 17:7

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> He said, "Come."

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the strength of the wind,<sup>I</sup> he

<sup>A</sup>14:6 Lit *danced in the middle* <sup>B</sup>14:12 Other mss read *body* <sup>C</sup>14:14 Lit *Coming out* (of the boat)

<sup>D</sup>14:15 Lit *and the time* (for the evening meal) *has already passed* <sup>E</sup>14:22 Other mss read *Jesus*

<sup>F</sup>14:24 Lit *already many stadia*; one *stadium* = 600 feet <sup>G</sup>14:24 Other mss read *already in the middle of the sea*

<sup>H</sup>14:25 Lit *fourth watch of the night* = 3 to 6 a.m. <sup>I</sup>14:30 Other mss read *saw the wind*

was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "**You of little faith, why did you doubt?**" Mt 6:30; 8:26; 16:8

<sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### Miraculous Healings

<sup>34</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret.

<sup>35</sup>When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick. <sup>36</sup>They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed. Mk 6:53-56; Jn 6:24-25

### The Tradition of the Elders

**15** Then Jesus was approached by Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem, who asked, <sup>2</sup>"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don't wash their hands when they eat." <sup>A</sup>

<sup>3</sup>He answered them, "**Why do you break God's commandment because of your tradition?** <sup>4</sup>For God said:<sup>B</sup> **Honor your father and your mother;**<sup>C</sup> and, **Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.**<sup>D</sup> <sup>5</sup>But you say, 'Whoever tells his father or mother, "Whatever benefit you might have received from me is a gift committed to the temple," <sup>6</sup>he does not have to honor his father.'<sup>E</sup> In this way, you have nullified the

word of God<sup>F</sup> because of your tradition. <sup>7</sup>Hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said: Ex 20:12; 21:17; Lv 20:9; Dt 5:16; Eph 6:2

<sup>8</sup> **This people<sup>G</sup> honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.**

<sup>9</sup> **They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands.**" <sup>H</sup> Is 29:13

### Defilement Is from Within

<sup>10</sup>Summoning the crowd, he told them, "**Listen and understand:** <sup>11</sup>It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth — this defiles a person." Mt 15:18; Mk 7:15; Ac 21:28; Heb 9:13

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came up and told him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

<sup>13</sup>He replied, "**Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Leave them alone! They are blind guides. <sup>1</sup>And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.**" Is 60:21; 61:3; Jn 15:2; 1Co 3:9

<sup>15</sup>Then Peter said, "Explain this parable to us." Mt 13:36; Mk 7:17

<sup>16</sup>"Do you still lack understanding?" he<sup>J</sup> asked. <sup>17</sup>"Don't you realize<sup>K</sup> that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated?<sup>L</sup> <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup>For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are

<sup>A</sup>15:2 Lit *eat bread* = eat a meal <sup>B</sup>15:4 Other mss read *commanded, saying* <sup>C</sup>15:4 Ex 20:12; Dt 5:16

<sup>D</sup>15:4 Ex 21:17; Lv 20:9 <sup>E</sup>15:6 Other mss read *then he does not have to honor his father or mother*

<sup>F</sup>15:6 Other mss read *commandment* <sup>G</sup>15:8 Other mss add *draw near to me with their mouths, and*

<sup>H</sup>15:8-9 Is 29:13 LXX <sup>I</sup>15:14 Other mss add *for the blind* <sup>J</sup>15:16 Other mss read *Jesus* <sup>K</sup>15:17 Other mss add *yet* <sup>L</sup>15:17 Lit and *goes out into the toilet*

**the things that defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person.**" Mt 12:34; Jms 3:6

### A Gentile Mother's Faith

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus left there, he withdrew to the area of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came and kept crying out, <sup>A</sup> "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely tormented by a demon." Mt 11:21; Mk 7:24-30

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not say a word to her. His disciples approached him and urged him, "Send her away because she's crying out after us." Mt 16:20

<sup>24</sup> He replied, **"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** Mt 10:6,23; Jn 4:22; Rm 15:8

<sup>25</sup> But she came, knelt before him, and said, "Lord, help me!"

<sup>26</sup> He answered, **"It isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."** Ex 22:31; 2Kg 9:10; Mt 8:2

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she said, "yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus replied to her, **"Woman, your faith is great. Let it be done for you as you want."** And from that moment <sup>B</sup> her daughter was healed. Mt 9:22; 17:18; Jn 4:52-53

### Healing Many People

<sup>29</sup> Moving on from there, Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee. He went up on a mountain and sat there, <sup>30</sup> and large crowds came to him, including the lame, the blind, the crippled, those unable to speak, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he healed them.

<sup>31</sup> So the crowd was amazed when they saw those unable to speak talking, the crippled restored, the

lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they gave glory to the God of Israel. Is 29:23; Mt 9:8; 18:8; Mk 7:31-37; 9:43

### Feeding of the Four Thousand

<sup>32</sup> Jesus called his disciples and said, **"I have compassion on the crowd, because they've already stayed with me three days and have nothing to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, otherwise they might collapse on the way."** Mt 14:14-21

<sup>33</sup> The disciples said to him, "Where could we get enough bread in this desolate place to feed such a crowd?" Mk 8:4; 2Co 11:26; Heb 11:38

<sup>34</sup> **"How many loaves do you have?"** Jesus asked them.

"Seven," they said, "and a few small fish."

<sup>35</sup> After commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

<sup>37</sup> They all ate and were satisfied. They collected the leftover pieces — seven large baskets full. <sup>38</sup> Now there were four thousand men who had eaten, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup> After dismissing the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan. <sup>C</sup> Mt 26:27; Lk 22:17; Jn 6:11,23; Ac 27:35

### The Leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees

**16** The Pharisees and Sadducees approached, and tested him, asking him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He replied, **"When evening comes you say, 'It will be good weather because the sky is red.' <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, 'Today will be stormy because the sky is**

<sup>A</sup>15:22 Other mss read *and cried out to him* <sup>B</sup>15:28 Lit hour <sup>C</sup>15:39 Other mss read *Magdala*

red and threatening.' You<sup>A</sup> know how to read the appearance of the sky, but you can't read the signs of the times.<sup>B</sup> <sup>4</sup> An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of<sup>C</sup> Jonah." Then he left them and went away. Mt 12:38-39; Mk 8:11-21

<sup>5</sup> The disciples reached the other shore,<sup>D</sup> and they had forgotten to take bread.<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus told them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven<sup>E</sup> of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Mt 3:7; 8:15; Lk 12:1; 1Co 5:6-8; Gl 5:9

<sup>7</sup> They were discussing among themselves, "We didn't bring any bread."

<sup>8</sup> Aware of this, Jesus said, "You of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves that you do not have bread?<sup>9</sup> Don't you understand yet? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand and how many baskets you collected?<sup>10</sup> Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many large baskets you collected?<sup>11</sup> Why is it you don't understand that when I told you, 'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees,' it wasn't about bread?"

<sup>12</sup> Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the leaven in bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Mt 6:30; 8:26

### Peter's Confession of the Messiah

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi,<sup>F</sup> he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"<sup>G</sup> Mk 8:27-29

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Mt 14:2; 17:10; Mk 6:15; Lk 9:8; Jn 1:21

<sup>15</sup> "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Mt 1:16; Jn 11:27

<sup>17</sup> Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,<sup>H</sup> because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound<sup>I</sup> in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed<sup>J</sup> in heaven."<sup>20</sup> Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was<sup>K</sup> the Messiah. Jn 1:42; 21:15-17; Gl 1:16

### His Death and Resurrection Predicted

<sup>21</sup> From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day.<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no,<sup>L</sup> Lord! This will never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you're not thinking about God's concerns<sup>M</sup> but human concerns." 2Sm 19:22

<sup>A</sup>16:3 Other mss read *Hypocrites! You* <sup>B</sup>16:2-3 Other mss omit *When* (v. 2) through end of v. 3

<sup>C</sup>16:4 Other mss add *the prophet* <sup>D</sup>16:5 Lit *disciples went to the other side* <sup>E</sup>16:6 Or *yeast*, also in vv. 11, 12 <sup>F</sup>16:13 A town north of Galilee at the base of Mount Hermon <sup>G</sup>16:13 Other mss read *that I, the Son of Man, am*

<sup>H</sup>16:17 Or *son of John* <sup>I</sup>16:19 Or *earth will be bound* <sup>J</sup>16:19 Or *earth will be loosed*

<sup>K</sup>16:20 Other mss add *Jesus* <sup>L</sup>16:22 Lit "Mercy to you = "May God have mercy on you <sup>M</sup>16:23 Lit *about the things of God*