

Matthew

INTRODUCTION

Matthew's Gospel presents Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, the one who will establish God's kingdom on earth. It begins with Jesus' royal genealogy and shows how He fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. Matthew's Gospel highlights the miracles of Jesus, culminating in the resurrection, to prove that Jesus Christ is the One and only King and Messiah. It closes with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20, where Christ commissioned His followers to make disciples of all nations. A crucial part of this involves evangelism, telling others about Christ and His death and resurrection on our behalf. Matthew's Gospel shouts, "With a King like Jesus, those who believe in Him should not keep silent!"

Genealogy of Christ

Ruth 4:18-22; 1 Chr. 1:34, 2:1-15; Luke 3:31-34

1 The book of the ^agenealogy¹ of Jesus Christ, ^bthe Son of David, ^cthe Son of Abraham:

^{2d}Abraham begot Isaac, ^eIsaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot ^fJudah and his brothers. ^{3s}Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, ^hPerez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵Salmon begot ⁱBoaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶and ^jJesse begot David the king.

^kDavid the king begot Solomon by her ²who had been the wife of Uriah. ^{7l}Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot ^mAbijah, and Abijah begot ³Asa. ⁸Asa begot ⁿJehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot ^oUzziah. ⁹Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot ^pAhaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ^{10q}Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot ⁴Amon, and Amon begot ^rJosiah. ^{11s}Josiah begot ⁵Jecooniah and his brothers about the time they were ^tcarried away to Babylon.

¹²And after they were brought to Babylon, ^uJecooniah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot ^vZerubbabel. ¹³Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim

CHAPTER 1

¹Luke 3:23
²2Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Is. 9:6; 11:1; Jer. 23:5; [Matt. 1:18; Luke 3:23, 31]; John 7:42; Acts 2:30; [Rom. 1:3]; Rev. 22:16; Gen. 12:3; 22:18; [Gal. 3:16]
¹Lit. generation
²Gen. 21:2, 12
³Gen. 25:26; 28:14
⁴Gen. 29:35
³Gen. 38:27; 49:10
^hRuth 4:18-22; 1 Chr. 2:1-15; Matt. 1:3-6
⁵Ruth 2:1; 4:1-13
⁶1 Sam. 16:1; Is. 11:1, 10
²2Sam. 7:12; 12:24; Is. 9:7
²Words in italic type have been added for clarity. They are not found in the original Greek.
⁷1 Kin. 11:43; 1 Chr. 3:10
^m2 Chr. 11:20
³NU *Asaph*
⁸1 Chr. 3:10
²2 Kin. 15:13
⁹2 Kin. 15:38
¹⁰2 Kin. 20:21
¹1 Kin. 13:2
⁴NU *Amos*
¹¹1 Chr. 3:15, 16
²2 Kin. 24:14-16; Jer. 27:20; Matt. 1:17
⁵Or *Coniah* or *Jehoiachin*

begot Azor. ¹⁴Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of ^wMary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Birth of Christ

¹⁸Now the ^xbirth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child ^yof the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Then Joseph her husband, being ⁶a just man, and not wanting ^zto make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, ^afor that which is ⁷conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ^{21b}And she will bring forth a Son,

¹²1 Chr. 3:17
¹Ezra 3:2; Neh. 12:1; Hag. 1:1
¹⁶Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3
¹⁸Matt. 12:46; Luke 1:27
¹Is. 7:14; 49:5; Luke 1:35
¹1:17
⁵Or *Coniah* or *Jehoiachin*
⁶begotten
²¹Is. 7:14; 9:6, 7; Luke 1:31; 2:21

1:1 Matthew presented a legal genealogy as evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah through the family line of Abraham and David. *Jesus Christ*. The name "Jesus" originates from the Hebrew word *Jeshua* or *Joshua*, meaning, "the Lord is salvation."¹ "Christ" comes from the Greek word *christos*, meaning "Anointed One," or the Messiah.

1:18 with child of the Holy Spirit. Christ's miraculous conception is evidence that He is God.

1:21 *Jesus* means "the Lord is salvation." His name conveys the purpose for His coming to earth. *He will save His people from their sins*. Christ became a man for the purpose of salvation. This message needs to be first and foremost our message as well.

and you shall call His name ¹JESUS, ^cfor He will save His people from their sins.”

²²So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ^{23d}“Behold, ²the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵and ³did not know her till she had brought forth ^eher ^dfirstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Visit of Wise Men

2 Now after ³Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, ⁵wise men ^bfrom the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is

²¹ ^cLuke 2:11; John 1:29; [Acts 4:12; 5:31; 13:23, 38; Rom. 5:18, 19; Col. 1:20-23] ¹Lit. Savior

²³ ^dIs. 7:14
²Words in oblique type in the New Testament are quoted from the Old Testament.

²⁵ ^eEx. 13:2; Luke 2:7, 21 ³Kept her a virgin ^fNU a Son

CHAPTER 2

¹ ^aMic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7 ^bGen. 25:6; 1 Kin. 4:30 ²Gr. magoi

² ^cLuke 2:11 [Num. 24:17; Is. 60:3]

⁴ ²Chr. 36:14
²Chr. 34:13

⁹Mal. 2:7

He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen ^dHis star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴And when he had gathered all ^ethe chief priests and ^fscribes of the people together, ^ghe inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ *‘But^h you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Rulerⁱ Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”*

⁶ ^bMic. 5:2; John 7:42 ¹Gen. 49:10; [Rev. 2:27]

1:23 *Immanuel.* Matthew linked Jesus to this divine name from Isaiah which means “God with us.” **2:2** *King of the Jews.* See Mark 15:2.

MATTHEW 1

Matthew’s Use of Old Testament Prophecy

Throughout history, many people have claimed to be the Messiah. Only Christ perfectly fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew recorded several of these prophecies in his book. He compared the Old Testament prophetic writings with the historical and eyewitness accounts of the disciples in order to prove that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Reference in Matthew	Old Testament Passage	Prophecies about the Messiah and His Ministry
1:23	Isaiah 7:14	Born of a virgin
2:5–6	Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem
2:14–15	Hosea 11:1	Come out of Egypt
2:16–18	Jeremiah 31:15	Birth would cause grief and the death of children
3:3	Isaiah 40:3	Announced by a forerunner
4:15–16	Isaiah 9:1–2	Minister in Galilee
8:17	Isaiah 53:4	Bring healing
11:10	Malachi 3:1	Announced by a forerunner
12:18–21	Isaiah 42:1–4	Bring hope to the Gentiles
13:14–15	Isaiah 6:9–10	Many would not understand His teaching
13:34–35	Psalms 78:2	Speak in parables
15:7–9	Isaiah 29:13	Opposed by hypocrites
21:4–5	Zechariah 9:9	Arrive riding a donkey
21:42	Psalms 118:22–23	Rejected by some to their own undoing
22:44	Psalms 110:1	Recognized by David as Lord
26:31	Zechariah 13:7	Followers would scatter at His death
27:9–10	Zechariah 11:13	Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
27:35	Psalms 22:18	Lots cast to divide His clothes

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the ¹wise men, determined from them what time the ¹star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, ¹²they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²Then, being divinely warned ¹in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Flight into Egypt

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ¹⁶“*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*”

Herod Kills the Children

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

⁷Num. 24:17 ¹Gr. *magoi*
¹¹Ps. 72:10;
Is. 60:6
¹²Job 33:15, 16;
Matt. 1:20
¹⁵Num. 24:8;
Hos. 11:1

¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸“*A¹ voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.*”

Jesus Returns to Nazareth

Luke 2:39

¹⁹Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who ¹⁹sought the young Child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a ²³dream, he turned aside ²⁴into the region of Galilee. ²⁵And he came and dwelt in a city called ²⁶Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled ²⁷which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The Person of John the Baptist

Mark 1:2-6; Luke 3:3-6

³In those days ⁴John the Baptist came preaching ⁵in the wilderness of Judea, ⁶and saying, “Repent, for ⁷the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” ⁸For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

⁴“*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

⁵“*Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.*”

⁴Now ⁵John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was ⁶locusts and ⁷wild honey. ⁸Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁹and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

¹⁸Jer. 31:15
²⁰Luke 2:39
¹⁹Matt. 2:16
²²Matt. 2:12, 13, 19
¹⁹Matt. 3:13; Luke 2:39
²³Luke 1:26; 2:39; John 1:45, 46
¹Judg. 13:5

CHAPTER 3

¹Matt. 3:1-12; Mark 1:3-8; Luke 3:2-17; John 1:6-8, 19-28
¹Josh. 14:10
²Dan. 2:44; Mal. 4:6; Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15; Luke 1:17; 10:9; 11:20; 21:31
³Is. 40:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23
⁴Luke 1:76
⁴2Kin. 1:8; Zech. 13:4; Matt. 11:8; Mark 1:6
¹Lev. 11:22
¹Sam. 14:25, 26
⁵Mark 1:5
⁶Acts 19:4, 18

2:11 *Gold* was a gift suitable for a king. *Frankincense* was incense used in worship. *Myrrh* was a much valued perfume, sometimes used as an ointment for embalming the bodies of the dead prior to burial. Some interpret them to be symbols of the person and ministry of Jesus—gold for His kingship, frankincense for His deity, and myrrh for His death and burial prior to His resurrection.

3:2 *Repent.* This term means “to change one’s mind” (see Luke 24:47). *the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* John taught that the coming of the Messiah initiat-

ed God’s rule on the earth. John was preparing the way for His coming and presented the people with a choice: receive their King in faith or reject Him in disobedience.

3:6 *baptized.* Those baptized by John demonstrated their identification with the coming Messiah through repentance, followed by baptism (see Acts 19:4). Later New Testament baptisms symbolized a believer’s identification with Christ following faith in Him. *confessing their sins.* See Mark 1:5.

The Preaching of John the Baptist**Mark 1:7-9; Luke 3:7-9, 16, 17**

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ^k“Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from ^lthe wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not think to say to yourselves, ^m“We have Abraham as *our* father.” For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. ⁿTherefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. ^oHe will baptize you with the Holy Spirit ^land fire. ^{12a}His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will ^{burn} up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Baptism of Jesus**Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23**

^{13s}Then Jesus came ^tfrom Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

^{16u}When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and ^vHe saw ^wthe Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ^{17w}And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, ^x“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

First Temptation**Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-4**

4 Then ^aJesus was led up by ^bthe Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was

⁷*Matt. 12:34; Luke 3:7-9 [Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10]
⁹*John 8:33; Acts 13:26; [Rom. 4:1, 11, 16; Gal. 3:29]
¹⁰*[Ps. 92:12-14]; Matt. 7:19; Luke 13:7, 9; [John 15:6]
¹¹*Mark 1:4, 8; Luke 3:16; John 1:26; Acts 1:5 * [Is. 4:4; John 20:22; Acts 2:3, 4; 1 Cor. 12:13] *M omits and fire
¹²*Mal. 3:3 *Mal. 4:1; Matt. 13:30
¹³*Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22; John 1:31-34 *Matt. 2:22
¹⁶*Mark 1:10 * [Is. 11:2]; Luke 3:22; John 1:32; Acts 7:56 *Or he
¹⁷*John 12:28
^xPs. 2:7; Is. 42:1; Mark 1:11; Luke 1:35; 9:35; Col. 1:13

CHAPTER 4

¹*Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1 *Ezek. 3:14; Acts 8:39

⁴*Deut. 8:3
⁵*Neh. 11:1, 18; Dan. 9:24; Matt. 27:53
⁶*Ps. 91:11 *Ps. 91:12
⁷*Deut. 6:16 *test
⁸*[Matt. 16:26; 1 John 2:15-17]
¹⁰*Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Josh. 24:14
¹¹*M Get behind Me
¹¹[James 4:7]
¹²*Matt. 26:53; Luke 22:43; [Heb. 1:14]
¹²*Matt. 14:3; Mark 1:14; Luke 3:20; John 4:43

hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

⁴But He answered and said, “It is written, ^c“*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*”

Second Temptation**Luke 4:9-12**

⁵Then the devil took Him up ^dinto the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ^eand said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

^e“*He shall give His angels charge over you,*”

and,

^f“*In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*”

⁷Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ^g“*You shall not ³tempt the LORD your God.*”

Third Temptation**Mark 1:13; Luke 4:5-8, 13**

⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and ^hshowed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, ^{4a}“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ⁱ“*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*”

¹¹Then the devil ^jleft Him, and behold, ^kangels came and ministered to Him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry**Mark 1:14, 15; Luke 4:14, 31**

^{12l}Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

3:7 *Pharisees and Sadducees.* The Pharisees were popular with the common people and stressed strict adherence to the Old Testament law to please God. The Sadducees came from the upper strata of society, representing wealth and political power, and controlled the Temple and its religious ceremonies. Both viewed human effort as the means to achieve God's favor.

3:8 *bear fruits worthy of repentance.* The fruit of repentance is a changed life. Good works are a fruit of

repentance, not a condition of repentance.

3:11 *baptize you with the Holy Spirit.* See Mark 1:8

3:16-17 This miraculous occurrence indicated Jesus is the Messiah and showed that God the Father was pleased with His Son. This passage is one evidence for the doctrine of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4:3 *Son of God.* Satan recognized that Jesus is the Son of God and addressed Him as such.

¹⁴that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ “*The^m land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:*

¹⁶ *“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.”*

¹⁷“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ¹⁸“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven ¹⁹is at hand.”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁸“And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon ¹⁹called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and ²⁰I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

²¹“Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son of Zebedee*, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Jesus Ministers in Galilee

Mark 1:39; Luke 4:44

²³And Jesus went about all Galilee, ^vteaching in their synagogues, preaching ^wthe gospel of the kingdom, ^xand healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴Then ²His fame went throughout all Syria; and they ³brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and *from* ³Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

4:17 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. See 3:2.

4:19 Notice the eternal perspective Jesus presented to the disciples. As fishers of fish, they took something alive and made it dead. As fishers of people, they would take something spiritually dead and see it come alive through God’s Spirit. Jesus invited them to give their lives to work that would outlast them (see Mark 1:17–20).

4:23 *gospel of the kingdom.* The good news is that Je-

¹⁵ *Is.* 9:1, 2

¹⁶ *Is.* 42:7; *Luke* 2:32

¹⁷ *Mark* 1:14, 15

¹⁸ *Matt.* 3:2; 10:7

¹⁹ *has drawn near*

¹⁸ *Matt.* 4:18–22;

Mark 1:16–20;

Luke 5:2–11; *John*

1:40–42 *Matt.*

10:2; 16:18; *John*

1:40–42

¹⁹ *Luke* 5:10

²⁰ *Matt.* 19:27;

Mark 10:28

²¹ *Mark* 1:19

²³ *Ps.* 22:22;

Matt. 9:35; *Mark*

1:21; 6:2; 10:1;

Luke 4:15; 6:6;

13:10; *John* 6:59;

18:20 *Matt.*

24:14; *Mark* 1:14;

Luke 4:43; 8:1;

16:16 *Mark* 1:34;

Luke 4:40; 7:21;

Acts 10:38

²⁴ *Mark* 1:32, 33;

Luke 4:40 *Lit. the*

report of Him

²⁵ *Matt.* 5:1; 8:1,

18; *Mark* 3:7, 8

² *Lit. Ten Cities*

CHAPTER 5

¹ *Matt.* 14:23;

15:29; 17:1; *Mark*

3:13; *Luke* 6:17;

9:28; *John* 6:3, 15

² *Matt.* 7:29];

Mark 10:1; 12:35;

John 8:2

³ *Prov.* 16:19;

Is. 66:2; *Luke*

6:20–23

⁴ *Is.* 61:2, 3;

Luke 6:21; [*John*

16:20]; *Acts*

16:34; [*2 Cor.* 1:7];

Rev. 21:4

⁵ *Ps.* 37:11; *Is.*

29:19 ¹ [*Rom.* 4:13]

⁶ *Or land*

⁶ *Luke* 1:53; *Acts*

2:4 ^h [*Is.* 55:1;

65:13; *John* 4:14;

6:48; 7:37]

⁷ *Ps.* 41:1; *Mark*

11:25

⁸ *Ps.* 15:2; 24:4;

Heb. 12:14 ⁴ *Acts*

7:55, 56; 1 *Cor.*

13:12

¹⁰ [*2 Cor.* 4:17];

¹ *1 Pet.* 3:14

¹¹ *Matt.* 6:22

¹ *1 Pet.* 4:14

The Beatitudes

Luke 6:20-26

5 And seeing the multitudes, ^aHe went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ²Then He opened His mouth and ^btaught them, saying:

- ³ “Blessed^c are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ ^dBlessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
- ⁵ ^eBlessed are the meek,
For ^fthey shall inherit the ^gearth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who ^hhunger and
thirst for righteousness,
^hFor they shall be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
ⁱFor they shall obtain mercy.
- ⁸ ^jBlessed are the pure in heart,
For ^kthey shall see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ ^lBlessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of ⁿevil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for ^{so} they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Similitudes

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; ^qbut if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they ^rlight a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, ^tthat they may see your good works and ^uglorify your Father in heaven.

¹² *Luke* 6:23; *Acts* 5:41; ¹ *1 Pet.* 4:13, ¹⁴ ² *Chr.* 36:16; *Neh.* 9:26; *Matt.* 23:37; *Acts* 7:52; ¹ *Thess.* 2:15; *Heb.* 11:35–37; *James* 5:10

¹³ ⁴ *Mark* 9:50; *Luke* 14:34 ¹⁴ [*Prov.* 4:18; *John* 8:12]; *Phil.* 2:15

¹⁵ ⁴ *Mark* 4:21; *Luke* 8:16; *Phil.* 2:15 ¹⁶ ¹ *Pet.* 2:12 ² [*John* 15:8];

¹ *1 Cor.* 14:25

sus, the long promised Messiah, would establish God’s kingdom on earth.

5:1–7:29 Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount as a way of life for those who follow Him, not as a way to earn forgiveness. Jesus described the simple, yet profound qualities that He desires in His people. **5:12** *reward in heaven.* See 1 Corinthians 3:11–15.

5:13 Salt makes something tasty and also acts as a preservative. God wants us to be salt in people’s lives, giving them an appetite for God (see *Luke* 14:34–35).

Jesus Fulfills the Law

^{17v}“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, ^wtill heaven and earth pass away, one ¹jot or one ²tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ^{19s}Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds ^ythe righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those ³of old, ^z*‘You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that ^awhoever is angry with his brother ⁴without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ^b*‘Raca!’* ⁵shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ⁶*‘You fool!’* shall be in danger of ⁷hell fire. ²³Therefore ^cif you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ⁱleave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ^{25e}Agree with your adversary quickly, ⁵while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

²⁷“You have heard that it was said ⁸to those of old, ⁸*‘You shall not commit adultery.’* ²⁸But I say to you that whoever ^hlooks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ⁱIf your right eye causes you to ⁹sin, ^jpluck

¹⁷ ^vRom. 10:4
¹⁸ ^vMatt. 24:35; Luke 16:17 ¹Gr. *iota*, Heb. *yod*, the smallest letter
²The smallest stroke in a Heb. letter

¹⁹ ^v[James 2:10]
²⁰ ^v[Rom. 10:3]
²¹ ^vEx. 20:13; Deut. 5:17 ³in ancient times

²² ^a[1 John 3:15]
^b[James 2:20; 3:6]

^cNU omits *without a cause* ⁵Lit., in Aram., *Empty head* ⁶Gr. *More* ⁷Gr. *Gehenna*

²³ ^vMatt. 8:4
²⁴ ^v[Job 42:8; 1 Tim. 2:8; 1 Pet. 3:7]

²⁵ ^v[Prov. 25:8; Luke 12:58, 59
¹[Ps. 32:6; Is. 55:6]

²⁷ ^vEx. 20:14; Deut. 5:18 ⁸NU, M omit to those of old

²⁸ ^v2 Sam. 11:2-5; Job 31:1; Prov. 6:25; [Matt. 15:19; James 1:14, 15]

²⁹ ^vMark 9:43
¹[Col. 3:5] ³Lit. *stumble or offend*

³⁰ ^vLit. *stumble or offend*

³¹ ^vDeut. 24:1; [Jer. 3:1]; Mark 10:2

³² ^v[Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:3]; 1 Cor. 7:11 ¹¹Or *fornication*

³³ ^vMatt. 23:16
¹[Ex. 20:7]; Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2
²Deut. 23:23
¹²ancient times

³⁴ ^vMatt. 23:16; James 5:12 ⁹Is. 66:1

³⁵ ^vPs. 48:2; [Matt. 5:2, 19; 6:10]

³⁷ ^v[Col. 4:6]; James 5:12 ¹³Lit. *your word be yes yes*

it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to ¹⁰sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Divorce

³¹“Furthermore it has been said, ^k“Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” ³²But I say to you that ⁴whoever divorces his wife for any reason except ¹¹sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Oaths

³³“Again you have heard that ^mit was said to those of ¹²old, ⁿ“You shall not swear falsely, but ^oshall perform your oaths to the Lord.” ³⁴But I say to you, ^pdo not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is ^qGod’s throne; ³⁵nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of ^rthe great King. ³⁶Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ^{37s}But let ¹³your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Retaliation

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ^t*‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’* ^{39u}But I tell you not to resist an evil person. ^vBut whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. ⁴¹And whoever ^wcompels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give to him who asks you, and ^xfrom him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

³⁸ ^vEx. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21
³⁹ ^v[Prov. 20:22]; Luke 6:29; [Rom. 12:17; 1 Cor. 6:7; 1 Pet. 3:9] ^{1s}Is. 50:6; Lam. 3:30

⁴¹ ^vMatt. 27:32
⁴² ^vDeut. 15:7-11; Luke 6:30-34; 1 Tim. 6:18

5:20 The scribes and Pharisees focused on external righteousness that missed the heart of the Law. Jesus called His followers to a righteousness that affects character rather than just external actions. We can only have true righteousness through faith in God (see Rom. 3:23–26; 4:5).

5:22 The law forbids murder but doesn’t address the root cause, which is anger. Jesus shows that those who harbor anger against another person are guilty of sin before God. Only through the forgiveness that Christ offers through the cross can a person be declared not guilty of crimes of the heart.

5:29–30 The English word *hell* translates the Greek

word *Gehenna*, which means “Valley of Hinnom.” This valley, along the south side of Jerusalem, was a public dump for waste and garbage, and thus characterized by continuous rubbish fires. Jesus used this physical image to depict a literal place of eternal torment where unbelievers go after judgment. Jesus’ teaching here is a form of hyperbole or exaggeration for effect: if what a person sees or touches is really what causes sin, it would be better to pluck the eye out or cut off the hand. Nothing is worth going to hell over. In reality, the problem is not the eye or hand. It is the sinful human heart that must be changed by the power of God.

Love**Luke 6:27, 32**

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ^v *‘You shall love your neighbor’* and hate your enemy.” ⁴⁴But I say to you, ^alove your enemies, bless those who curse you, ^bdo good to those who hate you, and pray ^cfor those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for ^dHe makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶eFor if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your ²brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the ³tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸fTherefore you shall be perfect, just ^gas your Father in heaven is perfect.

Charitable Deeds

6 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²Therefore, ^awhen you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret ^bwill Himself reward you ⁴openly.

Prayer**Luke 11:2-4**

⁵“And when you pray, you shall not be like the ⁵hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, ^cgo into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you ⁶openly. ⁷And when you pray, ^ddo not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. ^eFor they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father ^fknows the things you have

⁴³v Lev. 19:18

⁴⁴Deut. 23:3-6; Ps. 41:10

⁴⁴a Luke 6:27;

Rom. 12:14

⁴⁵[Rom. 12:20]

^cLuke 23:34; Acts

7:60; 1 Cor. 4:12;

1 Pet. 2:23 ¹NU But

I say to you, love

your enemies and

pray for those who

persecute you

⁴⁵d Job 25:3; Ps.

65:9-13; Luke

12:16, 17; Acts

14:17

⁴⁶e Luke 6:32

⁴⁷f M friends ²NU

Gentiles

⁴⁸f Gen. 17:1;

Lev. 11:44; 19:2;

Luke 6:36; [Col.

1:28; 4:12]; James

1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15

⁹Eph. 5:1

CHAPTER 6

2 ^aRom. 12:8

4 ^bLuke 14:12-14

⁴NU omits *openly*

5 ^cpretenders

6 ^d2 Kin. 4:33 ¹NU

omits *openly*

7 ^eEcc. 5:2 ¹1 Kin.

18:26

8 ^f[Rom. 8:26, 27]

9 ⁹Matt. 6:9-13;

Luke 11:2-4;

[John 16:24; Eph.

6:18; Jude 20]

¹⁰[Matt. 5:9, 16]

¹¹[Mal. 1:11]

¹⁰¹⁰Matt. 26:42;

Luke 22:42; Acts

21:14 ¹⁴Ps. 103:20

11 ¹¹[Job 23:12];

Prov. 30:8; Is.

33:16; Luke 11:3

12 ^m[Matt. 18:21,

22]

13 ⁿ[Matt. 26:41;

1 Cor. 10:31;

2 Pet. 2:9; Rev.

3:10] ^oJohn

17:15; [2 Thess.

3:3]; 2 Tim. 4:18;

[1 John 5:18] ⁷NU

omits the rest of

v. 13.

14 ^p[Matt. 7:2];

Mark 11:25; [Eph.

4:32; Col. 3:13]

15 ^qMatt. 18:35;

James 2:13

16 ^rIs. 58:3-7;

Luke 18:12

⁴pretenders

17 ^sRuth 3:3;

2 Sam. 12:20;

Dan. 10:3

18 ^tNU, M

omit *openly*

need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this ^gmanner, therefore, pray:

^hOur Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your ⁱname.

10 Your kingdom come.

^jYour will be done

On earth ^kas it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our ^ldaily bread.

12 And ^mforgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

13 ⁿAnd do not lead us into temptation,
But ^odeliver us from the evil one.

⁷For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen.

¹⁴p“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But ^qif you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Fasting

¹⁶“Moreover, ^rwhen you fast, do not be like the ^shypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, ^sanoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you ⁹openly.

Wealth**Luke 11:34-36; 12:22-34**

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²v““The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is ¹⁰good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is ¹¹bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

¹⁹¹⁹Prov. 23:4; [1 Tim. 6:17; Heb. 13:5]; James 5:1 **20** ^uMatt. 19:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22; 1 Tim. 6:19; 1 Pet. 1:4 **22** ^vLuke 11:34, 35

¹⁰Clear, or healthy **23** ¹¹Evil, or unhealthy

5:43–44 Jesus calls us to love people even when they may not love us in return. In doing so, we reflect God’s love for them (see 1 John 3:16).

5:46 *reward*. See 1 Corinthians 3:11–15.

5:48 See Matthew 5:20.

6:1 Christians will be rewarded for charitable deeds

(see 1 Cor. 3:11–15). However, no good deed can save a person; only Christ saves (see Rom. 4:5).

6:19–20 One of the greatest ways to lay up treasures in heaven is to share the gospel whenever God provides an opportunity. Faithfulness in evangelism will be rewarded.

²⁴w “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. ³You cannot serve God and ¹mammon.

²⁵“Therefore I say to you, ³do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶z Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷Which of you by worrying can add one ²cubit to his ³stature?

²⁸“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not ⁴arrayed like one of these. ³⁰Now if God so clothes the grass of the

²⁴w Luke 16:9, 11, 13 ³[Gal. 1:10; 1 Tim. 6:17; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15] ¹Lit., in Aram., riches

²⁵z [Ps. 55:22; Luke 12:22; [Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7] ²⁶z Job 38:41; Ps. 147:9; Matt. 10:29; Luke 12:24 ²⁷z About 18 inches ³height ²⁹z dressed

³³z 1 Kin. 3:13; Luke 12:31; [1 Tim. 4:8]

CHAPTER 7

¹z Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:37; Rom. 14:3; [1 Cor. 4:3, 4] ⁵Condemn ²z Mark 4:24; Luke 6:38 ⁶Condemnation ³z Luke 6:41

field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

³¹“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But ⁴seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Judging

Luke 6:37-42

⁷“Judge⁵ a not, that you be not judged. ²For with what ⁶judgment you judge, you will be judged; ³and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ^{3c}And why do

TIP: MATTHEW 6:25–34

Christ encourages us to leave our concerns with God and to preoccupy ourselves instead with kingdom business. Time spent worrying could be better used introducing a neighbor to Christ.

6:33 *kingdom of God.* See Mark 1:15.

7:1 Some interpret this verse to say we have no right

to say that another person is an unbeliever. The context of the passage, however, is about fellow believers.

MATTHEW 6:21

Your Heart Will Follow Your Money

Investment in evangelism can increase our concern for people that do not know the Lord. As God taps us on the shoulder and reminds us of individuals that don’t know Him, we’re convicted of our responsibility to evangelize. Why can’t we be more concerned about non-Christians all the time? What can we do to keep our hearts where they should be—concerned for those for whom He died?

The Scriptures give what may be an unexpected answer. In Matthew 6:19–24, God discusses a thing we hold dear—money. He reminds us of the need to lay up treasure in heaven, not treasure on earth, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (v.21). We like to reverse that verse so that it reads, “Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.”

Christ understood human nature better than we do. Our hearts are concerned about the things in which we have invested our money. How many times have you heard someone say, “That project better go well. I have too much money tied up in it to see it fail.” Christ’s point was that if we deposit our treasure in things of a spiritual and eternal nature, our interested hearts will follow.

The application to evangelism is clear. If you want to have more of a heart for those who don’t know the Lord, put your money toward things that contribute to seeing them saved. Invest in the evangelistic program at your church. Help sponsor an evangelistic dinner outreach. Pay for a non-Christian couple to join you at an athletic event. Send an unbelieving neighbor’s teenager to summer camp for a week. Help a non-Christian family meet unexpected health expenses. In so doing, your heart will follow your treasure. Having deposited what’s important to you in something related to evangelism, your concern for those persons and their spiritual condition will follow.

you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

^{6d}“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

“Ask, and It Will Be Given”

Luke 11:9-13

^{7e}“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For ^feveryone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ^{9e}Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, ^hbeing evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Golden Rule

Luke 6:31

¹²Therefore, ⁱwhatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for ^jthis is the Law and the Prophets.

Two Ways of Life

^{13k}“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ^{14l}Because narrow *is* the gate and

⁶Prov. 9:7, 8; Acts 13:45
⁷ [Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24]; Luke 11:9-13; 18:1-8; [John 15:7; James 1:5, 6; 1 John 3:22]
⁸ Prov. 8:17; Jer. 29:12
⁹ Luke 11:11
¹¹ Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Ps. 84:11; Is. 63:7; [Rom. 8:32; James 1:17]; 1 John 3:1
¹² Luke 6:31
¹ Matt. 22:40; Rom. 13:8; Gal. 5:14; [1 Tim. 1:5]
¹³ Luke 13:24
¹⁴ NU, M *How narrow . . . !*

² confined
¹⁵ Deut. 13:3; Jer. 23:16; Ezek. 22:28; Mark 13:22; [Luke 6:26]; Rom. 16:17; Eph. 5:6; [Col. 2:8; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 4:1-3] ^m Mic. 3:5
¹⁶ Matt. 7:20; 12:33; Luke 6:44; James 3:12
ⁿ Luke 6:43
¹⁷ Jer. 11:19; Matt. 12:33
¹⁹ Matt. 3:10; Luke 3:9; [John 15:2, 6]
²¹ Hos. 8:2; Matt. 25:11; Luke 6:46; Acts 19:13 ^r Rom. 2:13; James 1:22
²² Num. 24:4
²³ Matt. 25:12; Luke 13:25; [2 Tim. 2:19] ^s Ps. 5:5; 6:8; [Matt. 25:41]; Luke 13:27
²⁴ Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49

²difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

False and True Teaching

Luke 6:43-45

¹⁵ⁱ“Beware of false prophets, ^mwho come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ⁿYou will know them by their fruits. ^oDo men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, ^pevery good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ^{19a}Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

True Way into the Kingdom

Luke 6:46

²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ^r“Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who ^sdoes the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we ^tnot prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And ^uthen I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; ^vdepart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Parable of the Two Builders

Luke 6:47-49

²⁴“Therefore ^wwhoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

The use of the word “brother” (v. 3) indicates that we should not be hasty or biased in judging other believers. We, as Christians, will one day be examined by the Lord. If we want Him to be gracious with us, we need to be gracious with other believers. When we say that people are unbelievers based on the fact that they have not trusted Christ, we are not judging them. God's Word judges them. John 3:36 teaches that God declares people saved or lost on the basis of whether or not they have believed in Christ. Where Scripture speaks the truth, we must do the same.

7:7-12 This passage does not promise that the people we are praying for will trust Christ as Savior, but it does teach us to keep persevering in prayer for them. If they do not trust Christ, we must rest in the comfort of the sovereignty of God. But remember, we may not realize someone had trusted Christ until years later (see Luke 18:1-7).

7:13-27 Jesus ended His sermon with three paired illustrations to contrast His teachings with false understandings of the law and false teachers: a narrow gate and a wide gate (vv. 13-14); good fruit and bad fruit (vv. 16-20); and a house built on rock and one built on sand (vv. 24-27).

7:13-14 Christ proclaimed that He was the only way to salvation (see John 14:6). Those who desire to enter heaven must do it based on God's terms, not based on others. Some will miss out on heaven because they tried to earn their salvation through good deeds and religious efforts, rather than the “narrow way,”—trusting Christ alone to save them.

7:15 *false prophets*. Jesus compared them to wolves, thornbushes, thistles, and “bad” trees, i.e., fruitless trees. They may appear to be servants of God, but their lives reflect their true beliefs, for they devour, destroy, and are devoid of spiritual life.

7:16-20 *Fruit*. This refers to the false doctrine the false prophets taught in addition to their evil deeds.

7:21-23 Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus focused on obedience to God from the heart versus external practices. Here, Jesus taught that even those who perform powerful spiritual acts such as casting out demons and doing wonders, and from all outward appearances are servants of God, may in fact not know the Lord because they have not trusted in Christ for their salvation.

7:24-27 Placing trust in Christ alone for salvation

²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Response to the Sermon

²⁸And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that ^xthe people were astonished at His teaching, ^{29y}for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

The Leper Is Cleansed

Mark 1:40-44; Luke 5:12-14

8 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ^{2a}And behold, a leper came and ^bworshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

³Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy ^cwas cleansed.

⁴And Jesus said to him, ^d“See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that ^eMoses ^fcommanded, as a testimony to them.”

The Centurion’s Servant Is Healed

Luke 7:1-10

^{5e}Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a ^hcenturion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

⁷And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

⁸The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only ^jspeak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And 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*.”

¹⁰When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “As-

²⁸*Matt. 13:54; Mark 1:22; 6:2; Luke 4:32; John 7:46

²⁹*[John 7:46]

CHAPTER 8

²*Matt. 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-14

³*Matt. 2:11; 9:18; 15:25; John 9:38; Acts 10:25

⁴*Matt. 11:5; Luke 4:27

⁴*Matt. 9:30; Mark 5:43; Luke 4:41; 8:56; 9:21

^eLev. 14:3, 4, 10; Mark 1:44; Luke 5:14

^fLev. 14:4-32; Deut. 24:8

⁵*Luke 7:1-3

^h*Matt. 27:54; Acts 10:1

⁸*Luke 15:19, 21

ⁱPs. 107:20

¹¹*[Gen. 12:3; Is. 2:2; 3; 11:10]; Mal. 1:11; Luke 13:29;

[Acts 10:45; 11:18; 14:27; Rom. 15:9-13; Eph. 3:6]

¹²[*Matt. 21:43]

^m*Matt. 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28; 2Pet. 2:17; Jude 13

¹⁴*Matt. 8:14-16; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38, 39

^o1 Cor. 9:5

¹⁵*NU, M *Him*

¹⁶*Mark 1:32-34; Luke 4:40, 41

¹⁷*Is. 53:4; 1Pet. 2:24

¹⁹*Matt. 8:19-22; Luke 9:57, 58

²¹*Luke 9:59, 60

¹Kin. 19:20

²⁴*Mark 4:37; Luke 8:23-25

surely, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹And I say to you that ^kmany will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²But ^lthe sons of the kingdom ^mwill be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Peter’s Mother-in-Law Is Healed

Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41

¹⁴ⁿNow when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw ^ohis wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served ^lthem.

^{16p}When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

^q“*He Himself took our infirmities
And bore our sicknesses.*”

Demands of Discipleship

Luke 9:57-62

¹⁸And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. ^{19r}Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

²⁰And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”

^{21s}Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

²²But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

The Sea Is Stilled

Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

²³Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ^{24u}And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the

provides a firm foundation on which to build one’s life. When we hear the gospel and act upon it, we are like a wise man who builds His house on a rock. Our “house” will only be firm if we trust Christ and build our lives based on His teachings. Trusting in anything else results in disaster.

8:10 *great faith.* True faith focuses on Christ and His ability, not our own.

8:12 *the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness.* In the immediate context, a Roman centu-

tion, considered unclean and a Gentile outside of the kingdom of God, has more faith than Israelites, who are God’s chosen people. Ethnic identity as a descendant of the great patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not enough to gain entrance into God’s kingdom. Salvation is only by faith in Christ alone.

8:20 *Son of Man.* See Dan. 7:13-14. In referring to Himself as “Son of Man,” Jesus was identifying Himself with the Old Testament’s designation of a messianic figure with authority to reign over God’s kingdom.

boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

²⁶But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷So the men marveled, saying, ¹“Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Demons Are Cast into Swine

Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:26-37

²⁸^wWhen He had come to the other side, to the country of the ²Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed *men*, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

³⁰Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. ³¹So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, ³permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

³²And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

³³Then those who kept *them* fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what *had happened* to the demon-possessed *men*. ³⁴And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, ^xthey begged Him to depart from their region.

The Paralytic Is Forgiveness

Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

9 So He got into a boat, crossed over, ^aand came to His own city. ^{2b}Then

²⁶Ps. 65:7; 89:9; 107:29

²⁷Lit. *What sort of man is this*

²⁸Mark 5:1-4; Luke 8:26-33 ²NU Gadarenes

³¹NU send us into

³⁴Deut. 5:25; 1 Kin. 17:18; Amos 7:12; Luke 5:8; Acts 16:39

CHAPTER 9

¹Matt. 4:13; 11:23; Mark 5:21
²Mark 2:3-12; Luke 5:18-26

⁴Matt. 8:10

⁴Ps. 139:2; Matt. 12:25; Mark 12:15; Luke 5:22;

6:8; 9:47; 11:17

⁸Matt. 8:27; John 7:15 ⁴NU were afraid

⁹Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27

¹⁰Mark 2:15; Luke 5:29

¹¹Matt. 11:19; Mark 2:16; Luke 5:30; 15:2 ¹Gal. 2:15]

¹³Hos. 6:6; [Mic. 6:6-8]; Matt. 12:7

⁴Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32; 1 Tim. 1:15

²NU omits to repentance

behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. ^cWhen Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

³And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

⁴But Jesus, ^dknowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’ ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ⁷And he arose and departed to his house.

⁸Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they ^emarveled^d and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Matthew Is Called

Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27, 28

⁹fAs Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

The Disciples Eat with Sinners

Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:29-32

¹⁰gNow it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with ^htax collectors and ⁱsinners?”

¹²When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³But go and learn what *this* means: ^j*‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’* For I did not come to call the righteous, ^kbut sinners, ⁵to repentance.”

TIP: MATTHEW 9:10–13

While the religious leaders chose to isolate themselves from “sinners,” Christ associated with them in order to reach them. His pattern should be ours as well for the sake of the gospel (see Mark 2:15–17).

8:27 Jesus’ control of nature is another proof that He is God.

8:29 *Son of God*. See Matthew 16:16. Notice within this short section of Scripture, Christ is acclaimed as the Son of Man (v. 20) and the Son of God (v. 29), both of which are messianic titles.

8:32 Jesus’ control of demons is further evidence of His divine power as God and Messiah.

9:2–6 Jesus asserted that He had the authority to forgive sins. The scribes reacted by accusing Jesus of blaspheming for claiming a prerogative that belonged only to God: the authority to forgive sins. Christ

demonstrated that He indeed was God and therefore had the authority to forgive sins by healing the paralytic, something only God could do.

9:9–13 Matthew included his own story in his Gospel. He was a wonderful example of God’s grace. Jesus took a tax collector and sinner, transformed his life, and gave him the high privilege of writing one of the four Gospels. God’s grace is just as evident today. He takes those who do not deserve His favor, transforms their lives through the gospel, and gives them the high privilege of serving as His ambassadors.

The Disciples Do Not Fast**Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39**

¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, ^{14a}“Why do we and the Pharisees fast ¹often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵And Jesus said to them, “Can ^mthe ²friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and ⁿthen they will fast. ¹⁶No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for ³the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. ¹⁷Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins ⁴break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Life Is Restored**Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56**

^{18o}While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him,

¹⁴Mark 2:18; Luke 5:33-35; 18:12 ¹NU brackets often as disputed. ¹⁵John 3:29 ^aActs 13:2, 3; 14:23 ²Lit. sons of the bridechamber ¹⁶³Lit. that which is put on ¹⁷^aburst ¹⁸Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56 ¹⁹Mark 10:2-4 ²⁰Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43 ¹Num. 15:38; Deut. 22:12; Matt. 14:36; 23:5; Mark 6:56 ²²Matt. 9:29; 15:28; Mark 5:34; 10:52; Luke 7:50; 8:48; 17:19; 18:42 ²³Mark 5:38; Luke 8:51 ²Chr. 35:25; Jer. 9:17; 16:6; Ezek. 24:17 ²⁴John 11:3; Acts 20:10 ²⁵Mark 8:3, 15; Mark 1:31 ²⁶Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:28, 45; Luke 4:14, 37; 5:15; 7:17

saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.” ¹⁹So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His ¹⁹disciples.

^{20a}And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and ^rtouched the hem of His garment. ²¹For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” ²²But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; ^syour faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.

²³When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw ^uthe flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, ²⁴He said to them, ^v“Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. ²⁵But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and ^wtook her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶And the ^xreport of this went out into all that land.

MATTHEW 9:9-13

Don't Lose Your Contact with Non-Christians

Someone who cares for you probably played a part in your coming to Christ. God wants you to be like Jesus Christ—a friend to sinners—and to spend time with non-Christians that they, too, might come to trust Him as Savior. Matthew 9:9-13 uses the terms “tax collectors and sinners.” Tax collectors were despised because they collaborated with the despised Romans and they over-taxed the people and kept the surplus for themselves. Sinners were despised because of their lack of moral purity and their degenerate lifestyle or because they didn’t follow to the letter the ritual purity laws as taught by the Scribes and Pharisees.

The religious faction known as the Pharisees found it inappropriate for a teacher of God’s Word to eat with those whom the Pharisees felt were a religiously unclean class of people. Christ explained that those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick do. Tax collectors and sinners often came to Christ because they recognized their need for Him. The Pharisees needed Him too, but their spiritual pride kept them from admitting their sin.

God wants you to spend time with believers so that you can encourage one another, but don’t leave your non-Christian friends behind. Spend time with them that they might come to know Him.

One word of caution: if you find yourself slipping spiritually when you are around unbelievers, do whatever is appropriate to keep that from happening. Remember, Jesus Christ influenced the sinners. They did not influence Him.

Prayer Point:

Ask God for two kinds of relationships—a close relationship with believers who can stimulate you spiritually and contact with non-Christians whom you can introduce to the Savior.

(Adapted from *31 Days to Living as a New Believer*)

Sight Is Restored

²⁷When Jesus departed from there, ^ytwo blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, ^z“Son of David, have mercy on us!”

²⁸And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

²⁹Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

³⁰And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, ^a“See that no one knows it.” ³¹But when they had departed, they ¹spread the news about Him in all that ²country.

Speech Is Restored

³²As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. ³³And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”

³⁴But the Pharisees said, ^d“He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

The Need for Delegation of Power

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, ^eteaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease ³among the people. ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were ⁴wearied and scattered, ⁸like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, ^h“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

The Twelve Apostles Are Sent

Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1

10 And ^awhen He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ²Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, ^bwho is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee,

²⁷ Matt. 20:29-34 ²⁸ Matt. 15:22; Mark 10:47; Luke 18:38, 39

³⁰ Matt. 8:4; Luke 5:14

³¹ Mark 7:36

¹ Lit. *made Him known* ² Lit. *land*

³² Matt. 12:22;

24; Luke 11:14

³⁴ Matt. 12:24;

Mark 3:22; Luke

11:15; John 7:20

³⁵ Matt. 4:23

³⁵ NU omits

among the people

³⁶ Mark 6:34

⁹ Num. 27:17;

1 Kin. 22:17; Ezek.

34:5; Zech. 10:2;

Mark 6:34 ^{NU, M}

harassed

³⁷ Luke 10:2;

John 4:35

³⁸ [Matt. 28:19;

20; Eph. 4:11, 12];

2 Thess. 3:1

CHAPTER 10

¹ Mark 3:13;

Luke 6:13

² John 1:42

³ NU omits

Lebbaeus, whose

surname was

⁴ Luke 6:15;

Acts 1:13 ⁴ Matt.

26:14; Luke 22:3;

John 13:2, 26 ⁴ NU

Cananaean

⁵ Matt. 4:15

² Kin. 17:24;

Luke 9:52; 10:33;

17:16; John 4:9

⁶ Matt. 15:24;

Acts 13:46 ⁸ Is.

53:6; Jer. 50:6

⁷ Luke 9:2 ⁷ Matt.

3:2; Luke 10:9

⁷ has drawn near

⁸ [Acts 8:18] ⁹ NU

raise the dead

cleanse the lepers

⁹ M omits *raise*

the dead

⁹ 1 Sam. 9:7;

Mark 6:8 ⁸ Mark

6:8

¹⁰ Luke 10:7;

[1 Cor. 9:4-14];

1 Tim. 5:18

¹¹ Luke 10:8

¹³ Luke 10:5

⁴ Ps. 35:13

¹⁴ Mark 6:11;

Luke 9:5 ³ Neh.

5:13; Luke 10:10;

11; Acts 13:51

and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and ⁵Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ^{4c}Simon the ⁶Cananite, and Judas ^dIscariot, who also betrayed Him.

The Twelve Apostles Are Instructed

Mark 6:8-13; Luke 9:2-6, 12:2-10

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ^e“Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of ^fthe Samaritans. ⁶But go rather to the ^hlost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as you go, preach, saying, ^j“The kingdom of heaven ⁷is at hand.” ⁸Heal the sick, ⁸cleanse the lepers, ⁹raise the dead, cast out demons. ^kFreely you have received, freely give. ⁹Provide neither gold nor silver nor ^mcopper in your money belts, ¹⁰nor bag for *your* journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; ⁿfor a worker is worthy of his food.

¹¹“Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. ¹²And when you go into a household, greet it. ¹³“If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. ⁹But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴“And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, ⁸shake off the dust from your feet. ¹⁵Assuredly, I say to you, ¹⁶it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

¹⁶“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. ^vTherefore be wise as serpents and ^wharmless¹⁰ as doves. ¹⁷But beware of men, for ^xthey will deliver you up to councils and ^yscourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸“You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹“But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For ^bit will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰for it is not you who

¹⁵ Matt. 11:22, 24 ¹⁶ Luke 10:3 ² Cor. 12:16; Eph. 5:15; Col.

4:5 ⁷ [Phil. 2:14-16] ¹⁰ innocent ¹⁷ Matt. 23:34; Mark 13:9; Luke

12:11 ⁷ Acts 5:40; 22:19; 26:11 ¹⁸ Acts 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:16

¹⁹ Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11, 12; 21:14, 15 ²⁰ Ex. 4:12; Jer. 1:7

²⁰ 2 Sam. 23:2; [2 Tim. 4:17]

9:35 the gospel of the kingdom. See Matthew 4:23.

9:37 harvest. See John 4:35–38.

9:38 pray the Lord of the harvest. See Luke 10:2.

10:14–15 shake off the dust from your feet. See Mark 6:11. more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah. To reject the clear evidence of the coming of God’s kingdom would subject them to even greater accountability before God than even the two worst examples of sinfulness in the Old Testament.

10:16 The comparisons to serpents and doves balance each other in evangelism. Serpents are shrewd and known for their craftiness. On the other hand, doves are innocent and harmless. Jesus encouraged us to use common sense combined with disarming purity. Our common sense allows us to prudently move forward in our relationships and conversations with people. Our pure motives encourage people to let their guard and open up to us.

speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

^{21d}“Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²²And ^eyou will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ^fBut he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have ^hgone through the cities of Israel ⁱbefore the Son of Man comes.

^{24j}“A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If ^kthey have called the master of the house ^lBeelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! ²⁶Therefore do not fear them. ¹For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

²⁷“Whatever I tell you in the dark, ^mspeak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. ²⁸ⁿAnd do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather ^ofear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in ²hell. ²⁹Are not two ^psparrows sold for a ³copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. ^{30a}But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

^{32r}“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, ^shim I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ⁱBut whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

^{34u}“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to ^vset ⁴a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;² ³⁶and ^wa man’s enemies will be those of his

²¹ ^dMic. 7:6; Luke 21:16
²² ^eMatt. 24:9; Luke 21:17; John 15:18 ^f[Dan. 12:12]; Matt. 24:13; Mark 13:13
²³ ^gMatt. 2:13; Acts 8:1 ^h[Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10] ⁱMatt. 16:28
²⁴ ^jLuke 6:40; John 15:20
²⁵ ^kMark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18, 19; John 8:48, 52 ^lNU, M *Beelzebub*; a Philistine deity, 2Kin. 1:2, 3
²⁶ ^mMark 4:22; Luke 8:17; 12:2, 3; [1 Cor. 4:5]
²⁷ ⁿLuke 12:3; Acts 5:20
²⁸ ^oLuke 12:4; [1 Pet. 3:14] ^pIs. 8:13; Matt. 5:22; Luke 12:5 ^qGr. *Gehenna*
²⁹ ^rLuke 12:6, 7 ^sGr. *assarion*, a coin worth about 1/16 of a denarius
³⁰ ^t1 Sam. 14:45; 2Sam. 14:11; 1Kin. 1:52; Luke 21:18; Acts 27:34
³¹ ^uPs. 119:46; Luke 12:8; [Rom. 10:9] ^v[Rev. 3:5]
³² ^w[Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26]; 2Tim. 2:12
³³ ^x[Luke 12:49]
³⁴ ^yMic. 7:6; Matt. 10:21; Luke 12:53 ^z*alienate a man from*
³⁵ ^{aa}Ps. 41:9; 55:13; John 13:18
³⁶ ^{ab}Deut. 33:9; Luke 14:26
³⁷ ^{ac}[Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; 14:27]
³⁸ ^{ad}Matt. 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25
³⁹ ^{ae}Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48; John 12:44; Gal. 4:14
⁴⁰ ^{af}1 Kin. 17:10; 2Kin. 4:8

own household. ^{37x}He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ^{38y}And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ^{39z}He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

^{40a}“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ^{41b}He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. ^{42c}And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

11 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to ^ateach and to preach in their cities.

Rejection of John the Baptist

Luke 7:19-30

^{2b}And when John had heard ^cin prison about the works of Christ, he ⁵sent two of his disciples ³and said to Him, “Are You ^dthe Coming One, or do we look for another?”

⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ^{5e}*The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ⁶And blessed is he who is not ⁶offended because of Me.”

^{7h}As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see?”

⁴² ^c[Matt. 25:40]; Mark 9:41; Heb. 6:10
CHAPTER 11 ¹ ^aMatt. 9:35; Luke 23:5 ² ^bLuke 7:18-35 ^cMatt. 4:12; 14:3; Mark 6:17; Luke 9:7 ³NU *sent by his* ⁴ ^dGen. 49:10; Num. 24:17; Deut. 18:15, 18; Dan. 9:24; John 6:14 ⁵ ^eIs. 29:18; 35:4-6; John 2:23 ^fPs. 22:26; Is. 61:1; Luke 4:18; James 2:5 ⁶ ^gIs. 8:14, 15; [Rom. 9:32]; 1Pet. 2:8 ⁷ ^hLuke 7:24

TIP: MATTHEW 10:34–36

In evangelism, your greatest struggles will often be with your own family members. Pray that God will give you an open door to share the Gospel as well as send someone outside your family to share Christ with them.

10:22 *he who endures to the end will be saved.* See Mark 13:13.

10:28 See Luke 12:3–7.

10:32–33 Some conclude from this passage that a public confession of Christ is essential to salvation. However, the context is discipleship, not salvation, as indicated by verses 24–25. How would His disciples have been affected if they denied Him out of fear of persecution and possibly death? Denying Him would

not change the disciples’ salvation, but it would affect their eternal reward, as Jesus explained in verses 41–42. All saved people get to heaven. However, all saved people are not equally rewarded. Christ’s warning does not put salvation at risk. Confession is not an additional requirement for salvation. We are saved by grace through faith alone (see Eph. 2:8–9). However, confession of Christ should be an integral part of being a disciple.

10:37–42 See Mark 8:34–38.

ⁱA reed shaken by the wind? ⁸But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses. ⁹But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, ^jand more than a prophet. ¹⁰For this is *he* of whom it is written:

^k*Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.*

¹¹“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is ¹⁵Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

⁷[Eph. 4:14]
⁹Matt. 14:5;
21:26; Luke 1:76;
20:6
¹⁰Mal. 3:1; Mark
1:2; Luke 1:76
¹²Luke 16:16
¹³Mal. 4:4-6
¹⁴Mal. 4:5; Matt.
17:10-13; Mark
9:11-13; Luke
1:17; John 1:21
¹⁵Matt. 13:9;
Luke 8:8; Rev.
2:7, 11, 17, 29;
3:6, 13

¹⁶Luke 7:31
¹⁷Lit. *beat your
breast*
¹⁹Matt. 9:10
Luke 7:35; John
2:1-11 ²wine
drinker ³NU works
²⁰Luke 10:13-
15, 18

Rejection by Jesus' Generation

Luke 7:31-35

¹⁶“But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, ¹⁷and saying:

‘We played the flute for you,
And you did not dance;
We mourned to you,
And you did not ¹lament.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a ²winebibber, ⁴a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ¹But wisdom is justified by her ³children.”

Rejection of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum

Luke 10:12-15

²⁰Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had

11:19 Personal evangelism necessitates personal contact with people that others may label as sinners. We

do not want to share their lifestyle, but share with them the good news that Jesus can change their lives.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Inviting People to a Relationship, not to Regulations

Religion can be both confusing and frustrating to people. They may feel that they are never sure how good they have to be in order to be good enough and fear that they may never achieve it. This misunderstanding comes from not knowing the vast difference between religion and a relationship with Christ.

Jesus Christ invited those who “labor and are heavy laden” (v. 28) to come to Him. The major religious factions of Christ’s day laid down an enormous amount of rules and regulations to follow in order to be accepted by God. The religious leaders insisted upon enforcing an endless list of do’s and don’ts.

Christ was passionate that we understand how different His instructions are. The word *yoke* refers to a wooden frame placed upon the shoulders that makes a weight easier to carry. In verse 29 “yoke” refers to Christ’s instructions on how to live a life pleasing to God. Why is His yoke so different?

Salvation is not about being good enough to be accepted by God. No one can meet that standard. We are accepted by God not because of what we do but because of what He did for us by sending Jesus to die for our sins on the cross. Jesus paid it all, and no work on our part can add value to what He did. He asks us to receive it as a free gift by trusting in Him alone. He then invites us to learn more about Him and gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live for Him. All we do when we trust Christ is respond to the One who gives us the free gift of eternal life. Furthermore, Christ is within us helping us live that life. Therefore living for Him is a delight, not a duty.

Prayer Point:

Ask the Lord to use you to demonstrate to others that Christianity is centered on a relationship, not regulations.

(Adapted from *31 Days to Living as a New Believer*)

been done, because they did not repent: ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago ⁱin sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I say to you, ^uit will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, ^vwho ¹are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I say to you ^wthat it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

Invitation to Come to Jesus

^{25x}At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that ^yYou have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent ^zand have revealed them to babes. ²⁶Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ^{27a}All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. ^bNor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸Come to ^cMe, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you ^dand learn from Me, for I am ²gentle and ^elowly in heart, ^fand you will find rest for your souls. ^{30g}For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Controversy over Sabbath-Labor

Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5

12 At that time ^jJesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to ^hpluck heads of grain and to eat. ²And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”

³But He said to them, “Have you not read ^cwhat David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴how he entered the house of God and ate ^dthe showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, ^ebut only for the priests? ⁵Or have you not read in the ^flaw that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple ³profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶Yet I say to you that in this place there is ^gOne greater than the temple. ⁷But if you had known

²¹ ¹Jon. 3:6-8
²² ¹Matt. 10:15; 11:24
²³ ¹Is. 14:13; Lam. 2:1; Ezek. 26:20; 31:14; 32:18, 24
¹NU *will you be exalted to heaven?*
No, you will be
²⁴ ¹Matt. 10:15
²⁵ ¹Luke 10:21, 22
²⁶ ¹Ps. 8:2; 1 Cor. 1:19; [2 Cor. 3:14]
²⁷ ¹Matt. 16:17
²⁷ ¹Matt. 28:18; Luke 10:22; John 3:35; 13:3; 1 Cor. 15:27
²⁸ ¹John 1:18; 6:46; 10:15
²⁸ ¹[John 6:35-37]
²⁹ ¹[John 13:15]; Eph. 4:2; [Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 2:6]
³⁰ ¹Zech. 9:9; [Phil. 2:7, 8]
¹Jer. 6:16
²meek
³⁰ ¹[1 John 5:3]

CHAPTER 12
¹ ¹Mark 2:23; Luke 6:1-5
² ¹Deut. 23:25
³ ¹Ex. 31:15; 35:2; 1 Sam. 21:6
⁴ ¹Ex. 25:30; Lev. 24:5
⁵ ¹Ex. 29:32; Lev. 8:31; 24:9
⁵ ¹Num. 28:9; [John 7:22]
³ *desecrate*
⁶ ¹[2 Chr. 6:18; Is. 66:1, 2; Mal. 3:1]; Matt. 12:41, 42

⁷ ¹[1 Sam. 15:22; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:6-8]; Matt. 9:13
⁸ ¹NU, M omit *even*
⁹ ¹Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11
¹⁰ ¹Luke 13:14; 14:3; John 9:16
¹⁴ ¹Ps. 2:2; Matt. 27:1; Mark 3:6; [Luke 6:11]; John 5:18; 10:39; 11:53
¹⁵ ¹Matt. 10:23; Mark 3:7
¹NU brackets *multitudes* as disputed.
¹⁶ ¹Matt. 8:4; 9:30; 17:9
¹⁸ ¹Is. 42:1-4; 49:3
¹Matt. 3:17; 17:5
²² ¹Matt. 9:32; [Mark 3:11]; Luke 11:14, 15

what *this* means, ^h*I desire mercy and not sacrifice*, you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is Lord ^deven of the Sabbath.”

Controversy over Sabbath-Healing

Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-10

⁹ⁱNow when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, ^j“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” — that they might accuse Him.

¹¹Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out? ¹²Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

Pharisees Plan to Destroy Christ

Mark 3:6-12; Luke 6:11

¹⁴Then ^kthe Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

¹⁵But when Jesus knew *it*, ¹He withdrew from there. ¹⁶And great ³multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁷Yet He ¹⁶warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

- 18 “Behold! ^oMy Servant whom I have chosen,
 My Beloved ^vin whom My soul is well pleased!
 I will put My Spirit upon Him,
 And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.
- 19 He will not quarrel nor cry out,
 Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
- 20 A bruised reed He will not break,
 And smoking flax He will not quench,
 Till He sends forth justice to victory;
- 21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

Pharisees Blaspheme the Holy Spirit

Mark 3:22-27; Luke 11:17-23

^{22a}Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute;

11:20–24 These cities will be judged because they rejected Christ, not because Christ rejected them (see John 3:36).

12:21 *gentiles*. Matthew quoted from Isaiah 42:1–4 to emphasize that the Messiah is for all people regardless of their race or religious background.

and He healed him, so that the ‘blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the ‘Son of David?”

²⁴“Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by ²Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

²⁵But Jesus ¹knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ³⁰He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Pharisees Commit the Unpardonable Sin

Mark 3:28, 29

³¹“Therefore I say to you, ^wevery sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, ^xbut the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³²Anyone who ^yspeaks a word against the Son of Man, ^zit will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

³³“Either make the tree good and ^aits fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. ³⁴^bBrood³ of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵A good man out of the good treasure ⁴of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Pharisees Demand a Sign

Luke 11:24-26, 29-32

³⁸^dThen some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

²² NU omits *blind and*
²³ Matt. 9:27; 21:9
²⁴ Matt. 9:34; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15² NU, M
²⁵ *Beelzebub*, a Philistine deity
²⁵ Matt. 9:4; John 2:25; Rev. 2:23
²⁸ Dan. 2:44; 7:14; Luke 1:33; 11:20; [17:20, 21; 1 John 3:8]
²⁹ Is. 49:24; [Luke 11:21-23]
³¹ Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10; [Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26, 29; 1 John 5:16]^a Acts 7:51
³² Matt. 11:19; 13:55; John 7:12, 52; 1 Tim. 1:13
³³ Matt. 7:16-18; Luke 6:43, 44; [John 15:4-7]
³⁴ Matt. 3:7; 23:33; Luke 3:7
¹ Sam. 24:13; Is. 32:6; [Matt. 15:18]; Luke 6:45; Eph. 4:29; [James 3:2-12]^c *Offspring*
³⁵ NU, M omit *of his heart*
³⁸ Matt. 16:1; Mark 8:11; Luke 11:16; John 2:18; 1 Cor. 1:22
³⁹ Is. 57:3; Matt. 16:4; Mark 8:38; [Luke 11:29-32]; John 4:48
⁴⁰ Jon. 1:17; Luke 24:46; Acts 10:40; 1 Cor. 15:4
⁴¹ Jon. 3:5; Luke 11:32^b; Jer. 3:11; Ezek. 16:51; [Rom. 2:27] Jon. 3:5
⁴² 1 Kin. 10:1-13; 2 Chr. 9:1; Luke 11:31
⁴³ Luke 11:24-26 [Job 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:8]
⁴⁵ Mark 5:9; Luke 11:26; [Heb. 6:4-8; 10:26; 2 Pet. 2:20-22]
⁴⁶ Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21
^a Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3; John 2:12; 7:3, 5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:19
⁴⁷ Matt. 13:55; 56; John 2:12; Acts 1:14
⁴⁹ John 20:17; [Rom. 8:29]
⁵⁰ John 15:14; [Gal. 5:6; 6:15; Col. 3:11; Heb. 2:11]

CHAPTER 13

1 Matt. 13:1-15; Mark 4:1-12; Luke 8:4-10
 2 Luke 8:4
 3 Luke 5:3
 3 Luke 8:5

³⁹But He answered and said to them, “An evil and ^eadulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹^gThe men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and ^hcondemn it, ⁱbecause they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here. ⁴²The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.

⁴³^k“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, ^lhe goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; ^mand the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

Jesus and the True Brethren

Mark 3:31-35

⁴⁶While He was still talking to the multitudes, ⁿbehold, His mother and ^obrothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. ⁴⁷Then one said to Him, “Look, ^pYour mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

⁴⁸But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” ⁴⁹And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My ^qbrothers! ⁵⁰For ‘whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.’”

Parable of the Soils

Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

13 On the same day Jesus went out of the house ^aand sat by the sea. ²^bAnd great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that ^cHe got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

³Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: ^d“Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seed*

12:31-32 See Mark 3:28-30.

12:40 Christ’s resurrection was foreshadowed by the

experience of Jonah.

12:50 *will of My Father*. See Matthew 7:15-23.

fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some ^aa hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

⁸ Gen. 26:12; Matt. 13:23
⁹ Matt. 11:15; Mark 4:9; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22

¹¹ ^a [Matt. 11:25; 16:17]; Mark 4:10, 11; [John 6:65; 1 Cor. 2:10; Col. 1:27; 1 John 2:20, 27] ¹ secret or hidden truths
¹² ^a Matt. 25:29; Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18; 19:26

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because ^ait has been given to you to know the ¹mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²^bFor whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor

MATTHEW 13

Illustrations: Valuable Tools for Evangelism

Jesus Christ was the number one communicator of all time. One of the primary ways He taught His listeners was through stories that illustrated Biblical truth. These illustrations comprised one third of His teaching.

Illustrations take commonly understood images to explain what people don't understand. While some people don't understand the Bible, they do understand news events, bumper stickers, and billboards. Simple illustrations from these and other sources help drive home the truth from God's word. They help the listeners visualize the truth you proclaim.

Illustrations help your listeners mentally move toward a particular destination you have in mind. In evangelism, the destination is for them to trust Christ. The pathway to that destination includes three things the listener needs to understand. First, your listeners must know they are sinners. Otherwise, they will never see their need for Christ. Second, they must know that Jesus died for their sins as their substitute and rose from the dead. Finally, they must understand that God is asking them to trust in Christ alone to save them. Your evangelistic illustrations should communicate one of these truths.

Each illustration you use should address one particular point. Illustrations are not like shotgun shells full of pellets that scatter. They are like a rifle bullet with a single point that penetrates. There should be one single truth the illustration drives home. Never use an illustration unless you have a purpose for using it.

Also, illustrations need to be relevant. They should interest and be understood by other people, not just you. It is therefore important to spend time with those to whom you wish to evangelize. Learn to view the world from their point of view. Your illustrations should be relevant to where they are now, not where they will be after they come to Christ.

Illustrations should also be understandable. If the story is difficult to explain, it will be difficult to comprehend. Also, if your illustration or story does not stand on its own and requires additional explanation just to clarify its meaning, it may not be worth using. Jesus used simple illustrations from farming and fishing, two subjects with which His audience were very familiar.

God wants people not just to hear our words but to understand His truth. As the Holy Spirit works through an effective illustration, unbelievers will say, “I understand what God is saying to me.” When your Savior becomes their Savior by means of truth illuminated through a well-used illustration, now that is something of eternal value!

(Adapted from *Show Me How to Illustrate Evangelistic Sermons*)

do they understand. ¹⁴And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

¹⁴*Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not
perceive;*

¹⁵*For the hearts of this people have
grown dull.*

*Their ears^b are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have¹ closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with
their hearts and turn,
So that I¹ should^m heal them.'*

¹⁶But ⁿblessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷for assuredly, I say to you ^othat many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

¹⁸p“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word ^qof the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately ^rreceives it with joy; ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when ^stribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately ^the stumbles. ²²Now ^uhe who received seed ^vamong the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears ^wfruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Parable of the Wheat and Tares

²⁴Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted

¹⁴ ¹Is. 6:9, 10; Ezek. 12:2; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40; Acts 28:26, 27; Rom. 11:8; [2 Cor. 3:14, 15] ¹[John 3:36] ¹⁵ ¹Ps. 119:70; Zech. 7:11; 2 Tim. 4:4; Heb. 5:11 ¹Luke 19:42 ^mActs 28:26, 27 ¹NU, M would ¹⁶ ¹[Prov. 20:12; Matt. 16:17]; Luke 10:23, 24; [John 20:29] ¹⁷ ¹John 8:56; Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 1:10, 11 ¹⁸ ¹Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15 ¹⁹ ¹Matt. 4:23 ²⁰ ¹Is. 58:2; Ezek. 33:31, 32; John 5:35 ²¹ ¹[Acts 14:22] ¹Matt. 11:6; 2 Tim. 1:15 ²² ¹Matt. 19:23; Mark 10:23; Luke 18:24; 1 Tim. 6:9; 2 Tim. 4:10 ²³ ¹Jer. 4:3 ²³ ¹[John 15:5]; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:6

³⁰ ¹Matt. 3:12 ³¹ ¹[Is. 2:2, 3; Mic. 4:1]; Mark 4:30; Luke 13:18, 19 ³² ¹Ps. 104:12; Ezek. 17:22-24; 31:3-9; Dan. 4:12 ³³ ¹Luke 13:20, 21 ¹[1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9] ²Gr. *safa*, same as a Heb. *seah*; approximately 2 pecks in all ³⁴ ¹Mark 4:33, 34; John 10:6; 16:25 ³⁵ ¹Ps. 78:2 ¹Rom. 16:25, 26; 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:26 ³⁸ ¹Matt. 24:14; 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:6 ¹Gen. 3:15; John 8:44; Acts 13:10

and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but ^xgather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18, 19

³¹Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ^y“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³²which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a ^ztree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Parable of the Leaven

Luke 13:20, 21

³³a Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three ²measures of meal till ^bit was all leavened.”

³⁴c All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, ³⁵that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

^d *“I will open My mouth in parables;
e I will utter things kept secret from
the foundation of the world.”*

Parable of the Tares Explained

³⁶Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

³⁷He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸i The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are ^ethe sons of the wicked one.

13:14–15 Christ spoke in parables, which either concealed truth from those who rejected Him or revealed truth to those who received Him. Further, this refusal to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the Messiah is a theme throughout Matthew.

13:24–30, 37–43 This story builds upon the parable of the farmer. Our job is to sow the seed. God Himself

will separate the wheat (true believers) and the weeds (pretenders) at the end of the age.

13:33 Yeast increases through its own internal power. The kingdom increases through the internal power of the Holy Spirit. As we engage in evangelism, we are a part of something very supernatural.

³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the devil, ⁴⁰the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴¹Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴²The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴³and will cast them into the furnace of fire. ⁴⁴There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴⁵Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. ⁴⁶He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and ⁴⁵sells all that he has and ⁴⁶buys that field.

Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶who, when he had found ⁴⁷one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Parable of the Dragnet

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and ⁴⁸gathered some of every kind, ⁴⁹which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁵⁰So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, ⁵¹separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵²and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Parable of the Householder

⁵¹Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?”

They said to Him, “Yes, ⁵²Lord.”

⁵²Then He said to them, “Therefore every ⁵³scribe instructed ⁵⁴concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure ⁵⁵things new and old.”

⁵³Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

³⁹ Joel 3:13; Rev. 14:15

⁴¹ Matt. 18:7;

2Pet. 2:1, 2

⁴² Matt. 3:12;

Rev. 19:20; 20:10

⁴³ Matt. 8:12; 13:50

⁴³ [Dan. 12:3;

1Cor. 15:42, 43,

58] ⁴⁴ Matt. 13:9

⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ Phil. 3:7, 8

⁴⁵ [Is. 55:1; Rev.

3:18]

⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ Prov. 2:4;

3:14, 15; 8:10, 19

⁴⁷ ⁴⁸ Matt. 22:9, 10

⁴⁹ ⁵⁰ Matt. 25:32

⁵¹ ⁵² NU omits

Jesus said to them

⁵² NU omits Lord

⁵² ⁵³ Song 7:13 ⁵⁴ A

scholar of the Old

Testament ⁴⁶ Or for

Rejection at Nazareth

Mark 6:1-6

⁵⁴When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works? ⁵⁵Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And ⁵⁶His brothers ⁵⁷James, ⁵⁸Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁹And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?” ⁶⁰So they ⁶¹were offended at Him.

But Jesus said to them, ⁶²“A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.” ⁶³Now ⁶⁴He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Present Response to Jesus

Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9

14 At that time ¹⁵Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus ¹⁶and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”

Recount of the Murder of John the Baptist

Mark 6:17-29

^{3b}For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put *him* in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. ⁴Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, ⁶because they counted him as a prophet.

⁶But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. ⁷Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

⁸So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, “Give me John the Baptist’s head here on a platter.”

⁹And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded *it* to be given to *her*. ¹⁰So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. ¹¹And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother. ¹²Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

13:44 When we share Christ, we share the most precious treasure in the world. That value far outweighs any sacrifice or inconvenience on our part.

13:47–50 Notice how this parable, as well as many of the ones preceding it, emphasizes getting the word

out to others. When evangelizing, cast the nets far and wide and leave the results to God.

13:53–57 The crowd’s familiarity with Jesus kept them from recognizing who He was and receiving His message.

Jesus Feeds 5,000**Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:11-17; John 6:1-13**

¹³eWhen Jesus heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He ^ewas moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵gWhen it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.”

¹⁶But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

¹⁸He said, “Bring them here to Me.”

¹⁹Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, ^hHe blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. ²⁰So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. ²¹Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on Water**Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21**

²²Immediately Jesus ⁱmade His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. ^jNow when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴But the boat was now ²in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

²⁵Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

²⁶And when the disciples saw Him ^kwalking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ³“Be of good ^lcheer! ⁴It is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

¹³ ^aMatt. 10:23; 12:15; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1, 2

¹⁴ ^aMatt. 9:36; Mark 6:34

¹⁵ ^aMark 6:35; Luke 9:12

¹⁹ ^a1 Sam. 9:13; Matt. 15:36; 26:26; Mark 6:41; 8:7; 14:22; Luke 24:30; Acts 27:35; [Rom. 14:6]

²² ¹invited, strongly urged

²³ ^aMark 6:46; Luke 9:28; John 6:15 ¹John 6:16

²⁴ ²NU many furlongs away from the land

²⁶ ^aJob 9:8

²⁷ ¹Acts 23:11; 27:22, 25, 36

³Take courage ⁴Lit. I am

³⁰ ²NU brackets that and boisterous as disputed.

³¹ ^mMatt. 6:30; 8:26

³³ ^{Ps.} 2:7; Matt. 16:16; 26:63;

Mark 1:1; Luke 4:41; John 1:49;

6:69; 11:27; Acts 8:37; Rom. 1:4

⁴NU omits came and

³⁴ ^aMark 6:53; Luke 5:1 ⁷NU to land at

³⁶ ^a[Mark 5:24-34] ^aMatt. 9:20;

Mark 3:10; [Luke 6:19]; Acts 19:12

CHAPTER 15

¹ ^aMark 7:1; John 1:19; Acts 25:7

² ^bMark 7:5

⁴ ^cEx. 20:1, 12; Lev. 19:3; [Deut. 5:16]; Prov. 23:22;

[Eph. 6:2, 3] ^cEx. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Deut. 27:16; Prov. 20:20; 30:17

⁵ ^aMark 7:11, 12

⁶ ⁶NU omits or mother ⁹NU word

⁷ ¹Mark 7:6

⁸ ⁹Ps. 78:36; Is. 29:13; Ezek. 33:31

¹⁰NU omits draw near to Me with their mouth, And

²⁹So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw ⁵that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

³¹And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of ^mlittle faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³Then those who were in the boat ⁶came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly ⁿYou are the Son of God.”

Jesus Heals Many**Mark 6:53-56**

³⁴oWhen they had crossed over, they came ⁷to the land of Gennesaret. ³⁵And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, ³⁶and begged Him that they might only ^ptouch the hem of His garment. And ^qas many as touched *it* were made perfectly well.

Debate over Tradition**Mark 7:1-23**

15 Then ^athe scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ^{2b}“Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

³He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”

⁴For God commanded, saying, ^c“Honor your father and your mother”; and, ^d“He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.” ⁵But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “What-ever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God!”— ⁶then he need not honor his father ⁸or mother.’ Thus you have made the ⁹commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

⁸ ‘These^g people ¹⁰draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

14:13–21 See Mark 6:34–44.

14:29–32 When Peter’s eyes were on Jesus, he was able to obey Christ’s command. When he took his eyes off the Lord and focused on his circumstances, the circumstances overcame him. In evangelism, we

must be careful to keep our eyes on Christ, not on our circumstances.

14:33 Jesus’ power demonstrated His nature. When others responded to Him with worship, He didn’t discourage it (see John 20:28), an indication of His deity.

⁹ *And in vain they worship Me,
^h Teaching as doctrines the
 commandments of men.”*

¹⁰When He had called the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”

¹²Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

¹³But He answered and said, ^k“Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone. ^lThey are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵Then Peter answered and said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.”

¹⁶So Jesus said, ⁿ“Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not yet understand that ^owhatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? ¹⁸But ^pthose things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. ²⁰These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

Jesus Heals the Gentile Woman's Daughter

Mark 7:24-30

²¹Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, ^sSon of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

²³But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

²⁴But He answered and said, ^t“I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

²⁵Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

²⁶But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little ^udogs.”

²⁷And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”

²⁸Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, ^vgreat *is* your faith! Let it be to

⁹Is. 29:13; [Col. 2:18-22]; Titus 1:14

¹⁰Mark 7:14

¹¹[Acts 10:15; Rom. 14:14, 17, 20; 1 Tim. 4:4; Titus 1:15]

¹³[Is. 60:21; 61:3; John 15:2; 1 Cor. 3:12, 13]

¹⁴Is. 9:16; Mal. 2:8; Matt. 23:16, 24; Luke 6:39; Rom. 2:19

¹⁵Mark 7:17

¹⁶Matt. 16:9; Mark 7:18

¹⁷[1 Cor. 6:13]

¹⁸[Matt. 12:34]; Mark 7:20; [James 3:6]

¹⁹Gen. 6:5; 8:21;

Prov. 6:14; Jer.

17:9; Mark 7:21;

[Rom. 1:29-32;

Gal. 5:19-21]

²¹Mark 7:24-30

²²Matt. 1:1;

22:41, 42

²⁴Matt. 10:5, 6;

[Rom. 15:8]

²⁶Matt. 7:6;

Phil. 3:2

²⁸Luke 7:9

²⁹ Matt. 15:29-31; Mark 7:31-37
^xMatt. 4:18

³⁰Is. 35:5, 6;

Matt. 11:5; Luke

7:22 ^yMark 7:25;

Luke 7:38; 8:41;

10:39 ^zcrippled

³¹ Luke 5:25,

26; 19:37, 38

^zcrippled

³²Mark 8:1-10

³³2Kin. 4:43

³⁶Matt. 14:19;

26:27; Luke 22:17,

19; John 6:11, 23;

Acts 27:35; [Rom.

14:6] ¹Sam.

9:13; Luke 22:19

³⁹Mark 8:10 ³NU

Magadan

CHAPTER 16

¹ Matt. 12:38;

Mark 8:11; Luke

11:16; 12:54-56;

1 Cor. 1:22

³NU omits

Hypocrites

⁴Prov. 30:12;

Matt. 12:39; Luke

11:29; 24:46

you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Jesus Heals Many

Mark 7:31-37

²⁹ Jesus departed from there, ^wskirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. ³⁰ Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them *the* lame, blind, mute, ¹maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' ²feet, and He healed them. ³¹ So the multitude marveled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* ²maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they ^aglorified the God of Israel.

Jesus Feeds 4,000

Mark 8:1-10

³² Now Jesus called His disciples to *Himself* and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

³³ Then His disciples said to Him, “Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?”

And they said, “Seven, and a few little fish.”

³⁵ So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. ³⁶ And ^dHe took the seven loaves and the fish and ^egave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples; and the disciples *gave* to the multitude. ³⁷ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. ³⁸ Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹ And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of ³Magdala.

Debate over a Sign from Heaven

Mark 8:11, 12

16 Then the ^aPharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, *It will be* fair weather, for the sky is red; ³ and in the morning, *It will be* foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.” ⁴ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times. ^{4b} A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to

it except the sign of ¹the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.

Withdrawal of Jesus

Mark 8:13-21

⁵Now ^cwhen His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. ⁶Then Jesus said to them, ^d“Take heed and beware of the ²leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

⁷And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *“It is because we have taken no bread.”*

⁸But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you ³have brought no bread? ^{9c}Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? ^{10f}Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? ¹¹How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—*but* to beware of the ⁴leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ¹²Then they understood that He did not tell *them* to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the ⁵doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Revelation of the Person of the King

Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ^g“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

¹⁴So they said, ^h“Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or ⁱone of the prophets.”

¹⁵He said to them, “But who do ^jyou say that I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, ^k“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

⁴ *NU omits the prophet*
⁵ *Mark 8:14*
⁶ *Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1* ² *yeast*
⁸ *NU have no bread*
⁹ *Matt. 14:15-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14*
¹⁰ *Matt. 15:32-38; Mark 8:1-9*
¹¹ *yeast*
¹² *teaching*
¹³ *Mark 8:27; Luke 9:18*
¹⁴ *Matt. 14:2; Luke 9:7-9* *Matt. 21:11*
¹⁵ *John 6:67*
¹⁶ *Matt. 14:33; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20; John 6:69; 11:27; Acts 8:37; 9:20; Heb. 1:2, 5; 1 John 4:15*
¹⁷ *[Eph. 2:8]*
^m *[Matt. 11:27; 1 Cor. 2:10]; Gal. 1:16*
¹⁸ *John 1:42* ^a *Acts 2:41; [Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14]* ^b *Job 33:17; Ps. 9:13; 107:18; Is. 38:10*
^c *be victorious*
¹⁹ *Matt. 18:18; John 20:23* ^d *Or will have been bound ... will have been loosed*
²⁰ *Matt. 17:9; Mark 8:30; Luke 9:21*
²¹ *Matt. 20:17; Mark 8:31; 9:31; Luke 9:22; 18:31; 24:46; John 2:19*
²² *Lit. Merciful to You (May God be merciful)*
²³ *Matt. 4:10* ^e *[Rom. 8:7]* ^f *a stumbling block* ²⁴ *Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; [Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 4:10, 11; 1 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:12]*
^g *[1 Pet. 2:21]*
²⁵ *Luke 17:33; John 12:25*

¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, ¹for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but ^mMy Father who is in heaven.”

Revelation of the Church

¹⁸And I also say to you that ⁿyou are Peter, and ^oon this rock I will build My church, and ^pthe gates of Hades shall not ⁶prevail against it. ^{19q}And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth ⁷will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

^{20r}Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Revelation of Jesus’ Death

Mark 8:31-33; Luke 9:22

²¹From that time Jesus began ^sto show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²²Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ⁸“Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

²³But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, ‘Satan!’ ^uYou are ⁹an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Revelation of Jesus’ Reward

Mark 8:34-37; Luke 9:23-25

^{24v}Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and ^wfollow Me. ²⁵For ^xwhoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶For what

16:6, 11-12 Leaven (also called yeast) is sometimes used in Scripture to symbolize evil. The doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees was evil because it contained unbiblical, legalistic, and hypocritical teaching. Everyone’s teaching must be tested by whether or not it complies with the truth of God’s Word.

16:15-16 Jesus gave Peter an opportunity to affirm His deity through His question. Note that Jesus accepted Peter’s answer as true, which confirmed His own assertion of who He is—“the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (see Luke 1:35). Ultimately, like Simon Peter, each person has to make a personal decision about Christ. Salvation is a personal decision. No one can make that decision for us.

16:17 Peter’s conclusion was not determined by his own ability but through divine revelation. Only God can bring people to Christ through the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit (see John 6:44).

16:18 *you are Peter.* The name Peter (*petros* in Gr.) means “rock” or “rock-man.” *on this rock.* In the next phrase

Christ used *petra* (“on this rock”), a feminine form for “rock,” as a play on words. He did not say “on you, Peter” or “on your successors,” but “on this rock”—upon this divine revelation of and profession of faith in Christ (see Acts 2). The term *church* appears in the Gospels only here and in 18:17. *gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.* The Jews understood the gates of Hades to represent physical death. In other words, death itself cannot stop God’s plan of redemption for the world.

16:19 *the keys of the kingdom of heaven.* A key permits access. Starting with his sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter proclaimed the gospel, pointing to Christ as the entrance into the kingdom of heaven. **16:23** Christ was not saying Peter was Satan. He said that Peter was in essence speaking for Satan by trying to prevent His death and resurrection—God’s plan for the redemption of men.

16:24-27 Jesus described the requirements for discipleship, not salvation. The two are not synonyms (see Mark 8:34-37).

³profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or ²what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Prophecy of the Second Coming

Mark 8:38–9:1; Luke 9:26, 27

²⁷For ^athe Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father ^bwith His angels, ^cand then He will reward each according to his works. ²⁸Assuredly, I say to you, ^dthere are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

The Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Pet. 1:17, 18

17 Now ^aafter six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ²and He was transfigured before

²⁶ Luke 12:20, 21 ^aPs. 49:7, 8
²⁷ ^aMatt. 26:64; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26 ^b[Dan. 7:10]; Zech. 14:5 ^cJob 34:11; Ps. 62:12; Prov. 24:12; Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23

²⁸ ^aMark 9:1; Luke 9:27; Acts 7:55, 56; Rev. 19:11

CHAPTER 17

¹ ^aMatt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

⁴ ^aNJU / *will make*

⁵ ^b2 Pet. 1:17 ^cPs. 2:7; Matt. 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 1:35; 3:22; [John 12:28-30] ^dIs. 42:1; Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 2 Pet. 1:17

them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, ¹let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵^b While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ^c“This is My beloved Son, ^din whom I am well pleased. ^eHear Him!” ⁶And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷But Jesus came and ⁸touching them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” ⁸When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹Now as they came down from the

^e[Deut. 18:15, 19; Acts 3:22, 23] ⁶2 Pet. 1:18 ⁷Dan. 8:18

17:3–5 Moses was the major person God used in the Old Testament to give the Law, and Elijah was considered the leading prophet. In a sense, their appearance

represents the whole Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets). The Law, the Prophets, and God the Father all affirm the ministry of Jesus and His mission.

MATTHEW 16:24–27

Discipleship: An Exciting Opportunity

Most of us want to invest our lives in something that counts. That’s why God challenges us to grow as disciples of Christ. The word *disciple* simply means “learner.” A growing disciple or learner is a person who, having trusted Christ, grows in understanding of the Christian life and grows in obedience to Christ. God uses some disciples in secular vocations and others in Christian ministry, but all believers are called to be continually growing in their relationship with Christ.

One caution: whereas our eternal salvation is a free gift, discipleship involves a cost. Observe the phrases God uses to explain what discipleship is and the cost it involves.

Let him deny himself—We must be willing to give up the ownership, or control, of our lives. Instead of asking what we want to do with our lives, we must ask what God wants to do with our lives. Instead of directing God, we must learn to let Him direct us.

Take up his cross—The cross represented humiliation and was the method by which the worst criminals or political victims were killed. It also symbolized submission. Taking up the cross refers to the ridicule and persecution we sometimes suffer when we take a stand for the Savior as we submit not to the world and its ways but to God and His ways. Throughout the centuries and even today in many parts of the world, believers have suffered physical death because of their commitment to Christ.

Follow Me—God wants us to learn daily from Him what constitutes godly living and then respond in obedience. His instructions may be in the area of sexuality, finances, parenting, or prayer. He wants us to learn how to live a life that honors Him and then go live it.

Although discipleship involves a cost, it is well worth it. Your life counts for something eternal because He directs and uses you. Better than anyone, God knows how your life can count when you live in obedience to Him.

(Adapted from *31 Days to Living as a New Believer*)

mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

¹⁰And His disciples asked Him, saying, ¹¹“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

¹²Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming ¹³first and will ¹⁴restore all things. ¹⁵But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they ¹⁶did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise ¹⁷the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” ¹⁸Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Instruction About Faith

Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-42

¹⁴And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is ¹⁶an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁷So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

¹⁸Then Jesus answered and said, “O ¹⁹faithless and ²⁰perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”

²¹And Jesus ²²rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

²³Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

²⁴So Jesus said to them, “Because of your ²⁵unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, ²⁶if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²⁷However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Instruction About Jesus’ Death

Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43-45

²⁸Now while they were ²⁹staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, ³⁰and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly ³¹sorrowful.

Instruction About Taxes

³²When they had come to ³³Capernaum, those who received the ³⁴temple tax came

³⁵Mal. 4:5; Matt. 11:14; 16:14; Mark 9:11

³⁶Mal. 4:6; Luke 1:17 ³⁷NU omits *first*

³⁸Matt. 11:14; Mark 9:12, 13

³⁹Matt. 14:3, 10 ⁴⁰Matt. 16:21

⁴¹Matt. 11:14 ⁴²Matt. 17:14-19; Mark 9:14-28; Luke 9:37-42

⁴³Lit. *moonstruck*

⁴⁴Deut. 32:5; Phil. 2:15

⁴⁵unbelieving

⁴⁶Luke 4:41

⁴⁷Matt. 21:21; Mark 11:23; Luke 17:6; [1 Cor. 12:9]

⁴⁸NU *little faith*

⁴⁹NU omits v. 21.

⁵⁰Matt. 16:21; 26:57; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22, 44; John 18:12 ⁵¹NU *gathering together*

⁵²Matt. 26:22; 27:50; Luke 23:46; 24:46; John 16:6; 19:30; Acts 10:40

⁵³Mark 9:33 ⁵⁴NU *Capernaum*, here and elsewhere ⁵⁵Lit. *double drachma*

⁵⁶[Is. 60:10-17]

⁵⁷Gr. *stater*, the exact temple tax for two

⁵⁸CHAPTER 18

⁵⁹Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48; 22:24-27

⁶⁰Matt. 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:14-17

⁶¹Ps. 131:2; Matt. 19:14; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:16; [1 Cor. 14:20; 1 Pet. 2:2]

⁶²[Matt. 20:27; 23:11]

⁶³[Matt. 10:42]; Luke 9:48

⁶⁴Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2; [1 Cor. 8:12]

⁶⁵Luke 17:1; [1 Cor. 11:19]; 1 Tim. 4:1 ⁶⁶Matt. 26:24; 27:4, 5

⁶⁷enticements to sin

⁶⁸Matt. 5:29, 30; Mark 9:43, 45

⁶⁹Gr. *Gehenna*

⁷⁰[Ps. 34:7]; Zech. 13:7; [Heb. 1:14] ⁷¹Esth. 1:14; Luke 1:19; Acts 12:15; [Rev. 8:2]

⁷²Luke 9:56; John 3:17 ⁷³NU omits v. 11.

to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the *temple tax*?”

²⁵He said, “Yes.”

And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from ²⁶strangers?”

²⁷Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. ²⁸Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a ²⁹piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

Instruction About Humility

Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

18 At ¹that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

²Then Jesus called a little ³child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ⁴and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, ⁵unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁶Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁷Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Punishment of Offenders

Mark 9:42-48

⁸“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁹Woe to the world because of ¹⁰offenses! For ¹¹offenses must come, but ¹²woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

¹³“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ¹⁴And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into ¹⁵hell fire.

¹⁶“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven ¹⁷their angels always ¹⁸see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁹For ²⁰the

17:23 Jesus again predicted His death and resurrection.

18:3 converted. See 5:29–30.

18:8–9 Christ did not teach self-mutilation as a way to

avoid hell. Many times what the hand touches, what the eye sees, or where the feet go can keep a person from trusting Christ for salvation (see 5:29–30; Mark 9:43–48).

Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7

^{12m}“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? ¹³And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴Even so it is not the ⁿwill of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

The Offended Brother

¹⁵“Moreover ^oif your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, ^pyou have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear, take with you one or two

¹² ^m Matt. 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7
¹⁴ ^a [1 Tim. 2:4]
¹⁵ ^a Lev. 19:17; [Luke 17:3, 4; Gal. 6:1]; 2 Thess. 3:15; [James 5:19]
^p [James 5:20]; 1 Pet. 3:1

¹⁶ ^a Deut. 17:6; 19:15; John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28
¹⁷ ^a Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:9; [2 Thess. 3:6, 14; 2 John 10]
¹⁸ ^a Matt. 16:19; [John 20:22, 23; 1 Cor. 5:4]

¹⁹ ^a [1 Cor. 1:10]; [1 John 3:22; 5:14] ¹ NU, M
Again, assuredly, I say

²⁰ ^a Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14:26
²¹ ^a Luke 17:4

more, that ^a *‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’* ¹⁷And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a ¹heathen and a tax collector.

¹⁸“Assuredly, I say to you, ^swhatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again ¹ I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, ²it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered ³together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Instruction About Forgiveness

²¹Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? ²Up to seven times?”

18:12-13 Just as the sheep were the main priority of a shepherd, so unbelievers are a priority for Christ. This should be true of us as we follow Him.

18:14 *perish.* See John 3:16.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Forgiveness: A Powerful Model of God's Grace

We all come to God as sinners—we’ve lied, stolen, slandered others, harbored hatred against others, or maybe even committed “big” sins such as murder or adultery. But they are all sins before God. As soon as we recognize our sinful condition and place our trust in Jesus Christ alone to save us, He loudly and clearly proclaims us “forgiven.” We are then released to live each day in the freedom of forgiveness instead of the torture of guilt.

Forgiveness does carry a measure of indebtedness along with it, however—the privilege of extending that same forgiveness to somebody else. Peter no doubt thought he was being most generous by suggesting “seven times.” The traditional Jewish teaching of the time held that an offended person need only forgive a brother three times. By His admonition to forgive “seventy times seven,” Jesus’ point was unmistakable—our offering of forgiveness to others ought not to have limits.

What greater way to show other people what God is like? Non-Christians—and even Christians—can be impatient, use abusive language, and act selfishly. When people are offended, they often respond with revenge. How shocking it is, then, when a believer instead practices forgiveness. Forgiveness is the love of God translated into the language of daily life.

A forgiving attitude may annoy some people because it destroys their basis for saying “Christians are just like everybody else.” Nevertheless, forgiveness has no limits, and neither should the privilege of extending it to somebody else.

Prayer Point:

Ask God to help you reflect on His forgiveness of you. Then ask Him to give you an opportunity this week to explain to an unbeliever the great forgiveness found in Christ.

(Adapted from *31 Days to Contagious Living*)

²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, ^xup to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded ^ythat he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down ¹at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you ²all.’ ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you ²all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

³⁵“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother ³his trespasses.”

Instruction About Divorce

Mark 10:1-12

19 Now it came to pass, ^awhen Jesus had finished these sayings, *that* He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ^{2b}And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

³The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”

⁴And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who ⁴made *them* at the beginning ^c*made them male and female*,’ ⁵and said, ^d*‘For this reason a*

²² [Matt. 6:14; Mark 11:25]; Col. 3:13

²⁵ Ex. 21:2; Lev. 25:39; 2Kin. 4:1; Neh. 5:5, 8

²⁹ NU omits *at his feet* ² NU, M omit *all*

³² Luke 7:41-43

³⁵ Prov. 21:13; Matt. 6:12; Mark 11:26; James 2:13

³ NU omits *his trespasses*

CHAPTER 19

¹ Matt. 19:1-9;

Mark 10:1-12;

John 10:40

² Matt. 12:15

⁴ Gen. 1:27; 5:2;

[Mal. 2:15] ⁴ NU

⁵ created

⁵ Gen. 2:24; Mark

10:5-9; Eph. 5:31

⁴ [1 Cor. 6:16; 7:2]

⁷ Deut. 24:1-4;

Matt. 5:31

⁸ Heb. 3:15 ^h Mal.

2:16

⁹ [Matt. 5:32];

Mark 10:11; Luke

16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10

² Or *fornication*

¹⁰ [Prov. 21:19]

¹¹ ⁴ [1 Cor. 7:2, 7,

9, 17]

¹² [1 Cor. 7:32]

⁴ Emasculated

men

¹³ Matt. 20:31;

Mark 10:13; Luke

18:15

¹⁴ Matt. 18:3,

4; Mark 10:15;

Luke 18:17; [1 Cor.

14:20; 1Pet. 2:2]

¹⁶ Matt. 19:16-

29; Mark 10:17-

30; Luke 18:18-30

² Luke 10:25 ² NU

omits *Good*

¹⁷ Ps. 25:8; 34:8;

Nah. 1:7; [Rom.

2:4] ⁴ NU *Why do*

you ask Me about

what is good? ² NU

There is One who

is good. But ⁴ Lev.

18:5; Deut. 4:40;

6:17; 7:11; 11:22;

28:9; Neh. 9:29;

Ezek. 20:21; [Gal.

3:10]

¹⁸ Ex. 20:13-16;

Deut. 5:17-20

¹⁹ Ex. 20:12-16;

Deut. 5:16-20;

Matt. 15:4 ⁴ Lev.

19:18; Matt.

22:39; [Rom. 13:9;

Gal. 5:14; James

2:8]

²⁰ [Phil. 3:6, 7]

¹⁰ NU omits *from*

my youth

man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and^e the two shall become one flesh? ⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

⁷They said to Him, ^f“Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”

⁸He said to them, “Moses, because of the ^ghardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your ^hwives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ⁱAnd I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for ⁵sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

¹⁰His disciples said to Him, ^j“If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹But He said to them, ^k“All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given: ¹²For there are ⁶eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother’s womb, and ^lthere are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.”

^{13m}Then little children were brought to Him that He might put *His* hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for ⁿof such is the kingdom of heaven.” ¹⁵And He laid *His* hands on them and departed from there.

Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-27

^{16o}Now behold, one came and said to Him, ^p“Good⁷ Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

¹⁷So He said to him, ⁸“Why do you call Me good? ⁹No one is ^agood but One, *that is, God*. But if you want to enter into life, ¹keep the commandments.”

¹⁸He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, ⁴“*You shall not murder; ‘You shall not commit adultery;’ ‘You shall not steal;’ ‘You shall not bear false witness;’* ¹⁹ⁱ*‘Honor your father and your mother;’* and, ²“*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

²⁰The young man said to Him, “All these things I have ^vkept ¹⁰from my youth. What do I still lack?”

²¹Jesus said to him, “If you want to be

19:13-14 See Luke 18:16-17.

19:16-22 Jesus did not teach salvation by works but showed the rich young ruler that he fell short of God’s

law and holy standards and was therefore hopeless in his attempt to earn God’s favor.

perfect, ^wgo, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²²But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that ^xit is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but ^ywith God all things are possible.”

The Apostles' Reward

Mark 10:28-30; Luke 18:28-30

²⁷Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, ^zwe have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

²⁸So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, ^ayou who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ^{29b}And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother ¹or wife or children or ²lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. ^{30c}But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.

Parable of the Laborers

Mark 10:31

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and

²¹ ^vMatt. 6:20; Luke 12:33; Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35; 1 Tim. 6:18, 19
²³ ^v[Matt. 13:22]; Mark 10:24; 1 Cor. 1:26; [1 Tim. 6:9]
²⁶ ^vGen. 18:14; Num. 11:23; Job 42:2; Is. 59:1; Jer. 32:17; Zech. 8:6; Luke 1:37
²⁷ ^vDeut. 33:9; Matt. 4:20; Luke 5:11
²⁸ ^vMatt. 20:21; Luke 22:28-30; [1 Cor. 6:2; Rev. 2:26]
²⁹ ^v[Matt. 6:33]; Mark 10:29, 30; Luke 18:29, 30
³⁰ ^vLU omits *or wife*
²Lit. *fields*
³⁰ ^v[Matt. 20:16; 21:31, 32]; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30

CHAPTER 20

⁶ ^vNU omits *idle*
⁷ ^vNU omits the rest of v. 7.
¹¹ ^v*grumbled*
¹⁵ ^v[Rom. 9:20, 21] ^bDeut. 15:9; Prov. 23:6; [Matt. 6:23]; Mark 7:22
¹⁶ ^vMatt. 19:30; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30 ^dMatt. 22:14 ^vNU omits the rest of v. 16.
¹⁷ ^vMatt. 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-33; John 12:12
¹⁸ ^vMatt. 16:21; 26:47-57; Mark 14:42, 64; John 18:5; 19:7
¹⁹ ^vMatt. 27:2; Mark 15:1, 16; Luke 23:1; John 18:28; Acts 3:13
^bMatt. 26:67, 68; 27:29, 41; Mark 15:20, 31 ^vMatt. 27:26; Mark 15:15; John 19:1
^vMatt. 27:35; Luke 23:33; Acts 3:13-15 ^vMatt. 28:5, 6; Mark 16:6, 9; Luke 24:5-8, 46; Acts 10:40; 1 Cor. 15:4
²⁰ ^vMark 10:35-45
^vMatt. 4:21; 10:2
²¹ ^v[Matt. 19:28]

found others standing ³idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, ⁴and whatever is right you will receive.’

⁸“So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ ⁹And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹And when they had received *it*, they ⁵complained against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ ¹³But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take *what* is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. ¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or ^bis your eye evil because I am good?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last. ^dFor ⁶many are called, but few chosen.”

Instruction About Jesus' Death

Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34

¹⁷“Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ¹⁸“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹and deliver Him to the Gentiles to ^bmock and to ⁱscourge and to ^jcrucifixion. And the third day He will ^hrise again.”

Instruction About Ambition

Mark 10:35-45

²⁰“Then the mother of ^mZebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

²¹And He said to her, “What do you wish?”

She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine ⁿmay sit, one on Your right

19:23–26 From the preceding context, Jesus' statement, a form of hyperbole or exaggeration for effect, shows that salvation is a miracle of God's grace. Those who are distracted by wealth to the point of being blinded of their need for God are no more likely to obtain eternal life than a camel is of going through the eye of a needle. Jesus also corrected the common understanding that wealth was a sign of being blessed

by God. Wealth may just as well become a curse. *with God all things are possible.* The convicting work of the Holy Spirit can cause even the richest people to see their need of Christ and receive the gift of eternal life (see Mark 10:23–27).

20:18–19 Jesus again predicted His death and resurrection and provided other details about the sequence of events.

hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”

²²But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink ^othe cup that I am about to drink, ¹and be baptized with ^pthe baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.”

²³So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, ²and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.*”

²⁴And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶Yet ³it shall not be so among you; but ⁴‘whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸just as the ^wSon of Man did not come to be served, ³but to serve, and ³to give His life a ransom ²for many.”

The Blind Men Recognize the King

Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

²⁹Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. ³⁰And behold, ^btwo blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, ^cSon of David!”

³¹Then the multitude ^dwarned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

³²So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

³³They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” ³⁴So Jesus had ^ecompassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

The Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15

21 Now ^awhen they drew near Jerusalem, and came to ³Bethphage, at ^bthe Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two

²² ^oIs. 51:17, 22; Jer. 49:12; Matt. 26:39, 42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 18:11 ^pLuke 12:50 ¹NU omits and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with ²³ ^a[Acts 12:2; Rom. 8:17; 2Cor. 1:7; Rev. 1:9] ²NU omits and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with ²⁴ Mark 10:41; Luke 22:24, 25 ²⁶ ¹[Pet. 5:3] ¹Matt. 23:11; Mark 9:35; 10:43; Luke 22:26 ²⁷ ^a[Matt. 18:4] ²⁸ ^oJohn 13:4 ^w[Matt. 26:28; John 13:13; 2Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:6, 7; 1Tim. 2:5, 6; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:5] ^pLuke 22:27; John 13:14 ¹[Is. 53:10, 11; Dan. 9:24, 26; John 11:51, 52; 1Pet. 1:18, 19] ³[Rom. 5:15, 19; Heb. 9:28] ²⁹ ^aMark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43 ³⁰ ^aMatt. 9:27 ^c[2Sam. 7:14-17; Ps. 89:3-5, 19-37; Is. 11:10-12; Ezek. 37:21-25]; Matt. 1:1; Luke 1:31, 32; [Acts 15:14-17] ³¹ ^aMatt. 19:13 ³⁴ ^aMark. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27

CHAPTER 21

¹ ^aMark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38 ^b[Zech. 14:4] ²M Bethsphage

⁴ ^oNU omits All ⁵ ^cIs. 62:11; Zech. 9:9; John 12:15 ⁶ ^aMark 11:4 ⁷ ²Kin. 9:13 ³NU and He sat ⁸ ¹Lev. 23:40; John 12:13

⁹ ^oPs. 118:26; Matt. 23:39 ¹⁰ ^aJohn 2:13, 15

disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them;’ and immediately he will send them.”

⁴All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

⁵ “Tell ^cthe daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶d So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt, ^elaid their clothes on them, ⁵and set *Him* on them. ⁸And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; ^fothers cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. ⁹Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

^g ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰h And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

¹¹So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, ⁱthe prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

The Cleansing of the Temple

Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45, 46

¹²j Then Jesus went into the temple ⁶of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the ^kmoney changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³And He said to them, “It is written, ¹*‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’* but you have made it a ^m‘den of thieves.’”

¹⁴Then *the blind and the lame* came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

¹¹ ¹[Deut. 18:15, 18]; Matt. 2:23; 16:14; Luke 4:16-29; John 6:14; 7:40; 9:17; [Acts 3:22, 23] ¹² ¹Mal. 3:1; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-47; John 2:13-16 ¹³ ¹Deut. 14:25 ^oNU omits of God ¹³ ¹Is. 56:7 ^mJer. 7:11

21:4-8 This is another prophecy that was fulfilled in the Person of Christ, proving Him to be the promised Messiah.

21:9, 15 *Hosanna*. This term means “O Lord, save us” (see Ps. 118:25-26). The crowd would have been very familiar with these words since Psalm 118 was often recited to celebrate special festivals. Applying these words to Jesus shows that they recognized Him to

be something more than just another famous teacher—the words have the sense of “Hail to the King.” Their joyous exclamation of praise, however, was based upon a mistaken perception. They thought the Messiah was coming to save them from the Roman oppression when He was actually coming to save them from their sin.

¹⁵But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the ‘Son of David!’” they were ¹indignant ¹⁶and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?”

And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read,

^o ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’ ”

¹⁷Then He left them and ¹⁸went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

Cursing of the Fig Tree

Mark 11:11-14, 20-24

^{18a}Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. ^{19a}And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away.

^{20a}And when the disciples saw *it*, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?”

²¹So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, ¹if you have faith and ²do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, ³but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea; it will be done.

²²And ⁴whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Question of Jesus’ Authority

Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-18

^{23x}Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and ¹said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”

²⁴But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵The ²baptism of

¹⁵ ^aMatt. 1:1; John 7:42 ¹angry

¹⁶ ^aPs. 8:2; Matt.

11:25

¹⁷ ^aMatt. 26:6; Mark 11:1, 11, 12;

14:3; Luke 19:29;

24:50; John 11:1,

18; 12:1

¹⁸ ^aMark 11:12-14, 20-24

¹⁹ ^aMark 11:13

²⁰ ^aMark 11:20

²¹ ^aMatt. 17:20

^aJames 1:6 ¹1 Cor.

13:2

²² ^aMatt. 7:7-11; Mark 11:24; Luke 11:9; [John 15:7; James 5:16; 1 John 3:22; 5:14]

²³ ^aMark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8

³Ex. 2:14; Acts 4:7; 7:27

²⁵ ^a[John 1:29-34]

^aJohn 1:15-28

²⁶ ^aMatt. 14:5; 21:46; Luke 20:6

^aMatt. 14:5; Mark 6:20

²⁸ ^aMatt. 20:1; 21:33

³¹ ^aLuke 7:29, 37-50

³² ^aLuke 3:1-12; 7:29

³² ^aLuke 3:12, 13

²regret *it*

³³ ^aPs. 80:9; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19 ^aMatt. 25:14

³⁵ ²Chr. 24:21; 36:16; [Matt. 23:34, 37; Acts 7:52; 1 Thess. 2:15]; Heb. 11:36, 37

³⁷ ^a[John 3:16]

³⁸ [Ps. 2:8; Heb. 1:2]

^aJohn—where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘From men,’ we ^bfear the multitude, ^cfor all count John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.”

And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my ^dvineyard.’ ²⁹He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of *his father*?”

They said to Him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, ^e“Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³²For ^fJohn came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; ^gbut tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward ²relent and believe him.

Parable of the Landowner

Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

³³“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner ¹who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and ¹went into a far country. ³⁴Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. ³⁵And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. ³⁷Then last of all he sent his ¹son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ¹“This is the heir.

21:21–22 Jesus did not say that prayer allows us to do anything we want but that the prayer of faith empowers us to do what would otherwise be impossible. Prayer and evangelism go hand in hand. As we depend on God in prayer, He uses us to accomplish great work in His name.

21:25 *baptism of John.* See Matthew 3:6.

21:31 In first century society, tax collectors, because of their greediness and collaboration with Rome; and prostitutes, because of their immoral lifestyles, were treated as social and religious outcasts. Many times

people who are living immorally or as outcasts see their need of Christ more easily than moral, “religious” people. We must be careful not to disassociate ourselves from the people who may be most open to the gospel.

21:33–40 Christ’s point of the story was to review the history of the nation of Israel (God’s garden). They had rejected the prophets and would now reject the Son (Christ). The fulfillment of this was close at hand.

³⁸Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.

⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

⁴¹“They said to Him, ⁴²“He will destroy those wicked men miserably, ⁴³and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will ⁴⁴render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴⁵Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*“The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the LORD’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes?”*

⁴⁶“Therefore I say to you, ⁴⁷the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁸And ⁴⁹whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, ⁵⁰it will grind him to powder.”

⁵¹Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they ⁵²perceived that He was speaking of them. ⁵³But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they ⁵⁴feared the multitudes, because ⁵⁵they took Him for a prophet.

Parable of the Marriage Feast

22 And Jesus answered ¹and spoke to them again by parables and said: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; ⁵my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.”” ⁶But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁷And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* ⁸spitefully, and killed *them*. ⁹But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out ¹⁰his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ¹¹Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready,

³⁸ [Ps. 2:2]; John 11:53; Acts 4:27
³⁹ [Matt. 26:50]; Mark 14:46; Luke 22:54; John 18:12; [Acts 2:23]
⁴¹ [Luke 20:16
⁴² [Matt. 8:11; Acts 13:46; Rom. 9; 10] ⁴³ *give*
⁴⁴ [Ps. 118:22, 23; Is. 28:16; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; [Rom. 9:33]; Eph. 2:20; [1 Pet. 2:6, 7]
⁴⁵ [Matt. 8:12]; Acts 13:46

⁴⁶ [Is. 8:14, 15; Zech. 12:3; Luke 20:18; [Rom. 9:33]; 1 Pet. 2:8
⁴⁷ [Is. 60:12; Dan. 2:44]
⁴⁸ ⁴⁹ *knew*
⁴⁶ [Matt. 21:26; Mark 11:18, 32
⁵⁰ [Matt. 21:11; Luke 7:16; John 7:40

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¹ [Luke 14:16; [Rev. 19:7-9]
⁴ [Prov. 9:2
⁶ ⁷ *insolently*
⁷ [Dan. 9:26]

⁸ [Matt. 10:11
¹⁰ [Matt. 13:38, 47, 48; [Acts 28:28]
¹¹ [2 Cor. 5:3; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10, 12; Rev. 3:4; 16:15; 19:8]
¹² [Rom. 3:19]
¹³ [Matt. 8:12; 25:30; Luke 13:28
⁴ NU omits *take him away, and*
¹⁴ [Matt. 20:16
¹⁵ [Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26
¹⁶ [Mark 3:6; 8:15; 12:13 ⁵ Lit. *look at the face of*
¹⁸ ¹⁹ *knew*
²¹ [Matt. 17:25
²² [Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-15]
²³ [1 Cor. 3:23; 6:19, 20; 12:27] ²⁴ *Pay*
²³ [Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40
²⁴ [Acts 23:8
²⁴ [Deut. 25:5

but those who were invited were not ⁴worthy. ⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and ⁶gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there ¹²who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹³So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was ¹⁴speechless. ¹⁵Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, ¹⁶take him away, and cast *him* ¹⁷into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁸“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Conflict with Pharisees and Herodians

Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk. ¹⁶And they sent to Him their disciples with the ¹⁷Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not ¹⁸regard the person of men. ¹⁹Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

²⁰But Jesus ²¹perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? ²²Show Me the tax money.”

So they brought Him a denarius. ²³And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription *is* this?”

²⁴They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, ²⁵“Render ²⁶therefore to Caesar the things that are ²⁷Caesar’s, and to God the things that are ²⁸God’s.” ²⁹When they had heard *these words*, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Conflict with Sadducees

Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40

²³“The same day the Sadducees, ²⁴who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁵saying: “Teacher, ²⁶Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up

21:42-44 *cornerstone*. This was the most important foundational stone in a building. Placed at the intersection of two walls, it aligns the building and holds it together. For the kingdom of God, that stone is Christ. How ironic that the religious leaders of Israel, who were supposed to be the stewards of the faith, rejected the very foundation of the faith.

22:1-14 The invitation to the feast was given on one condition: the guests were to come dressed in the

proper attire. Those who did not have the proper wedding garments were cast out. Just as there were many people invited to the feast, God invites all sinners to receive salvation. That salvation is based on Christ’s righteousness, which we receive by trusting in Him alone, not by trusting our own good deeds. Those who reject this salvation are held personally responsible and have to answer for their own sins.

offspring for his brother. ²⁵Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. ²⁶Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷Last of all the woman died also. ²⁸Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “You are ¹mistaken, ²not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but ³are like angels ²of God in heaven. ³¹But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³²*‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’* God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” ³³And when the multitudes heard *this*, ³⁴they were astonished at His teaching.

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

³⁴v But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵Then one of them, ^wa lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷Jesus said to him, ^x“*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ^y“*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Son of David

Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44

⁴¹a While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²saying, “What

²⁹ John 20:9

¹ deceived

³⁰ ¹[1 John 3:2]

² NU omits of God

³² Gen. 17:7;

26:24; 28:21;

Ex. 3:6, 15; Mark

12:26; Luke 20:37;

Acts 7:32; [Heb.

11:16]

³³ Matt. 7:28

³⁴ Mark 12:28-31;

Luke 10:25-37

³⁵ Luke 7:30;

10:25; 11:45, 46,

52; 14:3; Titus 3:13

³⁷ Deut. 6:5;

10:12; 30:6

³⁹ Lev. 19:18;

Matt. 19:19; Mark

12:31; Luke 10:27;

[Rom. 13:9; Gal.

5:14; James 2:8]

⁴⁰ ¹[Matt. 7:12;

Rom. 13:10; 1 Tim.

1:5]

⁴¹ Mark 12:35-37;

Luke 20:41-44

⁴² Matt. 1:1; 21:9

⁴⁴ Ps. 110:1;

[Matt. 26:64]; Mark

16:19; Acts 2:34;

1 Cor. 15:25; Heb.

1:13; 10:13

⁴⁶ Luke 14:6

³ NU omits to

observe

⁴ ¹[Matt. 11:29,

30]; Luke 11:46;

Acts 15:10; Rom.

2:17-24; [Gal.

5:1; 6:13; Col.

2:16, 17]

⁵ ¹[Matt. 6:1-6,

16-18]

⁶ Mark 12:38, 39;

Luke 11:43; 20:46;

3 John 9 ⁴Or place

of honor

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² Deut. 33:3;

Ezra 7:6, 25; Neh.

8:4, 8; [Mal. 2:7];

Mark 12:38; Luke

20:45

³ ¹[Rom. 2:19]

³ NU omits to

observe

⁴ ¹[Matt. 11:29,

30]; Luke 11:46;

Acts 15:10; Rom.

2:17-24; [Gal.

5:1; 6:13; Col.

2:16, 17]

⁵ ¹[Matt. 6:1-6,

16-18]

⁶ Mark 12:38, 39;

Luke 11:43; 20:46;

3 John 9 ⁴Or place

of honor

do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “*The^b Son of David.*”

⁴³ He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him *‘Lord,’* saying:

⁴⁴ *‘The^e LORD said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your
footstool”’?*

⁴⁵ If David then calls Him *‘Lord,’* how is He his Son?” ⁴⁶a And no one was able to answer Him a word, ^enor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Jesus Characterizes the Pharisees

Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

23 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ²saying: ^a“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³Therefore whatever they tell you ³to observe, *that observe* and do, but do not do according to their works; for ^bthey say, and do not do. ⁴For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵But all their works they do to ^dbe seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶They love the ⁴best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ ⁸But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your ⁵Teacher, ⁶the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹Do not call anyone on earth your father; ⁶for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹But ^bhe who

⁸ ¹[2 Cor. 1:24; James 3:1; 1 Pet. 5:3] ⁵ Leader ⁶ NU omits the Christ
⁹ ¹[Mal. 1:6]; Matt. 5:16, 48; 6:1, 9, 14, 26, 32; 7:11 ¹¹ Matt. 20:26, 27

TIP: MATTHEW 22:37

One of the best ways we can love someone is to share Christ with them. Jesus commanded us to treat our neighbor the same way we would want to be treated. The gratefulness we feel that someone shared Christ with us should motivate us to share Christ with our neighbor.

22:37 Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5. Our love for the Lord is reflected in our feelings about Him, our desire to serve Him, and even a hunger to learn more about Him. Telling others about Him is one of the greatest ways to demonstrate our love for the Lord.

22:43–45 This passage demonstrates that Jesus not only defended Himself when questioned by the religious leaders, but He also took the offense by questioning them. He questioned them by quoting Psalm 110:1 to show that the Messiah would not only come from the lineage of David (thus being David’s son), but that David recognized the Messiah’s divine

nature by calling Him “Lord.” Sometimes a good question can perplex even the most self-assured unbeliever and open their minds to new truth.

23:3–5 The Pharisees meticulously read and studied the instructions given in the Old Testament. The problem was they spoke one thing and practiced another, which is why Christ called them hypocrites (v. 27). Ultimately, they sought the approval and recognition of others. What we do means nothing to God if it is not done from a sincere and pure heart. The motive for our works, including evangelism, should not be for the praise of others but out of gratitude to God.

is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²ⁱAnd whoever exalts himself will be ¹humbled, and he who humbles himself will be ²exalted.

Jesus Condemns the Pharisees

¹³“But ¹woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ¹⁴Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ^kFor you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

¹⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of ⁴hell as yourselves.

¹⁶“Woe to you, ¹blind guides, who say, ^m“Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to *perform it.*” ¹⁷Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold ⁿor the temple that ⁵sanctifies the gold?

¹⁸And, “Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to *perform it.*” ¹⁹Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift ^oor the altar that sanctifies the gift?

²⁰Therefore he who ⁶swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by ^pHim who ⁷dwells in it. ²²And he who swears by heaven, swears by ^qthe throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ^rFor you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and ^shave neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ^tFor you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and ⁸self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ^uFor you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸Even so you

¹² Job 22:29; Prov. 15:33; 29:23; Luke 14:11; 18:14; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5 ¹put down ²lifted up

¹³ Luke 11:52 ¹⁴ Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47; [2 Tim. 3:6; Titus 1:10, 11] ¹⁵ NU omits v. 14

¹⁵ ^{Gr.} *Gehenna* ¹⁶ Matt. 15:14; 23:24 ^m [Matt. 5:33, 34]

¹⁷ ^{Ex.} 30:29 ¹⁸ NU sanctified ¹⁹ Ex. 29:37

²⁰ ^Sswears an oath ²¹ ¹ Kin. 8:13; 2 Chr. 6:2; Ps. 26:8; 132:14 ²² ^M dwell

²² ^{Ps.} 11:4; Is. 66:1; Matt. 5:34; Acts 7:49

²³ ^{Matt.} 23:13; Luke 11:42; 18:12

¹ Sam. 15:22; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:8; Matt. 9:13; 12:7

²⁵ ^{Mark} 7:4; Luke 11:39 ²⁶ ^M unrighteousness

²⁷ ^{Luke} 11:44; Acts 23:3

²⁹ ^{Luke} 11:47, 48 ³⁰ ^{de}decorate

³¹ ^{Matt.} 23:34, 37; [Acts 7:51, 52]; 1 Thess. 2:15

³² ^{Gen.} 15:16; [1 Thess. 2:16]

³³ ^{Matt.} 3:7; 12:34; Luke 3:7

³⁴ ^ooffspring

³⁴ ^{Matt.} 21:34, 35; Luke 11:49

³⁴ ^{John} 16:2; Acts 7:54-60;

22:19 ³⁵ ^{Matt.} 10:17; Acts 5:40; 2 Cor. 11:24, 25

³⁵ ^{Rev.} 18:24 ³⁶ ^{Gen.} 4:8; Heb. 11:4; 1 John 3:12

³⁷ ^{Luke} 13:34, 35 ³⁸ ² Chr. 24:20, 21; 36:15, 16; Neh. 9:26; Matt. 21:35;

³⁶ ^{Deut.} 32:11, 12; Matt. 11:28-30 ³⁹ ^{Ps.} 17:8; 91:4; Is. 49:5

³⁹ ^{Ps.} 118:26; Matt. 21:9

also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and ⁹adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

³¹“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that ^wyou are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²“Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*.

³³Serpents, ^ybrood ¹⁰of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

³⁴“Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: ^asome of them you will kill and crucify, and ^bsome of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, ^dfrom the blood of righteous Abel to ^ethe blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

23:37 *Jerusalem, Jerusalem.* A word repeated twice, as in “Jerusalem, Jerusalem,” implies strong emotion. Although its people would turn its back on Him, Christ

still loved them. Today, we need to love others even if they turn their backs on Christ and our message about Him.

And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

The Tribulation

Mark 13:5-23; Luke 21:5-24

⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: ^e"Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For ^fmany will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' ^gand will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of ^hwars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for ⁱall these *things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For ^jnation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And

2:8, 18; 2Thess. 2:3; 1John 4:1-3] ⁵Jer. 14:14; John 5:43; Acts 5:36; [1 John 2:18; 4:3] ⁹Matt. 24:11 ⁶^h[Rev. 6:2-4] ¹NU omits *all* ⁷2Chr. 15:6; Is. 19:2; Hag. 2:22; Zech. 14:13 [Acts 11:28; Rev. 6:5, 6 ²NU omits *pestilences* ⁹Matt. 10:17; Luke 21:12; [John 16:2]; Acts 4:2, 3; Rev. 2:10 ¹¹Acts 20:29;

there will be ^jfamines, ²pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

⁹^k"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹Then ^lmany false prophets will rise up and ^mdeceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow ⁿcold.

2Pet. 2:1; Rev. 13:11; 19:20 ^m[1 Tim. 4:1] ¹²ⁿ[2Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:1-3] ¹³^oMatt. 10:22; Mark 13:13

How to Know When to Mention Hell in Personal Evangelism

Matthew 23:33

Evangelism requires that we speak with truth. The question is to what degree do we go? Do we go so far as to mention hell in our personal witnessing opportunities?

Scripture tells us much about both our message and our methodology.

First, Jesus Christ spoke more about hell than any other person in the Bible. Even when He did not use the actual word, He did not hesitate to speak of a day of judgment (see Matt. 10:15) or to make harsh warnings (see John 8:44). To mention hell in our evangelistic presentations follows Christ's example.

Second, when Jesus Christ mentioned hell, He did so as a person who had a reputation for being compassionate, not callous. Sinners did not welcome Him into their homes to eat with them because they felt He would give them a good tongue lashing (see Luke 15:2). They did so because they knew regardless of what He said, He cared deeply about them. Someone once said, "Don't mention hell unless there is a tear in your eye." The literal tear doesn't have to be there, but the tenderness ought to be. The demeanor of Christ forces us to ask, "Do I mention hell because I want the non-Christian to know I am not afraid to speak my mind or because I am so concerned they could end up there?" Is our tone one of compassion or callousness?

Third, John wrote his Gospel to explain how to obtain eternal life (see John 20:31). He did that not by scaring one out of hell with bad news but by inviting one to heaven with good news. Statements like "whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:26) and "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2) permeate the book. Do we emphasize to others where God is inviting them to or what He is keeping them from?

Fourth, Christ spoke in the strongest language about hell to the Sadducees and Pharisees, whose religious arrogance and pride demanded such an approach. To those who recognized their sinfulness, be they religious or non-religious, He offered the hope they needed. He said to the Samaritan woman of John 4, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (v. 10).

A scriptural approach to evangelism demands we mention hell when appropriate for the person to whom we are speaking or in the situation and circumstances. In doing so, our attitude is important. The issue is not if we mention hell; it's to whom and how we do so that's important.

¹³But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴And this ^ogospel of the kingdom ^qwill be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ^s‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” ^t(whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹But ^uwoe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For ^vthen there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; ^wbut for the ¹elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

²³“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴For ^yfalse christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, ^zif possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*.

The Second Coming

Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28

²⁷^aFor as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸^bFor wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹^c“Immediately after the tribulation of those days ⁴the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰^eThen the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, ^fand then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹^gAnd He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His ²elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

¹⁴ ^pMatt. 4:23
^qRom. 10:18; Col. 1:6, 23
¹⁵ ^rMark 13:14;
 Luke 21:20; [John 11:48]; Acts 6:13; 21:28 ^sDan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 ^tDan. 9:23
¹⁹ ^uLuke 23:29
²¹ ^vDan. 9:26
²² ^wIs. 65:8, 9; [Zech. 14:2] ^x*chosen ones*¹
²³ ^yMark 13:21; Luke 17:23
²⁴ ^zDeut. 13:1; John 4:48;
 [2 Thess. 2:9]; Rev. 13:13 ^{aa}[John 6:37; Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 2:19]
²⁷ ^{ab}Luke 17:24
²⁸ ^{ac}Job 39:30; Ezek. 39:17; Hab. 1:8; Luke 17:37
²⁹ ^{ad}[Dan. 7:11] ^{ae}Is. 13:10; 24:23; Ezek. 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Amos 5:20; 8:9; Zeph. 1:15; Matt. 24:29-35; Acts 2:20; Rev. 6:12-17; 8:12
³⁰ ^{af}[Dan. 7:13, 14; Matt. 16:27; 24:3, 37, 39] ^{ag}Zech. 12:12
³¹ ^{ah}Ex. 19:16; Deut. 30:4; Is. 27:13; Zech. 9:14; [1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16]; Heb. 12:19; Rev. 8:2; 11:15 ^{ai}*chosen ones*²
³² ^{aj}Luke 21:29
³³ ^{ak}[James 5:9; Rev. 3:20] ^{al}Or *He*
³⁴ ^{am}[Matt. 10:23; 16:28; 23:36]
³⁵ ^{an}Ps. 102:25, 26; Is. 51:6; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; [1 Pet. 1:23-25; 2 Pet. 3:10]
³⁶ ^{ao}Mark 13:32; Acts 1:7; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10 ^{ap}Zech. 14:7 ^{aq}NU adds *nor the Son*
³⁸ ^{ar}[Gen. 6:3-5]; Luke 17:26; [1 Pet. 3:20]
⁴⁰ ^{as}Luke 17:34
⁴² ^{at}Matt. 25:13; Luke 21:36;
 1 Thess. 5:6
⁴³ ^{au}NU *day*
⁴³ ^{av}Luke 12:39; 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 3:3 ^{aw}Lit. *watch of the night*
⁴⁴ ^{ax}Luke 12:35-40; [1 Thess. 5:6]
⁴⁵ ^{ay}Luke 12:42-46; [Acts 20:28] ^{az}at the right time

Parable of the Fig Tree

Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:29-33

³²“Now learn ^bthis parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know ⁱthat ³it is near—at the doors! ³⁴Assuredly, I say to you, ^jthis generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵^kHeaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Illustration of the Days of Noah

Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-36

³⁶“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of ⁴heaven, ^mbut My Father only. ³⁷But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ⁿFor as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰^oThen two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴²^pWatch therefore, for you do not know what ⁵hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³^qBut know this, that if the master of the house had known what ⁶hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴^rTherefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Illustration of the Two Servants

Luke 12:41-48

⁴⁵^s“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food ⁷in due season? ⁴⁶^tBlessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷Assuredly, I say to you that ^uhe will make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master ^vis delaying ⁸his coming,’ ⁴⁹and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, ⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is ^wnot aware of, ⁵¹and will cut him in

⁴⁶ ^{av}Rev. 16:15 ⁴⁷ ^{aw}Matt. 25:21, 23; Luke 22:29 ⁴⁸ ^{ax}[2 Pet. 3:4-9] ^{ay}NU omits *his coming* ⁵⁰ ^{az}Mark 13:32

24:13 See Mark 13:15.

24:14 By the time Christ comes to fully establish His

kingdom on earth, the gospel will have been proclaimed throughout the whole world.

two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. ^xThere shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet ^athe bridegroom. ^{2b}Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, ^cthey all slumbered and slept.

⁶“And at midnight ^da cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom ⁱis coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷Then all those virgins arose and ^etrimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and ^fthe door was shut.

¹¹“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ^g‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹²But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, ^hI do not know you.’

¹³“Watch therefore, for you ^jknow neither the day nor the hour ²in which the Son of Man is coming.

Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For *the kingdom of heaven is* ¹like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, ^mto each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

⁵¹ *Matt. 8:12; 25:30

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¹ * [Eph. 5:29, 30; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9] ² * Matt. 13:47; 22:10

⁵ ¹ Thess. 5:6 ⁶ * [Matt. 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:16] ¹ NU omits *is coming* ⁷ * Luke 12:35 ¹⁰ * [Matt. 7:21]; Luke 13:25 ¹¹ * [Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 13:25-30]

¹² * [Ps. 5:5; Hab. 1:13; John 9:31] ¹³ * [Mark 13:35; Luke 21:36]; 1 Thess. 5:6 * Matt. 24:36, 42 ¹ NU omits the rest of v. 13. ¹⁴ * Luke 19:12-27 ¹ Matt. 21:33

¹⁵ * [Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 29; Eph. 4:11]

²¹ * [Luke 16:10; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 4:7, 8] * [Matt. 24:47; 25:34, 46; Luke 12:44; 22:29, 30; Rev. 3:21; 21:7] * [2 Tim. 2:12; Heb. 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:8]

²³ * Matt. 24:45, 47; 25:21 * [Ps. 16:11; John 15:10, 11]

²⁶ * Matt. 18:32; Luke 19:22 ²⁹ * Matt. 13:12; Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18; [John 15:2]

³⁰ * Matt. 8:12; 22:13; [Luke 13:28] * Matt. 7:23; 8:12; 24:51 * Ps. 112:10

³¹ * [Zech. 14:5]; Matt. 16:27; Mark 8:38; Acts 1:11; [1 Thess. 4:16]; 2 Thess. 1:7; [Jude 14]; Rev. 1:7 ³ NU omits *holy*

³² * [Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12] * Ezek. 20:38

³³ * Ps. 79:13; 100:3; [John 10:11, 27, 28]

²⁰“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were ⁿfaithful over a few things, ^oI will make you ruler over many things. Enter into ^pthe joy of your lord.’ ²²He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into ^rthe joy of your lord.’

²⁴“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’

²⁶“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You ^swicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the unprofitable servant ^uinto the outer darkness. ^vThere will be weeping and ^wgnashing of teeth.’

Judgment of the Gentiles

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the ³holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²^yAll the nations will be gathered before Him, and ^zHe will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the ^asheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those

24:45–51 Christ joined together faithfulness and the reward of reigning with Him at His Second Coming as motivation for good works. The importance of works for future reward in the Kingdom is a prominent theme of Scripture. If we wish to share in the glory of reigning with Christ, we must live a life of obedience and good works here on earth, including honoring Him by obedience in evangelism.

25:31–46 When Christ returns to establish His king-

dom on the earth, all the nations will be gathered for a judgment that will result in either eternal life and accompanying reward for some or eternal punishment for others. Christ made it clear in John 3:36 that eternal life is only found through belief (trust) in Him. Anything short of that results in the wrath of God culminating in eternal separation from God. Those whom He declares worthy in this judgment have shown their faith by acts of mercy for the poor and persecuted.

on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, ^binherit the kingdom ‘prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ^{35d}for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; ^eI was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ⁱwas ‘naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; ^gI was in prison and you came to Me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, ^hinasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

⁴¹“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ⁱ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, ^jinto the everlasting fire prepared for ^kthe devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

⁴⁴“Then they also will answer ^lHim, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, ^hinasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶And ^mthese will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Religious Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus

Mark 14:1, 2; Luke 22:1, 2

26 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples, ^{2a}“You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

^{3b}Then the chief priests, ²the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴and ^cplotted to take Jesus by ³trickery and kill *Him*. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the ^dpeople.”

³⁴^b[Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 1:4, 9; Rev. 21:7] ^cMatt. 20:23; Mark 10:40; 1 Cor. 2:9; Heb. 11:16 ³⁵^aIs. 58:7; Ezek. 18:7, 16; [James 1:27; 2:15, 16] ^eJob 31:32; [Heb. 13:2]; 3 John 5 ³⁶ⁱIs. 58:7; Ezek. 18:7, 16; [James 2:15, 16] ^g2 Tim. 1:16 ⁴⁰^hProv. 14:31; Matt. 10:42; Mark 9:41; Heb. 6:10 ⁴¹^hPs. 6:8; Matt. 7:23; Luke 13:27 ⁱMatt. 13:40, ⁴²^k[2 Pet. 2:4]; Jude 6 ⁴⁴^lNU, M omit *Him* ⁴⁵^mProv. 14:31; Zech. 2:8; Acts 9:5 ⁴⁶^m[Dan. 12:2; John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Rom. 2:7]

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²^aMatt. 27:35; Mark 14:1, 2; Luke 22:1, 2; John 13:1; 19:18 ³^bPs. 2:2; John 11:47; Acts 4:25 ²NU omits *the scribes* ⁴^cJohn 11:47; Acts 4:25-28 ³*deception* ⁵^dMatt. 21:26 ⁶^eMatt. 8:2; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:37-39; John 11:1, 2; 12:1-8 ⁸^fJohn 12:4 ¹¹^g[Deut. 15:11; Mark 14:7]; John 12:8 ^h[Matt. 18:20; 28:20; John 13:33; 14:19; 16:5, 28; 17:11] ¹²ⁱMatt. 27:60; Luke 23:53; John 19:38-42 ¹⁴^jMark 14:10, 11; Luke 22:3-6; John 13:2, 30 ^kMatt. 10:4 ¹⁵^lEx. 21:32; Zech. 11:12; Matt. 27:3 ¹⁷^mEx. 12:6, 18-20 ¹⁸ⁿLuke 9:51; John 12:23; 13:1; 17:1 ²⁰^oMark 14:17-21; Luke 22:14; John 13:21 ²¹^pMatt. 26:46; Mark 14:42; Luke 22:21-23; John 6:70, 71; 13:21 ²³^qPs. 41:9; Luke 22:21; John 13:18

Mary Anoints Jesus for Burial

Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8

⁶And when Jesus was in ^eBethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*. ^{8f}But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor*.”

¹⁰But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ^{11g}For you have the poor with you always, but ^hMe you do not have always. ¹²For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My ⁱburial. ¹³Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Mark 14:10, 11; Luke 22:3-6

^{14j}Then one of the twelve, called ^kJudas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, ¹⁴“What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

The Passover Is Prepared

Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13

^{17m}Now on the first *day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, ¹⁴“My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”’”

¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

The Passover Is Celebrated

Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:14, 21-23; John 13:21, 22

^{20o}When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will ^pbetray Me.”

²²And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?”

²³He answered and said, ^q“He who

26:2 *Passover*. The Jewish celebration of their ancestors’ deliverance from Egypt (see Exod. 12:11). Jesus

predicted His own death would occur during this time.

dipped *his* hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. ²⁴The Son of Man indeed goes just ^aas it is written of Him, but ^swoe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! ^tIt would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

²⁵Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?”

He said to him, “You have said it.”

The Lord's Supper Is Instituted

Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

²⁶“And as they were eating, ^vJesus took bread, ^bblessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; ^wthis is My body.”

²⁷Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, ^x“Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸For ^ythis is My blood ^zof the ²new covenant, which is shed ^afor many for the ³remission of sins. ²⁹But ^bI say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on ^cuntil that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”

Peter's Denial Is Predicted

Mark 14:26-31; Luke 22:34, 39; John 13:37, 38

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will ^bbe ⁴made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

*“I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be
scattered.”*

³²But after I have been raised, ^bI will go before you to Galilee.”

³³Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are ⁵made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”

³⁴Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

³⁵Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

And so said all the disciples.

²⁴ ^aPs. 22; Dan. 9:26; Mark 9:12; Luke 24:25, 26, 46; Acts 17:2, 3; 26:22, 23; 1 Cor. 15:3 ^bMatt. 27:3-5; Luke 17:1; Acts 1:16-20 ^cJohn 17:12; Acts 1:25 ^dMark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20 ^e1 Cor. 11:23-25 ^f[1 Pet. 2:24] ^gM gave thanks for ^h27 ⁱMark 14:23 ^j28 ^k[Ex. 24:8; Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:20] ^lJer. 31:31 ^mMatt. 20:28; [Rom. 5:15; Heb. 9:22] ⁿNU omits *new* ^oforgiveness ^p29 ^qMark 14:25; Luke 22:18 ^rActs 10:41 ^s30 ^tMark 14:26-31; Luke 22:31-34 ^u31 ^vMatt. 26:56; Mark 14:27; John 16:32 ^w[Matt. 11:6] ^xZech. 13:7 ^ycaused to take offense at Me ^z32 ^{aa}Matt. 28:7, 10, 16; Mark 14:28; 16:7; John 21:1 ^{ab}33 ^{ac}caused to take offense at You ^{ad}34 ^{ae}Matt. 26:74, 75; Mark 14:30; Luke 22:34; John 13:38 ^{af}36 ^{ag}Mark 14:32-35; Luke 22:39, 40; John 18:1 ^{ah}37 ^{ai}Matt. 4:21; Mark 5:37 ^{aj}38 ^{ak}John 12:27 ^{al}39 ^{am}Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; [Heb. 5:7-9] ^{an}John 12:27 ^{ao}Matt. 20:22 ^{ap}Ps. 40:8; Is. 50:5; John 5:30; 6:38; Phil. 2:8 ^{aq}41 ^{ar}Mark 13:33; 14:38; Luke 22:40, 46; [Eph. 6:18] ^{as}Ps. 103:14-16; [Rom. 7:15; 8:23; Gal. 5:17] ^{at}42 ^{au}NU if this may not pass away unless ^{av}45 ^{aw}Matt. 17:22, 23; 20:18, 19 ^{ax}has drawn near

Jesus' Three Prayers

Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46

^{36j}Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” ³⁷And He took with Him Peter and ^bthe two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

³⁹He went a little farther and fell on His face, and ^mprayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, ^olet this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, ^pnot as I will, but as You will.”

⁴⁰Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. ^tThe spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴²Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, ^uif this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” ⁴³And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour ^vis at hand, and the Son of Man is being ^wbetrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest

Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11

⁴⁷And ^wwhile He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.” ⁴⁹Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” ^uand kissed Him.

⁴⁷ ^uMark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:3-11; Acts 1:16

⁴⁹ ^v2 Sam. 20:9; [Prov. 27:6]

26:26-29 Christ instituted “the Lord’s Supper” or “Communion.” Believers would no longer focus on deliverance from Egypt and a sacrificial lamb, but upon His death on the cross for the sins of the world. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper demonstrates our gratitude for the cross. We should desire to bring others into the fellowship of the Lord’s Supper and pray that God will consistently give us opportunities to share the gospel (see 1 Cor. 11:23-34).

26:28 *remission of sins.* See Acts 10:43.

26:39 The reality of what Jesus was about to do in taking on the guilt for the sins of the world weighed heavily upon Him. *cup.* This figure of speech often depicted wrath in the Old Testament (see Ps. 75:8; Isa. 51:17). Christ was about to bear the fury of God’s wrath against our sin. We had a debt we couldn’t pay. He paid a debt He didn’t owe!

⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, ^v“Friend, why have you come?”

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. ⁵¹And suddenly, ^wone of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵²But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, ^xfor all who take the sword

⁵⁰Ps. 41:9; 55:13

⁵¹Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50; John 18:10

⁵²Gen. 9:6; Rev.

13:10 ^y*M die*

⁵³2Kin. 6:17;

Dan. 7:10

⁵⁴Is. 50:6; 53:2-

11; Luke 24:25-

27, 44-46; John

19:28; Acts 13:29;

17:3; 26:23

will ¹perish by the sword. ⁵³Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with ^ymore than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, ^zthat it must happen thus?”

⁵⁵In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me?”

26:50 Christ called the one who betrayed Him a friend. Even though Judas had a wicked heart and did not love Christ, Christ loved him. Christ so loves us that when the multitude came to arrest Him, Christ surrendered Himself to the Father’s will. There is no

greater illustration of love than what Christ did for us. **26:54** *the Scriptures be fulfilled*. Christ emphasized this phrase many times throughout His ministry, culminating in His death, which fulfilled Old Testament prophecies (see Mark 14:49).

MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75

Lessons from Failure

Peter was one of the brashest and boldest men in the entire Bible. When he saw Jesus walking on the water, he attempted to do the same. When the mob came for Jesus, he pulled out a sword. When Jesus said that the disciples would desert Jesus after His arrest, he swore his undying allegiance as the exception to the rest of the disciples.

This is what makes his denial of Christ so spectacular. Before Jesus’ arrest, Peter was ready to take on the world. When the pressure was on though, he gave in to fear.

All of us have had times in evangelism when we have been silent when we should have been vocal. What can we learn from Peter’s failure?

1. True boldness in evangelism comes not from within, but from above —

When Jesus predicted that all of the disciples would stumble because of Him the night He was arrested, Peter proclaimed, “I will never be made to stumble.” But after Christ was arrested, Peter stumbled. Perhaps the most humiliating part of this account is that Peter gave into fear not in front of a government official or high priest but in front of a servant girl.

Yet in Acts 2, Peter boldly proclaims the gospel before thousands of people, a crowd that could have stoned him. What made the difference? The power of the Holy Spirit.

Just like Peter, we depend on the Lord for the boldness we need to share Christ. Peter’s best intentions, promises of faithfulness, and bravado were not enough. It was only when Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit that he publically proclaimed Christ.

2. When you fail to speak for Christ, afterwards run to Him, not away from Him—

After Jesus’ resurrection, Peter probably wondered how Jesus would react. Would Jesus condemn Peter for his cowardice? Peter found the opposite to be true. When Peter encountered Jesus in John 21, Jesus did not rebuke him but restored him for future ministry. Peter’s experience left him broken but not finished. If you have given into fear in evangelism in the past, don’t lose heart. Run to Jesus, not away from Him. He will greet you with open arms.

3. Don’t dwell on past failures, but learn from them for future opportunities—

Face it; there have been times when we have remained silent instead of faithful. It’s easy to beat ourselves up about those times. Peter could have done the same. Focusing on our past failures in evangelism takes our focus off of the Lord and keeps us from seeing the new evangelism opportunities before us. Satan wants to use the past to shut us up and shut down our evangelism efforts. God wants to use our experiences, even times of failure, to teach us and prepare us for our next opportunity to share the gospel.

I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. ⁵⁶But all this was done that the ^aScriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

Then ^ball the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Two False Witnesses

Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54, 55, 63-65;

John 18:12, 18, 24

^{57c}And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸But ^dPeter followed Him at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

⁵⁹Now the chief priests, ¹the elders, and all the council sought ^efalse testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰²but found none. Even though ^fmany false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last ^gtwo ³false witnesses came forward ⁶¹and said, “This fellow said, ^h“I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.”

⁶²ⁱAnd the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?” ⁶³But ^jJesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, ^k“I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

⁶⁴Jesus said to him, “*It is as you said*. Nevertheless, I say to you, ^lhereafter you will see the Son of Man ^msitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ⁿThen the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His ^oblasphemy! ⁶⁶What do you think?”

They answered and said, ^p“He is deserving of death.”

^{67q}Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and ^rothers struck Him with ⁴the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸saying, ^s“Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?”

Three Denials of Peter

Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:55-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

^{69t}Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.”

⁵⁶^aLam. 4:20
^bZech. 13:7; Matt. 26:31; Mark 14:27; John 18:15

⁵⁷^cMatt. 17:22; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54; John 18:12, 19-24

⁵⁸^dJohn 18:15, 16
⁵⁹^eEx. 20:16; Ps. 35:11 ¹NU omits *the elders*

⁶⁰²Ps. 27:12; 35:11; Mark 14:55; Acts 6:13 ³Deut. 19:15 ²NU but *found none, even though many false witnesses came forward.* ³NU omits *false witnesses*

⁶¹¹Matt. 27:40; Mark 14:58; 15:29; John 2:19; Acts 6:14

⁶²¹Mark 14:60
⁶³¹Ps. 38:13, 14; Is. 53:7; Matt. 27:12, 14; Acts 8:32 ²Lev. 5:1; 1 Sam. 14:24, 26; Luke 22:67-71

⁶⁴¹Dan. 7:13; Matt. 16:27; 24:30; 25:31; Luke 21:27; [John 1:51; Rom. 14:10; 1 Thess. 4:16]; Rev. 1:7 ^mPs. 110:1; [Acts 7:55]

⁶⁵²Kin. 18:37
^oJohn 10:30-36

⁶⁶¹Lev. 24:16; Matt. 20:18; John 19:7

⁶⁷¹Job 16:10; Is. 50:6; 53:3; Lam. 3:30; Matt. 27:30
¹Mic. 5:1; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:3 ⁴Or *rods*.

⁶⁸¹Mark 14:65; Luke 22:64

⁶⁹¹Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:55-62; John 18:16-18, 25-27

⁷³¹Matt. 14:70; Luke 22:59; John 18:26

⁷⁴¹Matt. 26:34; Mark 14:71; Luke 22:34; John 13:38
⁵call down curses

⁶Swear oaths
⁷⁵Matt. 26:34; Luke 22:61; John 13:38

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¹Ps. 2:2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66; 23:1; John 18:28

²Matt. 20:19; Luke 18:32; Acts 3:13 ¹NU omits *Pontius*

⁷⁰But he denied it before *them* all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.”

⁷¹And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were* there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷²But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!”

⁷³And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are *one of them*, for your *speech betrays you*.”

⁷⁴Then ^vhe began to ⁵curse and ⁶swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, ““Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly.

Jesus Is Delivered to Pilate

Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66; 23:1; John 18:28

27 When morning came, ^aall the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. ²And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and ⁷delivered Him to ⁷Pontius Pilate the governor.

Judas Repents

Acts 1:18, 19

^{3c}Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty ⁴pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

And they said, “What *is that* to us? You see to it!”

⁵Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and ^ddeparted, and went and hanged himself.

⁶But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” ⁷And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. ⁸Therefore that field has been called ¹the Field of Blood to this day.

⁹Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ⁸“*And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, ¹⁰and ^hgave them for the potter’s field, as the LORD directed me.*”

³Matt. 26:14 ⁴Matt. 26:15 ⁵2 Sam. 17:23; Matt. 18:7; 26:24; John 17:12; Acts 1:18 ⁸Acts 1:19 ⁹Zech. 11:12 ¹⁰Jer. 32:6-9; Zech. 11:12, 13

TIP: MATTHEW 26:53

This is a good passage to use with non-Christians to show that Christ’s death was voluntary—He chose to die for us.

26:63–66 Jesus gave a strong affirmation of His deity. The high priest immediately recognized what Jesus claimed and accused Him of blasphemy (see John 5:18).

Jesus Is Examined

Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-5; John 18:29-38

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor. ¹And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, ¹²“*It is as you say.*” ¹²And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, ¹³He answered nothing.

¹³Then Pilate said to Him, ¹⁴“Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” ¹⁴But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

Barabbas Is Freed

Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:17-23; John 18:39, 40

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. ¹⁶And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called ¹Barabbas. ¹⁷Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For he knew that they had handed Him over because of ²envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.”

²⁰But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, ²²“Barabbas!”

²²Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!”

²³Then the governor said, ²⁴“Why, what evil has He done?”

But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!”

²⁴When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather ²⁵that a ²tumult was rising, he ²⁶took water and washed ³his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this ³just Person. You see to it.”

²⁵And all the people answered and said, ²⁶“His blood ^{be} on us and on our children.”

Jesus Is Scourged

Mark 15:15-17; Luke 23:24, 25; John 19:16

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them; and when ²⁷he had ⁴scourged Jesus, he delivered ⁵Him to be crucified.

¹¹ Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2, 3; John 18:29-38 ¹John 18:37; 1 Tim. 6:13 ¹² Ps. 38:13, 14; Matt. 26:63; John 19:9

¹³ Matt. 26:62; John 19:10

¹⁵ Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:39-19:16

¹⁶ NU Jesus Barabbas

¹⁸ Matt. 21:38; [John 15:22-25]

²⁰ Mark 15:11; Luke 23:18; John 18:40; Acts 3:14

²¹ Acts 3:14 ²³ Acts 3:13

²⁴ Deut. 21:6-8 ² an uproar ³ NU omits just

²⁵ Deut. 19:10; Josh. 2:19; 2 Sam. 1:16; 1 Kin. 2:32;

Acts 5:28 ²⁶ [Is. 50:6; 53:5]; Matt. 20:19; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:16, 24, 25; John 19:1, 16 ⁴ flogged with a Roman scourge

²⁷ Mark 15:16-20; John 19:2

² The governor's headquarters ³ cohort

²⁸ Mark 15:17; John 19:2 ⁴ Luke 23:11

²⁹ Ps. 69:19; Is. 53:3; Matt. 20:19; Mark 10:34; Luke 18:32 ⁷ Lit. woven

³⁰ Is. 50:6; 52:14; Mic. 5:1; Matt. 26:67; Mark 10:34; 14:65; 15:19

³¹ Is. 53:7; Matt. 20:19

³² 1 Kin. 21:13; Acts 7:58; Heb. 13:12 ⁵ Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26; John 19:17

³³ Mark 15:22-32; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:17

³⁴ Ps. 69:21; Matt. 27:48 ⁹ NU omits sour

³⁵ Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24 ¹⁰ Ps. 22:18

⁹ NU, M omit the rest of v. 35. ³⁶ Ps. 22:17; Matt. 27:54

³⁷ Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19

³⁸ Is. 53:9, 12; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32, 33; John 19:18

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the ⁵Praetorium and gathered the whole ⁶garrison around Him. ²⁸ And they ⁷stripped Him and ⁸put a scarlet robe on Him.

Jesus Is Led to Golgotha

Mark 15:18-22; Luke 23:26-33; John 19:17

²⁹ When they had ⁷twisted a crown of thorns, they put ⁸it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ Then ⁹they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His ¹⁰own clothes on Him, ¹¹and led Him away to be crucified.

³² Now as they came out, ¹²they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. ³³ And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, ¹³they gave Him ¹⁴sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted ¹⁵it, He would not drink.

Jesus Is Crucified

Mark 15:23-32; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:18-24

³⁵ Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, ¹⁶that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

¹⁷ “They divided My garments among them,

And for My clothing they cast lots.”

³⁶ Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. ³⁷ And they ¹⁷put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

³⁹ And ¹⁸those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ¹⁹and saying, ²⁰“You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the ²¹scribes and elders, said, ²²“He ²⁰saved others; Himself He cannot save. ²³If He is the King of Israel, let Him

³⁹ Job 16:4; Ps. 22:7; 109:25; Lam. 2:15; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:35 ⁴⁰ Matt. 26:61; John 2:19 ¹ Matt. 26:63 ⁴¹ M scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders ⁴² [Matt. 18:11; John 3:14, 15] ¹⁷ NU omits //

now come down from the cross, and we will believe ¹Him. ⁴³nHe trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

⁴⁴oEven the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

Jesus Dies

Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30

⁴⁵pNow from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour ^qJesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, ^r“*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”

⁴⁷Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!” ⁴⁸sImmediately one of them ran and took a sponge, ^sfilled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

⁴⁹The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”

⁵⁰And Jesus ^tcried out again with a loud voice, and ^uyielded up His spirit.

Signs Accompanying Jesus’ Death

Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45, 47-49

⁵¹Then, behold, ^vthe veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵²and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

⁵⁴wSo when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, ^x“Truly this was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵And many women ^ywho followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, ⁵⁶zamong whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and ²Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Jesus Is Buried

Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-55; John 19:38-42

⁵⁷Now ^awhen evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then

⁴² ¹NU, M *in Him*

⁴³ ²Ps. 22:8

⁴⁴ ³Mark 15:32;

Luke 23:39-43

⁴⁵ ⁴Amos 8:9;

Mark 15:33-41;

Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁶ ⁵[Heb. 5:7]

⁴⁷ ⁶Ps. 22:1

⁴⁸ ⁷Ps. 69:21;

Mark 15:36; Luke

23:36; John 19:29

⁵⁰ ⁸Mark 15:37;

Luke 23:46; John

19:30 ⁹Dan. 9:26;

Zech. 11:10, 11;

Matt. 17:23; [John

10:18; 1 Cor. 15:3]

⁵¹ ¹⁰Ex. 26:31;

2Chr. 3:14; Zech.

11:10; Mark

15:38; Luke 23:45;

Heb. 9:3

⁵⁴ ¹¹Mark 15:39;

Luke 23:47 ¹²Matt.

14:33

⁵⁵ ¹³Mark 15:41;

Luke 8:2, 3

⁵⁶ ¹⁴Matt. 28:1;

Mark 15:40, 47;

16:9; Luke 8:2;

John 19:25; 20:1,

18 ¹⁵NU *Joseph*

⁵⁷ ¹⁶Mark 15:42-

47; Luke 23:50-

56; John 19:38-42

⁶⁰ ¹⁷Is. 53:9; Matt.

26:12

⁶¹ ¹⁸*in front of*

⁶³ ¹⁹Matt. 16:21;

17:13; 20:19; 26:61;

Mark 8:31; 10:34;

Luke 9:22; 13:33;

24:6, 7; John 2:19

⁶⁴ ²⁰NU omits *by*

night

⁶⁶ ²¹Dan. 6:17

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¹ ²²Mark 16:1-8;

Luke 24:1-10;

John 20:1-8

² ²³Matt. 27:56, 61

² ²⁴Mark 16:5;

Luke 24:4; John

20:12 ²⁵NU omits

from the door

³ ²⁶Dan. 7:9; 10:6;

Mark 9:3; John

20:12; Acts 1:10

⁴ ²⁷Rev. 1:17

⁶ ²⁸Hos. 6:2; Ps.

16:10; 49:15;

Matt. 12:40;

16:21; 17:23;

20:19

⁷ ²⁹Matt. 26:32;

28:10, 16; Mark

16:7

⁹ ³⁰Mark 16:9;

John 20:14 ³¹NU

omits *as they went*

to tell His disciples

Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. ⁵⁹When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and ^blaid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

⁶¹And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting ³opposite the tomb.

⁶²On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ^c‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come ⁴‘by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure, ^dsealing the stone and setting the guard.

The Empty Tomb

Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-11

28 Now ^aafter the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene ^band the other Mary came to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake; for ^can angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone ⁵from the door, and sat on it. ^{3d}His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like ^edead men.

⁵But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, ^fas He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed ⁸He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

⁸So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

The Appearance of Jesus to the Women

⁹And ⁶as they went to tell His disciples, behold, ^hJesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell ⁱMy

27:46 *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me.* Jesus quoted from Psalm 22:1. Though innocent, He experienced the wrath of God as He bore the sins of the world.

27:51 See Mark 15:38.

28:1-10 The resurrection is the event on which the Christian faith stands or falls. See 1 Cor. 15:17.

brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

The Bribery of the Soldiers

¹¹Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. ¹²When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.’” ¹⁴And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.” ¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

¹⁰Ps. 22:22; John 20:17; Rom. 8:29; [Heb. 2:11] ¹⁶Matt. 26:32; 28:7, 10; Mark 14:28; 15:41; 16:7 ¹⁷John 20:24-29 ¹⁸[Dan. 7:13, 14]; Matt. 11:27; Luke 1:32; 10:22; John 3:35; Acts 2:36; Rom. 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:27; [Eph. 1:10, 21]; Phil. 2:9, 10; [Heb. 1:2]; 1 Pet. 3:22 ¹⁹Mark 16:15 ²⁰Is. 52:10; Luke 24:47; [Acts 2:38, 39]; Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:23 ¹M omits *therefore* ²⁰* [Acts 2:42]

The Appearance of Jesus to the Disciples

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain ¹which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some ^kdoubted.

The Great Commission

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ¹⁴“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ^{19m}Go ¹therefore and ²make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ^{20o}teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am ^pwith you always, *even* to the end of the age.” ²Amen.

^p[Acts 4:31; 18:10; 23:11] ²NU omits *Amen*.

28:9 *worshiped Him.* Christ’s resurrection further proved that He is fully God. The disciples worshiped Him, an act reserved for God alone. He did not rebuke them but received their worship and encouraged them to tell others (see John 20:24–29).

28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples.* Evangelism is a key event in the disciple-making process. Through the proclamation of the gospel, God transforms sinners who are estranged from Christ into disciples who follow Him. Verse 19 can more literally be translated, “while going make disciples.” We are to bring the gospel to others as we go about our daily lives.

baptizing them. Christ commanded that those who trusted Him as Savior be baptized. The New Testament teaches that baptism is not a part of or necessary to become a Christian. It is, however, the first step of discipleship, or following after Christ after trusting in Him alone for salvation. The New Testament Greek word for *baptism* was used to describe the process of dying cloth. When cloth was immersed into a dye, it took on the color of the dye. Christians should be baptized, taking on the “color” of Christ and declaring to the world that they are identified with Him (see Acts 2:41).

MATTHEW 28:18–20

God’s Outreach Strategy: People Reaching People

One of the last things Jesus said to His disciples is recorded in Matthew 28:18–20. It’s commonly referred to as the Great Commission. Jesus told His disciples to reach unbelievers and to teach them to reach others, going from the sandy lake shores to the small villages to the large cities.

God planned the end and the means—people reaching people. He uses many variations of that to achieve that end. It may be done through assisting in an evangelistic outreach, distribution of a tract, performing a song, one-to-one witnessing, or proclaiming the gospel to a mass audience. The key thing is that people reach people.

The following fable illustrates God’s plan: When Jesus ascended to heaven after His mission on earth, the angels asked, “Did You accomplish Your task?” The Lord answered, “Yes, it is all finished. I paid for the sins of the world.” The angels asked, “Has the whole world heard of you?” Christ responded, “No, not yet.” They wondered, “What is your plan?” Jesus explained, “I left twelve men and some other followers to carry the message to the whole world.” The angels then asked, “If that doesn’t work, what is Plan B?” Jesus responded, “There is no Plan B.”

There is no Plan B. God’s plan remains for people to reach people with the gospel of Christ.

(Adapted from *21 Things God Never Said*)