

The Gospel According to Mark

Translated by
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Chapter One

The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

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Just as it's written in Isaiah the prophet—

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Know that I'm sending My messenger on ahead of You to prepare Your way.

He's a voice crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight!'

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—so John the Baptist was in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance to prepare the way for the forgiveness of sins. Everybody in Judea and Jerusalem was going out to him. As they confessed their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore camel's hair clothes, with a leather belt around his waist; he lived on locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed: "One greater than I will succeed me. I'm not even worthy to stoop down and loosen His sandal straps. I just baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, as He's coming up out of the water, He sees the heavens ripping apart and the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove; and the Spirit enters Him. Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My Son, the Beloved in whom I delight." Immediately the Spirit thrusts Him into the wilderness, where for forty days He keeps being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, but the angels were ministering to Him.

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Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. He declared: "The time is fulfilled! God's reign is at hand! Repent and believe the gospel."

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Now as He's walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two fisherman brothers, Simon and Andrew, casting a net into the sea. Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I'll make you fish for men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on a little farther He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in their boat mending nets. Immediately He called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired hands and followed Him.

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Then they entered Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began teaching. The people were amazed at His teaching, for He taught them like one who had authority, not like the scribes. Then immediately there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. He cried out: "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, declaring: "Shut up and get out of him!" The unclean spirit shook the man, gave a loud shout, and came out of him. Everyone was so utterly astounded that they began asking each other, "What's going on here? What sort of new

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teaching is this? With absolute authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!” Immediately His fame spread throughout the whole surrounding region of Galilee. 28

Leaving the synagogue with James and John, they immediately went to Simon and Andrew’s house. 29
Now Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and immediately they tell Him about 30
her. So He went over to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she 31
began serving them. That evening, after sunset, they brought Him all the sick and demon-possessed; 32
the whole city was at the door. He healed many who had various diseases and drove out many 33, 34
demons. But He wouldn’t let the demons speak, because they knew who He was.

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, left, and went off to a wilderness area, and 35
was praying there. Simon and those with him tracked Him down. When they finally found Him, 36, 37
they said to Him, “Everyone’s looking for you!” He said to them, “Let’s go elsewhere, to the 38
surrounding villages, so I can proclaim there too, for that’s why I left.” And throughout Galilee He 39
went into their synagogues proclaiming and driving out the demons.

Now a leper came to Jesus. Falling on his knees before Him he pleaded, “If You want, You can 40
make me clean.” Filled with compassion, He stretched out His hand, touched him, and said, “I do 41
want. Be clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And immediately Jesus 42
put him out, and sternly warned him, snorting, “See to it that you say nothing to anyone, but go, 43, 44
show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses prescribed as a testimony to them for your 45
cleansing.” But when he left he began to proclaim freely and spread the word, so that Jesus wasn’t
able to enter any town openly. He had to stay outside, in wilderness places; yet people from
everywhere still kept coming to Him.

Chapter Two

Sometime later He went back to Capernaum, and it was heard that He was ‘in the house.’ So many 1
gathered that there wasn’t any room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. 2
Four men came to Him carrying a paralyzed man. When they couldn’t get near Him because of the 3, 4
crowd, they tore through the roof above Him and lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic was
lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Now, 5
some of the scribes were sitting there thinking to themselves, “Why is He talking like this? This is 6
blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus was aware in His spirit that 7
they were thinking like that to themselves and said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? 8
Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Rise, take your stretcher, and 9
walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth”—He 10
said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, take your stretcher, and go home.” Immediately he rose, 11, 12
picked up his stretcher, and walked away as everyone watched. All were ecstatic and glorified God,
saying, “We’ve never seen anything like this!”

Once again Jesus went along the sea. The whole crowd kept coming to Him, and He began teaching 13
them. As He was walking along, He saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax booth. He 14

said to him, "Follow Me." He got up and followed Him. Later on, Jesus and His disciples are reclining for dinner in his house. Many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus too, for there were many who followed Him. When the scribes and the Pharisees saw Him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples, "Why does He eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. So some people came to Jesus and said, "Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples don't?" Jesus answered them, "Can wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? Of course not. They can't fast while the bridegroom is with them. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken from them; then they will fast. No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins will be ruined. New wine is poured into new wineskins."

Now it happened that Jesus was going through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as His disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. So the Pharisees said to Him, "Don't You see that what they're doing is unlawful on the Sabbath?" And He replied, "Haven't you ever read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry; how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence—which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests—and also gave some to his companions?" Then He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath."

Chapter Three

Then He entered the synagogue again. A man with a crippled hand was there. They wanted to accuse Jesus, so they watched Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath. He said to the man with the crippled hand, "Get up! Come to the center." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or evil, to save a life or destroy it?" But they kept silent. He looked around at them in anger. Grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Hold out your hand." The man held it out, and his hand was restored. Immediately the Pharisees left and began plotting with the supporters of Herod how to destroy Him.

Then Jesus and His disciples withdrew to the sea. A large multitude—from Galilee, but also from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan and Tyre and Sidon—a large multitude came to Him because they heard about everything He was doing. He told His disciples to get a small boat ready for Him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush Him. For He had healed so many that the sick were pushing forward to touch Him. Whenever those possessed by unclean spirits caught sight of Him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of Him crying out, "You are the Son of God!" But He sternly ordered them not to make Him known.

Then Jesus goes up to a mountain and calls those whom He wanted, and they came to Him. He ordained twelve to be with Him and be sent out by Him to proclaim and have authority to cast out demons. These are the twelve He ordained: Simon (whom He named Peter), James and John, the

sons of Zebedee (whom He named *Boanerges*, which means “Sons of Thunder”), and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. 18
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Then He comes to a house, and again a crowd gathers so they can’t even eat bread. When His relatives heard about it, they went to get Him, for they were saying, “He’s out of his mind.” The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He’s possessed by Beelzebul. By the prince of demons he casts out demons.” So Jesus called them over and responded in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom can’t stand. If a household is divided, that household can’t stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he can’t stand; his end has come. No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then he can plunder his house. Amen I tell you, the sons of men can be forgiven all their sins, even the blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” (He said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”) 20
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Then His mother and brothers come. Standing outside, they sent someone in, calling Him. A crowd was sitting around Him and they said to Him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.” He responded, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” Looking at those encircling Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” 31
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Chapter Four

Jesus began to teach again by the sea. Such a large crowd gathered around Him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there while the whole crowd was on the shore at the water’s edge. He taught them many things in parables. In His teaching He said, “Listen! A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn’t have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil wasn’t deep. When the sun came up the plants were scorched, and withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, so those plants produced no grain. But other seed fell on good soil; it sprouted, grew, and produced grain, yielding a thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold gain.” Then He said, “If you’ve got ears, then listen!” 1
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When He was alone, the Twelve and others around Him asked Him about the parables. He said to them, “The secret of God’s reign has been given to you. But for those outside, everything is in parables, so that *though they see, they can’t ever perceive; and though they hear, they can’t ever understand—otherwise they’d turn and be forgiven.*” Then He asked them, “Don’t you understand this parable? If you don’t, how will you understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: whenever they hear, immediately Satan comes and snatches the word that was sown in them. Likewise, these are the ones sown on rocky ground: whenever they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy; but because they have no root, they endure only for a while. Then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. These are the ones sown among thorns: they hear the word, but 10, 11
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the worries of life, the seductiveness of wealth, and the desires for other things take over and choke the word so it yields nothing. These are the ones sown on good soil: they hear the word, receive it, and bear fruit with a yield of a thirty, sixty, or even a hundredfold gain.

Then He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed? Wouldn’t it be put on a lampstand? For nothing is hidden except to be revealed, and nothing concealed except to be made clear. If you’ve got ears, then listen!” He went on to say to them, “Pay attention to what you’re hearing! The measure you give will be the measure you get, and even more besides. For whoever has will be given more, but whoever doesn’t have, even what he has will be taken away.” He also said, “The reign of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he has no clue how. The soil itself produces a crop, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. When the grain is ripe, immediately he puts the sickle to it—its harvest time. He also said, “With what can we compare the reign of God, or with what parable shall we explain it? It’s like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It’s the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when it’s sown, it grows up to become larger than all the garden plants and forms branches so big that birds can nest in its shade.” With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He didn’t speak to them without a parable, but He explained everything to His disciples in private.

When evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Him with them in the boat just as he was. Other boats were with Him too. A furious windstorm comes up, and the waves began breaking over the boat, so that it’s nearly being swamped. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They wake Him up and say to Him, “Teacher, don’t You care that we are perishing?” He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Shut up!” Then the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you such cowards? Do you still have no faith?” They were absolutely terrified, and said to one another, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

Chapter Five

They arrived at the other side of the sea, in the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, immediately a man with an unclean spirit came from the tombs to meet Him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. He had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the shackles on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day he wandered among the tombs and through the hills, crying out and cutting himself with stones. Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and prostrated before Him. Then he cried out with a loud voice, “What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I swear to God, don’t torment me!” (For Jesus had said to him, “Unclean spirit, come out of the man!”) Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He answered, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” He begged Him repeatedly not to send the spirits out of the region. Now there was a large herd of pigs grazing there on the hillside. So the spirits begged Him, “Send us into the pigs; let us enter them.” Jesus allowed it. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs. That herd of about 2000 rushed down the hill into the sea and drowned. The swineherds fled and reported this in the town and in the countryside, and the people came to see what had happened.

They come to Jesus, and they see the man who had been possessed by the demons sitting clothed and in his right mind, and they were terrified. Those who had witnessed the incident explained to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. Then they began begging Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed started begging to go with Him. But He didn't allow it. Instead, He said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been to you." So the man left and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him, and all were amazed.

When Jesus had crossed back by boat to the other side of the sea, a large crowd gathered around Him at the shore. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, comes up, and seeing Him, he falls at His feet and begs Him earnestly, "My little daughter is dying. Come, lay Your hands on her that she may be healed and live." Jesus went with him. A large crowd was following and pressing in on Jesus.

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from chronic menstrual bleeding for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, but hadn't gotten any better; in fact, she had gotten worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His shawl, for she had said to herself, "If I can just touch His shawl, I'll be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her scourge. Immediately Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched My shawl?" His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You; how can You say, 'Who touched Me?'" He looked around to see who had done it. The woman, knowing what had happened to her, came with fear and trembling and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are free of your scourge."

While He's still speaking, people from the synagogue leader's house arrive and say, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" But Jesus, overhearing, says to the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He didn't let anyone follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. When they come to the house of the synagogue leader, He sees a commotion, with people weeping and wailing loudly. Upon entering, He says to them, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child hasn't died. She's just sleeping." But they laughed at Him. Jesus threw them all out, took the child's father and mother, and the disciples who were with Him, and went into the room where the child was lying. Taking the child's hand, Jesus says to her, "*Talitha koum*," which means, "Little girl, I tell you, get up!" Immediately the little girl got up and began walking around. She was twelve years old. Immediately they were uncontrollably ecstatic. He gave strict orders that no one should know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Chapter Six

Jesus left there and comes to His hometown, and His disciples follow Him. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard Him were astonished. They said, "Where

did this man get all this? What is this wisdom given to Him? How are such mighty works done by His hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't His sisters here with us?" So they resented Him. Then Jesus said to them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his hometown and among his relatives and household." He couldn't do any mighty work there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was astounded at their unbelief. Then He went round the villages, teaching.

Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits, and instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. They could wear sandals, but not take an extra tunic. He told them, "When you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. If a place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place. Shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They went out and proclaimed that people should repent. They also cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Now King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become known. Some people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; that's why mighty powers are at work in Him." But others were saying, "He is Elijah"; others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised!" Herod himself had sent his men to arrest John and bind him in prison to please Herodias, the divorced wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. For John kept saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias harbored a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but couldn't, because Herod feared him and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him he would be very perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. Herodias' chance came when Herod gave a banquet on his birthday for his court officials, military commanders, and leading men of Galilee. When Herodias' own daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and the guests reclining with him. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything, and I'll give it to you." He swore to her, "I'll give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!" The girl went out and asked her mother, "For what should I ask?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptist." Immediately she hurried back to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply distressed, but because of the oaths he had made in front of his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. So immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. And he went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard about it, they came and took his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him everything they had done and taught. And because so many were coming and going that they didn't even have time to eat, He said to them, "Let's go to a secluded place and get some rest." So they left in a boat for some privacy in a wilderness area. But many saw them leaving, recognized them, and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. As Jesus got out of the boat, He saw a large crowd, and felt deep compassion for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. Since it was already late in the day, His disciples kept coming to Him, urging Him,

“This is a wilderness, and it’s already late; dismiss them so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But He said to them, “You feed them.” They retorted, “Should we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread so they can eat?” He said, “How much bread do you have? Go see.” When they knew, they said, “Five loaves, and two fish.” Then He commanded them to make everyone lie on the green grass banquet-style. So they reclined in ranks, by hundreds and by fifties. He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to distribute to the people; He also divided the two fish among them all. All ate and were satisfied. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of the fragments of bread and fish. Five thousand men had eaten the loaves. Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. After bidding them farewell, He went off to a mountain to pray.

Evening came and the boat was in the middle of the sea, but He was alone on the land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by, but when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought He was a ghost and screamed. Immediately He spoke: “Take courage; don’t be afraid; it is I.” Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were utterly dumbfounded, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

When they had crossed the sea, they came to shore at Gennesaret and moored there. When they got out of the boat, immediately people recognized Jesus and ran through that whole region, bringing the sick on stretchers to wherever they heard He was. Wherever He went, into villages, towns, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might touch a tassel on His shawl. Everyone who touched it was healed.

Chapter Seven

Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw that some of His disciples were eating with defiled—that is, unwashed—hands. (The Pharisees, like all Jews, don’t eat unless they perform a ritual washing, maintaining the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they don’t eat unless they wash. They also observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and pots.) So the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why don’t Your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” Jesus replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: *This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain, teaching human rules as doctrines.* You abandon the commandments of God to follow human tradition.” He continued, “You have a clever way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. For Moses said, *Honor your father and your mother*, and *Whoever curses father or mother shall die*. But you say that a person can tell his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have gotten from me is now Corban’ (that is, a gift dedicated to God). In so doing, you actually allow a person to disregard his needy father or mother. You thus nullify the

word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many similar things.” Then 14
Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, “All of you listen, and get this straight: there is 15
nothing outside a person which, by going into him, can defile him. It’s what comes out of a person
that defiles him.”

After He had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples asked Him about the parable. Jesus 17
said, “Do you still not understand? Don’t you know—nothing that enters someone from the outside 18
can defile him. It doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and from there into the toilet.” 19
(Thus He declared all foods clean.) He continued, “What comes out of a person defiles him. For 21
it’s from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts flow: fornications, thefts, murders, 22
adulteries, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, the evil eye, blasphemies, pride, and 23
foolishness. All these evils come from within and defile a person.”

Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre. He entered a house, and wanted no 24
one to know it, but He couldn’t escape notice. In fact, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean 25, 26
spirit immediately heard about Him and came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, of 27
Syrophenician origin. She begged Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let 28
the children be satisfied first, for it’s not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”
But she responded, “True enough, Lord, but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” 28
He said to her, “For such a response, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” When she 29, 30
had come home she found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus left the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee in the region of the 31
Decapolis. They brought Him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and begged Him 32
to lay His hand on him. Jesus took the man aside, away from the crowd, put His fingers in his ears, 33
spat, and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, He sighed and said to him, “*Ephphatha*” 34
(which means, “Be opened”). Immediately his ears were opened, his tongue loosed, and he began 35
to speak clearly. Jesus ordered them to tell no one. But the more He ordered them, the more they 36
proclaimed it. They were utterly astounded. “He has done all things well,” they said; “He makes 37
even the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Chapter Eight

In those days there was another large crowd with nothing to eat. Jesus called His disciples and said 1
to them, “I have deep compassion for the crowd; they’ve already been with me three days and have 2
nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they’ll collapse on the way, and some of them have 3
come a long distance.” His disciples replied, “How can anyone find enough bread to satisfy these 4
people in a wilderness like this?” He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, 5
“Seven.” He ordered the crowd to recline on the ground. After taking the seven loaves, He gave 6
thanks, broke, and gave them to the disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd.
They also had a few small fish. After giving thanks for these, He told them to distribute them as 7
well. They ate and were satisfied. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftovers. 8
There were about four thousand who ate. Then He dismissed them. Immediately He got into the 9, 10
boat with His disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. Then the Pharisees came and began 11

arguing with Him. To test Him, they asked Him for a sign from heaven. Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, “Why does this generation demand a sign? Amen I tell you: No sign will be given to this generation!” Then He left them, got back into the boat, and went to the other side.

Now the disciples had forgotten to bring bread. They had only one loaf with them in the boat. Jesus warned them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.” The disciples began discussing among themselves: “Is He saying this because we forgot to bring bread?” Knowing what they were discussing, Jesus said, “Why are you talking about not having bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and don’t see? Ears and don’t hear? Don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of leftovers did you collect?” “Twelve,” they told Him. And the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many even larger baskets of leftovers did you fill? “Seven,” they said. So He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

Then they came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged Him to touch him. Taking the blind man by the hand, He led him outside the village. After spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, “Do you see anything?” Looking up, he said, “I see people, but they look like trees walking.” Then He laid His hands on his eyes again. He looked, and now he saw everything clearly; his sight was restored. Then Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t go into the village.”

Then Jesus and His disciples went to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They answered, “John the Baptist; but others say Elijah; and still others one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Christ.” And He warned them to tell no one about Him. Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise. He said this with complete confidence. So Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But Jesus turned and looked at His disciples. Then He rebuked Peter: “Get behind Me, Satan! Your concerns are not those of God, but of man.”

Then He called the crowd along with His disciples and declared: “Anyone who wants to be My disciple must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it. What benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? What can anyone give in exchange for his life? Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” Then He said to them, “Amen I tell you, there are some standing here who will not die until they have seen that God’s reign has come with power.”

Chapter Nine

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up with them alone on a high mountain. And He was transfigured before them, and His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with

Jesus. So Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we are here. Let’s set up three booths—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (He didn’t know what to say, for they were terrified.) Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, “This is My Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him!” Suddenly, looking around, they saw no one with them except Jesus.

While they’re heading down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, but discussed what He meant by ‘rising from the dead.’ Then they asked Him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” He replied, “Elijah does indeed come first and restores all things. Yet why is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be utterly despised? But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it was written about him.”

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the scribes arguing with them. Immediately, when the whole crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running to greet Him. He asked the scribes, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd said, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him mute. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they couldn’t.” Jesus replied, “What a faithless generation! How long must I be with you? How much longer must I endure you? Bring him to Me.” So they brought the boy to Him. When the spirit saw Him, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground, rolled around, and foamed at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he said. “It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If You can?” All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the boy cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” Jesus, seeing that a crowd was quickly forming, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying, “Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!” Crying out and convulsing him, the spirit came out. The boy looked like a corpse so that many said, “He’s dead.” Jesus took him by the hand to help him up, and he stood. Later on, when Jesus was alone in the house with His disciples, they asked Him, “Why couldn’t we cast that spirit out?” He told them, “This kind can come out only through prayer and fasting.”

Leaving there, they went through Galilee; but Jesus didn’t want anyone to know it, for He was teaching His disciples: “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill Him, but after three days He will rise.” But they did not understand what He meant, and were afraid to ask Him.

They came to Capernaum. When He was in the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” They were silent. For on the way they had been debating among themselves about which of them was the greatest. Taking a seat, He summoned the twelve and told them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” Then He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me doesn’t welcome Me but the One who sent Me.” John said to Him, “We saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and

we stopped him because he wasn't following with us. Jesus said, "Don't stop him. For there is no one who will do a mighty work in My name, and then quickly turn and speak evil against Me. Whoever is not against us is with us. Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ—Amen I tell you—he will not lose his reward. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to fall away—it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to fall away, cut it off. It's better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell, the unquenchable fire. If your foot causes you to fall away, cut it off. It's better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. If your eye causes you to fall away, pluck it out. It's better for you to enter God's reign with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where the maggots never die and the fire's never quenched. Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt loses its savor, how can you possibly restore it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Chapter Ten

Then Jesus, after getting up from there, goes to the region of Judea as well as the area east of the Jordan. Crowds gather to Him again; and again, as had been His custom, He taught them. Some Pharisees came to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." But Jesus said them, "He wrote this command for you because of the hardness of your hearts. But from the beginning of creation *he made them male and female; for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.* So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being should separate." When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Him about this. He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Some people were bringing little children to Jesus that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me. Don't stop them; for the reign of God belongs to such as these. Amen I tell you, whoever does not receive God's reign like a little child will never enter it." And He took them in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

As Jesus starts on His way, a man ran up to Him, fell on his knees before Him, and asks, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commandments: don't murder; don't commit adultery; don't steal; don't give false testimony; don't cheat; honor your father and mother." He said to Him, "Teacher, I've carefully kept all these since I was a boy." Looking steadily at him, Jesus loved him and said, "You lack one thing: go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." But he was saddened by Jesus' response, and left sorrowful, for he was very rich. Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those with wealth to enter God's reign." The disciples were stunned by what Jesus had said. So Jesus again said to them, "Children, "How hard it is to enter God's reign. It's easier for a camel to go through the eye

of a needle then for someone with wealth to enter God’s reign.” Now they were even more astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Looking steadily at them, Jesus said, “Humanly speaking, it’s impossible; but not with God. Everything’s possible with God.” Peter started to speak: “We left everything to follow you!” Jesus said, “Amen I tell you, there’s no one who left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for My sake and for the sake of the gospel, who will not receive a hundred times as much in this age—homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first!”

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They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem, with Jesus in the lead. The disciples were amazed, though the others who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began telling them what was going to happen to Him: “Know this: we’re going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and hand Him over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him, spit on Him, scourge Him severely, and kill Him. But after three days, He will rise.”

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Then the sons of Zebedee, James and John, come to Jesus and say to Him, “Teacher, we’d like you to do for us what we’re about to ask.” He said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They answered, “Allow us to sit at Your right and at Your left in Your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Can you drink the cup which I am drinking, and be baptized with the baptism with which I was baptized?” They said to Him, “We can.” Then Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I am drinking, and you will be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But to sit at my right or left isn’t mine to grant; it’s for those for whom it already has been prepared.” When the other ten heard this, they became angry with James and John. So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles love to show off their power over them. But it shall not be like that with you. Rather, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant; whoever wants to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man didn’t come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”

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They come to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples and a large crowd are leaving Jericho, *Bartimaeus* (that is, ‘the son of Timaeus’), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was in the crowd, he began to cry out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him, telling him to shut up. But he cried out even more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and said, “Tell him to come here.” So they called the blind man and said to him, “Have courage! Get up! He’s calling you.” He threw off his *shamma*,* jumped to his feet, and came to Jesus. Then Jesus asked him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man replied, “Rabbi, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he could see again, and followed Him on the way.

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**shamma* = a blanket-like outer wrap

Chapter Eleven

Now as they approached Jerusalem, near Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples, and told them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, immediately you’ll find a colt tied which has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. And if

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anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and He’ll send it back here right away.’” They left and found a colt outside in the street tied to a gate, and they untie it. Then some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They replied just as Jesus had said, and they let them go. They brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their outer wraps on it; and He sat on it. Many spread their wraps on the road; others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those going ahead and those taking up the rear kept shouting: “*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!* Blessed is the coming reign of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything but, since it was already late, He went back to Bethany with the twelve.

The next day, after leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. In the distance He saw a fig tree in leaf. So He went to see if He could find anything on it. When He came to it, He didn’t find anything except leaves, for it wasn’t the season for figs. He said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And His disciples were listening.

Then they come to Jerusalem and entered the temple. Jesus began driving out those who were buying and selling in the temple. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. He didn’t allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He began teaching them, “Isn’t it written, *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the Gentiles?* But you have made it a *den of thieves.*” The chief priests and scribes heard this, and began looking for a way to kill Him, for they feared Him, because the whole crowd was enthralled with His teaching. When evening came, Jesus and His disciples left the city.

Early in the morning, as Jesus and His disciples were passing by, they saw the fig tree withered to its roots. Peter remembered and said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered!” Jesus responded to them, “Have faith in God. Amen I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be uprooted and thrown into the sea,’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, everything that you request in prayer, believe that you receive it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Then they come again to Jerusalem. And as He’s walking in the temple, the chief priests, scribes, and elders come to Him. They kept asking, “By what authority are You doing these things? Who gave You this authority to do these things?” Jesus said to them, “I’ll ask you just one question; answer me, and I’ll tell you by what authority I do these things. Was John’s baptism from heaven, or from men? Answer me.” They discussed it among themselves: “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He’ll say, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men’”—they feared the crowd, for everyone was convinced that John had been a prophet. So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said to them, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Chapter Twelve

Then He began speaking to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug out a pit for a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went away. At harvest time he sent a slave to the tenants to collect a portion of the crop. But they took him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another slave. They beat him over the head and treated him shamefully. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. This happened to many others, some of whom were beaten, others killed. He still had one left to send, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenant farmers said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw his body out of the vineyard. So what will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. Haven’t you read this Scripture: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*” They wanted to arrest Him, for they knew that He had spoken this parable against them; but they were afraid of the crowd, so they left Him alone and went away.

Then the chief priests, scribes, and elders send a delegation of Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Him with His own words. When they had arrived, they say to Him, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of honor. You don’t show partiality but teach the way of God truthfully. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay, or should we not?” But He saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap Me? Bring Me a denarius, so I can see it.” They brought one; and He asked them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” “Caesar’s,” they said. Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” They were utterly amazed at Him.

Then Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) also come to Him and ask Him, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man dies, leaving a wife but no children, then that man’s brother must marry the widow and have descendants for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first married, but died leaving no children. The second brother married her, and died leaving no children; and the third as well; all seven brothers married her and died, leaving no children. Finally the woman died too. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be, since all seven had married her?” Jesus said to them, “You’re wrong, for you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they’ll be as the angels are in heaven. And on the whole matter of the dead being raised, haven’t you read in the scroll of Moses the passage about the burning bush, how God said to him, *I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?* He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You’re so wrong.”

Then one of the scribes who had overheard their dispute and saw how well Jesus had responded comes over and asked Him, “Which is the most important commandment?” Jesus replied, “The most important is, *Hear, O Israel, our God is the Lord, and the Lord is one, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.* The next important is this: *Love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these.” The scribe said to Him,

“Well said, teacher. You are right in saying that He is one, and that there is no other but Him; and to love Him with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had given a thoughtful reply, He said to him, “You are not far from God’s reign.” After that, no one dared ask Him any other question.

As Jesus taught in the temple, He said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself said by the Holy Spirit, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.’ David himself calls Him Lord. So how can He be David’s son?’” The large crowd listened to Him with delight.

In His teaching He also said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and receive respectful greetings in the marketplaces, and have the best seats in the synagogues and at banquets the couches of highest honor; who cheat widows and take their homes—then say long prayers just for show. Such will receive greater condemnation.”

Jesus sat down opposite the offering box in the temple court, and began observing the crowd putting money into it. Many who were wealthy put in much. Then a poor widow came who dropped in two lepta, worth about a penny. He called His disciples over and said to them, “Amen I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. The others all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had on which to live.”

Chapter Thirteen

As He’s leaving the temple, one of His disciples says to Him, “Teacher, ah, what awesome stones and buildings!” Jesus responded, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” As He’s sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, “Tell us, when will this be? And what will be the sign that all these things are about to occur?” Jesus began to say to them, “Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in My name and say, ‘I am He,’ and they will deceive many. When you hear about wars and threats of wars, don’t be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines. These are the beginning of the birth pains. Watch out for yourselves. You will be handed over to councils and beaten in synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of Me, as witnesses before them. The gospel must first be proclaimed to all the Gentiles. Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, don’t worry beforehand about what to say. Say whatever is given you to say at that time, for it will not be you who are speaking but the Holy Spirit. Brother will hand over brother for death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

“When you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be” (let the reader understand), “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. Anyone on the roof shouldn’t come

down or go in to grab anything out of his house. Anyone out in the field shouldn't return to get his cloak. Woe to those who are pregnant and to nursing mothers in those days. Pray that it may not be in winter. For those will be days of tribulation unlike anything that has occurred from the beginning of God's creation until now, and never will be again. If the Lord hadn't shortened those days, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He did shorten the days. If anyone then says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there He is!' don't believe him. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, the elect. Watch out! I've warned you in advance.

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And He will send His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. Learn this parable from the fig tree: whenever its branch gets tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that He's near, right at the door. Amen I tell you, this latter generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

"But no one knows the day or the hour; not the angels in heaven; not even the Son. Only the Father knows. So watch out! Stay alert! For you don't know when the time will come. It's like a man going away: he leaves his house, gives his slaves their charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Watch, therefore. You don't know when the master of the house will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. He might come suddenly, so don't let him find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Chapter Fourteen

It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were trying to find a cunning way to arrest Jesus and kill Him, for they said, "Not during the feast, or the people will riot."

Now while Jesus is in Bethany, reclining for dinner in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of costly scented oil made from pure nard. Breaking open the jar, she poured it on His head. Some there were indignant, and began saying to themselves, "Why waste this costly oil? It could have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." And they started snarling at her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. You always have the poor with you, and you can do good for them whenever you want. But you won't always have Me. She did what she could; she anointed My body beforehand for burial. Amen I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in all the world, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. When they heard his proposal, they were delighted, and agreed to pay him with silver for his services. So he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lambs are slain, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" He sends two of His disciples, with these instructions: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him; and whatever house he enters, tell the owner of that house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' He will then show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples left and entered the city, and they found everything just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, He comes with the twelve. While they are reclining and dining, Jesus said, "Amen I tell you, one of you eating with Me will betray Me." They began to be distressed, and say to Him, one by one, "Surely not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve—the one who is dipping with Me into the bowl. The Son of Man goes as it is written about Him. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would've been better for that man if he hadn't been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing, broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take; this is My body." And He took the cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Amen I tell you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the reign of God." After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus says to them, "You will all fall away, for it's written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I'm raised, I'll go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter retorted, "Everyone else might fall away, but I won't." Jesus says to him, "Amen I tell you, today—this very night, before a rooster crows twice—you will deny me thrice." But Peter protested vehemently, "Even if I must die with You, I will never deny You." And they all said the same.

Then they come to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus says to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He takes Peter, James, and John along with Him, and He began to be deeply troubled and distressed; and He says to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, to the point of death. Stay here and watch." Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass by Him. He said, "*Abba*, Father, everything is possible for You. Take this cup away from Me. Yet not what I want but what You want."

He comes and finds them sleeping, and says to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so you won't fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again He went away and prayed the same thing. And again returning, He found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they didn't know what to say. He comes back a third time and says to them, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. It's all over. The hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up; let's go. My betrayer is here."

Immediately, while He's still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrives, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs sent by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. The betrayer had given them a

sign: “The One I kiss is the One you want; arrest Him, and lead Him away securely.” So having arrived, Judas immediately went up to Him, and he says, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him firmly. Then they took hold of Him and arrested Him. But one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, cutting off his ear. Jesus said to them, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest Me like you would a robber? Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you didn’t seize Me then! But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then all of His disciples abandoned Him and fled. A certain young man, though, wearing nothing but a linen cloth, was following Jesus. They try to grab him, but he left the linen cloth and fled naked.

Then they led Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and scribes assemble. Peter followed Him from a distance into the high priest’s courtyard. He sits with the guards, and warms himself by the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus in order to execute Him, but they weren’t finding any. Many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimonies didn’t agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against Him: “We heard Him say, ‘I’ll destroy this temple made with hands and within three days build another not made with hands.’” Yet even on this their testimony didn’t agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer; no response to these charges against You?” He kept silent and gave no reply. Again the high priest asked Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus said, “I am; and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his tunic and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You’ve heard the blasphemy. What’s your verdict?” They all condemned Him as deserving death. Some of them began spitting on Him; they blindfold Him, strike Him, then say, “Prophecy!” Their lackeys took Him too and slapped Him around.

While Peter is in the courtyard below, one of the high priest’s slave-girls approaches. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it: “I don’t know or understand what you are talking about.” He went out to the gateway. A rooster crowed. When the slave-girl saw him, she again began to say—this time to the bystanders—“This man is one of them.” Again he denied it. And again, a little while later, the bystanders said to Peter, “You must be one of them: you’re a Galilean!” Then he started to curse and swear, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” Immediately the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me thrice.” And after he had thought about it for a bit . . . he began to cry.

Chapter Fifteen

Then very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes and the whole Sanhedrin, immediately made their plans. They bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate. Pilate asked Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” The chief priests were accusing Him of many things. So again Pilate asked Him, “Have You nothing to say? What do You make of all these accusations they’re bringing against You?” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast Pilate was accustomed to release for them one prisoner whom they requested. There was at that time a man named Barabbas who was imprisoned with rebels who had committed murder during an insurrection. So the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate to do for them as was his custom. Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" (For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over out of envy.) But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. Pilate again asked them, "Then what should I do with the one you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify Him!" Pilate said, "Why? What crime has he committed?" But they shouted even louder, "Crucify Him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them. And after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Him away into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the *Praetorium*). They call together the whole military cohort, which dons Him in purple, plaits a crown of thorns, and puts it 'round His head. Then they began to salute Him: "Hail, king of the Jews!" Over and over they kept striking His head with a stick and spitting on Him. Then they began kneeling down and prostrating before Him. When they had finished mocking Him, they took off the purple cloth, put His own outer wrap back on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. A passerby, one Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), is coming in from the country. They conscript him to carry His cross.

They bring Jesus to a place called *Golgotha* (which means, Place of a Skull). They offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He didn't take it. Then they crucify Him, and divide His clothing, casting lots for them to decide who should take what. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Him. The inscription of the charge against Him read, "The King of the Jews." Two robbers are crucified with Him, one on His right, and one on His left. Those who passed by kept deriding Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Come down from the cross and save Yourself!" Likewise the chief priests and the scribes are mocking Him among themselves: "He saved others, but He can't save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross! When we see that, we'll believe!" Those crucified with Him were also reviling Him.

At midday a darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means, My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?). When some bystanders heard it, they said, "He's calling for Elijah!" So someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down!" But Jesus let out a loud cry, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was ripped in two from top to bottom. Now when the centurion who stood facing Him saw the way in which He died, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were also some women there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joses, and Salome. They had followed Jesus and

given Him support when He was in Galilee. Many other women who had come up with Him to Jerusalem were there as well.

Now, it was the Day of Preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening was approaching, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the Council, who was himself waiting expectantly for God’s reign, courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. So he called the centurion and asked him if Jesus had indeed already died. When he found out from the centurion that it was so, he granted the corpse to Joseph. Joseph bought some fine linen, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone across the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

Chapter Sixteen

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought aromatic oils-of-myrrh so that they might come and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, just at sunrise, they come to the tomb. They had been saying to each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the very large stone had already been rolled away. And when they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Don’t be alarmed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He’s been raised! He’s not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—‘He’s going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.’” They went out and fled from the tomb trembling, for total bewilderment had overtaken them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



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