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# Mark tells us the Good News about Jesus

An EasyEnglish Version with Notes (1200 word vocabulary) of the Gospel of Mark

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Words in boxes are comments on the text.

A word list at the end explains words with a star \* by them.

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## This is about the book that Mark wrote

Mark wrote this book while he was living in Rome. Rome is now the capital city of Italy. He wrote it at some time between \*AD 50 and \*AD 70. Mark was also called John Mark. He was a young man when Jesus was on earth. In the book called Acts, we can read some things about Mark. A group of Christians met together in the home of Mark's mother (Acts 12:12). Paul and Barnabas went to many different places to tell people about Jesus. And sometimes, Mark went with them.

Mark wrote his book for people who were not \*Jews. At that time, the \*Roman government, which ruled many countries in the world, was hurting Christians. Jesus had said that men would hurt his people. Mark wanted to tell everyone about the things that Jesus had done. He described how Jesus lived. He explained who Jesus was. Jesus was a man, but he was also God's son. Mark described how Jesus died on a \*cross. And he described how Jesus became alive again. He explained how people could let God rule in their lives. He wrote about the things that Jesus taught the people.

Mark was a friend of Peter. Peter was one of the 12 men that Jesus chose to be his \*disciples. He called them \*apostles. Mark often listened when Peter was talking about Jesus. He wrote down the things that Peter said. And he wrote about the things that he had seen himself.

This is a list of the different parts of Mark's book:

- 1 Jesus starts his work ~ 1:1-13
- 2 Jesus works in Galilee ~ 1:14-9:50
- 3 Jesus travels from Galilee to Jerusalem ~ 10:1-10:52
- 4 In Jerusalem, people kill Jesus and his friends bury him ~ 11:1-15:47
- 5 Jesus becomes alive again ~ 16:1-8
- 6 People see that Jesus is alive ~ 16:9-20

Jerusalem is now the capital city of \*Israel and Galilee is part of \*Israel.

## Chapter 1

### The start of the good news

**v1** This is the start of the good news about Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God. **v2** Isaiah wrote this message from God in his book:

'I will send someone in front of you. He will speak my message.

He will prepare a way for you.'

**v3** 'A voice is shouting in the \*wilderness:

"The \*Lord will come soon. So prepare a road for him to travel on.

Make the paths straight."'

Isaiah was telling people about a man called John. John will say to the people that they should prepare themselves for the \*Messiah. They must stop doing wrong things. People mended the roads before a king travelled along them. Isaiah is using this like a picture in words. This helps the people to understand how to prepare for the \*Messiah.

**v4** So John came to a place in the \*wilderness with the message from God. 'You have done many wrong things', he taught everybody. 'You must change your minds. Then God will \*forgive you and I will \*baptise you.'

\*Baptism showed that a person wanted to change. He would tell God that he was sorry. He was sorry for the wrong things that he had done. Now he would obey God.

John used water from the river Jordan to \*baptise the people.

**v5** Many people who lived in Jerusalem city and in the country called Judea went to listen to John. The people told God about all the wrong things that they had done. Then John \*baptised the people in the river Jordan. **v6** John wore clothes that he had made out of hair from a \*camel. He also wore a belt that he had made from the skin of an animal. His usual food was large insects and \*honey from the \*wilderness.

Judea was part of \*Israel and Jerusalem was the capital city.

A camel is a large animal like a horse. It can carry heavy things on its back.

Honey is very sweet. An insect called a bee makes honey. The insects that John ate were called locusts.

**v7** 'A person will come soon', John said to the people. 'He is more important than I am. I should not even be the servant who undoes his shoes. **v8** I have \*baptised you with water. But this other person will \*baptise you with the \*Holy Spirit.'

## **John \*baptises Jesus**

**v9** Soon after this, Jesus came from the town called Nazareth in Galilee. John \*baptised him in the river Jordan. **v10** While Jesus was coming up out of the water, the skies seemed to open. The \*Holy Spirit came down like a bird and he rested on Jesus. **v11** A voice spoke from the sky. That voice said, 'You are my son and I love you. You make me very happy.'

## **\*Satan tries to cause Jesus to do wrong things**

**v12** Immediately, the \*Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the \*wilderness. **v13** He was in the \*wilderness for 40 days. During this time, \*Satan tried to cause Jesus to do wrong things. There were wild animals near to Jesus in the \*wilderness. And God's \*angels were his servants.

## **Jesus asks some men to be his \*disciples**

**v14** When John was in a prison, Jesus went to Galilee. He told people the good news about God. **v15** 'Now is the time when God will begin to rule his people', Jesus said. 'You have done many wrong things. You must change your minds. Believe the Good News.'

Herod had sent his wife away. Then he married Herodias. Herodias was already the wife of Philip, the brother of Herod. John told Herod that he had done wrong things. Herod was angry with him, so he said to his soldiers, 'Put John in the prison.'

This John was also called John the \*Baptist because he \*baptised people.

**v16** On one day, Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers called Simon and Andrew. Their job was to catch fish. They were throwing their \*nets into the lake to catch fish. **v17** 'Come with me', Jesus said to them. 'I will teach you how to catch people.' **v18** Simon and Andrew immediately left their \*nets and they went with Jesus.

Simon was also called Peter.

Jesus did not mean that Simon and Andrew would really catch people. He would teach Simon and Andrew how to tell other people the good news about himself. They would bring people to Jesus, so that those people could believe in him. Those people could then ask God to rule them and they could be Jesus' \*disciples.

Simon and his brother lived in a town called Capernaum. This town is on the shore of Lake Galilee.

**v19** Then Jesus continued to walk along the shore. Soon he saw two more men who were brothers. They were called James and John. They were the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat and they were mending their \*nets. **v20** Immediately, Jesus asked them to come with him. They left their father and his workers in the boat. And they went with Jesus.

## Jesus causes a bad \*spirit to leave a man

**v21** Then Jesus and those \*disciples went into Capernaum. On the next \*Jewish day for rest, Jesus went into the meeting place. He began to teach the people there.

The meeting place was called a synagogue. It is a building where \*Jewish people meet to pray. And they read God's Book there.

The day when \*Jewish people rest is called the \*Sabbath. It is our Saturday.

**v22** Jesus taught the people very well. He taught with authority and that surprised them. He was not like the teachers of God's rules, because they did not speak with authority. **v23** In the meeting place, there was a man who had a bad \*spirit. The bad \*spirit caused the man to shout loudly. **v24** 'Jesus from Nazareth', it said, 'We have nothing in common! Do not kill us! I know who you are. You are \*holy and you have come from God.'

**v25** Jesus spoke to the bad \*spirit. 'Be quiet!' he said. 'Come out of the man!' **v26** The bad \*spirit caused the man to fall. It shouted loudly and then it came out of the man.

**v27** All the people were very surprised, and they said to each other, 'This is very strange. Jesus is teaching us something new and he speaks with authority. He can say to bad \*spirits what they must do. And they obey him.' **v28** Immediately, people began to tell the news about Jesus. Everywhere in Galilee, they were telling other people about him.

## Jesus makes many people well

**v29** Then Jesus left the meeting place. He took James and John with him to the home of Simon and Andrew. **v30** The mother of Simon's wife was ill in bed. Her body was very hot. Immediately, Simon and Andrew told Jesus about her. **v31** So he went to her and he held her hand. Then he helped her to sit up and immediately she was well. Then she prepared food for Jesus and for his \*disciples.

**v32-33** That evening, when the sun had gone down, everybody in the town came. They brought to Jesus everyone who was ill. And they brought people with bad \*spirits. All these people were round the door of the house. **v34** Jesus caused many sick people to become well. They had many different illnesses. He also caused many bad \*spirits to leave people. The \*spirits knew who he was. So Jesus did not let them speak.

The \*Jews had many rules about the things that they should not do on their day for rest. They must not work or carry things on that day. When the sun went down, it was the end of the day for rest. So the people waited until then to bring the sick people to him.

## Jesus prays alone in a quiet place

**v35** Jesus got up very early the next morning, while it was still dark. He went to a place where he could be alone. And there he prayed. **v36** Simon and the other \*disciples had to look for him. **v37** When they found him, they said, 'Everyone is looking for you.'

**v38** 'We should go to some other place', Jesus replied. 'We will go to other towns near here, so that I can teach the people there also. I came here for that reason.' **v39** So Jesus travelled everywhere in Galilee. He taught the people in their meeting places. He caused bad \*spirits to come out of people.

## A man with an illness in his skin

**v40** On one day, a man who had an illness in his skin came to Jesus. He went down on his knees in front of Jesus. The man said. 'If you want to do it, you can make me well again.'

**v41** Jesus felt very sorry for the man. He moved his hand towards the man and he touched the man. 'I do want to help you', Jesus said. 'Be well!' **v42** Immediately, the illness left the man and his skin was clean.

**v43** Jesus explained carefully to the man and he sent him away immediately. **v44** 'Listen. Do not tell anyone about this', Jesus said. 'But go and show yourself to the \*priest. Take a gift to him for God. Moses taught the people what gift to take to God after this kind of illness. This will show other people that you are now well.' **v45** But instead, the man went away and he talked to everybody. He told them what had happened to him. Because he did this, it became too difficult for Jesus to go into the towns. Everybody knew him, and so Jesus stayed in places in the \*wilderness. And the people came from every direction to see him.

## Chapter 2

### Jesus helps a man who cannot walk

**v1** Jesus returned to Capernaum several days after that. People reported that he had come back to his home. **v2** Many people came into the house. The house was so full that there was no room, even outside the door. Jesus was teaching the people. **v3** Four men came. They were carrying another man, who could not walk. **v4** They could not reach Jesus because of the crowd. So they made a hole in the roof above the place where Jesus was. They helped the man to go down through the hole. The man was still lying on his small carpet. **v5** Jesus saw the man and his friends. And he knew that they believed. So he said to the man, 'My friend, I \*forgive you for the wrong things that you have done.'

Houses in \*Israel had flat roofs. There were steps outside the house up to the roof. The roof was really small sticks and hard dry \*soil. It was easy for the men to make a big hole in the roof. Then they could tie \*ropes on to the small carpet and they could put it down through the roof. The man came down in front of Jesus.

**v6** But some teachers of God's rules were sitting there. They thought about the words that Jesus had spoken to the man. **v7** 'This man (Jesus) should not have said that', they thought. 'He is speaking as only God can speak. Only God can \*forgive people for the wrong things that they have done.'

**v8** Immediately, Jesus knew what the teachers were thinking. 'You should not think these things', he said to them. **v9** 'I said to this man, "I \*forgive you for the wrong things that you have done." Instead, I might have said to him, "Stand up! Pick up your small carpet and walk." You know which is easier to say. **v10** But I want you to know this. I, the \*Son of Man, have authority on earth. I can \*forgive people for the wrong things that they have done.' Then he spoke to the man who could not walk. **v11** 'I am saying to you: Stand up! Pick up your small carpet and go to your home.' **v12** The man stood up. Immediately, he picked up the small carpet. Everyone watched him walk out of the house. This surprised all the people very much. The people said that God had done this powerful thing. They said, 'We have never seen anything like this before.'

Jesus often called himself the \*Son of Man. He may have done this so that people would remember about some messages in the Bible. (See Daniel 7:13-14.)

## Jesus asks Levi to be his \*disciple

**v13** Jesus went back to the shore of Lake Galilee. A large crowd came to him, so he taught them.

**v14** While Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi. Levi was the son of Alphaeus. His job was to take money on behalf of the government. He was sitting in his office. 'Come with me', Jesus said to him. Levi stood up and he went with Jesus.

Levi took money on behalf of the \*Roman government. The \*Jews did not like men who did this job.

**v15** Then Jesus went to eat a meal at Levi's house. Many people followed Jesus and they ate there with him and with his \*disciples. Some of these people also took money on behalf of the government. Some of the people had done many wrong things. **v16** Some teachers of God's rules saw Jesus while he was eating with all those people. They said to his \*disciples, 'Jesus should not eat with men who take money on behalf of the \*Roman government. And he should not eat with those other bad people.'

**v17** Jesus heard what the teachers of God's rules said. 'People who are well do not need a doctor', he answered them. 'People who are ill need a doctor. I did not come to help good people. I came to help bad people.'

The \*Pharisees taught people the rules that God had given to Moses. They also taught many of their own ideas. They said that it was wrong for Jesus to eat with bad people. The \*Pharisees thought that they themselves were very good people. They tried to obey all of God's rules.

**v18** At this time, the \*disciples of John the \*Baptist and the \*disciples of the \*Pharisees were not eating any food. Some people came to Jesus and they asked him this question. 'The \*disciples of John and the \*disciples of the \*Pharisees are not eating any food. So why are your \*disciples eating food?'

John the \*Baptist and the \*Pharisees taught their \*disciples to \*fast. This means that they decided not to eat any food for a certain time.

**v19** Jesus said to them, 'When a man marries, his friends cannot refuse to eat. They cannot refuse food while he is with them. **v20** But there will be a time when people will take him away from them. Then his friends will refuse food.'

Jesus often told stories to teach the people. In this story, Jesus is like the man who marries. His \*disciples are like the friends. While Jesus was with his \*disciples, they were very happy. But soon his \*enemies would kill him. Then the \*disciples would be so sad that they would refuse to eat.

**v21** Jesus said, 'Nobody uses a piece of new cloth to mend an old coat. If he does, the new cloth will cause the old cloth to tear again. It will make a bigger hole than before. **v22** And nobody pours new \*wine into old \*wineskins. If he does, the new \*wine will tear the old \*wineskins. He will lose the \*wine and the \*wineskins. Instead, you must put new \*wine into new \*wineskins.'

Wine is a strong drink that people make from fruit. It needs more room as it gets older. People put \*wine in wineskins to keep it. A wineskin is a bottle that someone has made from an animal's skin. \*Wineskins become hard when they get older. So, new \*wine would cause them to tear.

The \*Pharisees had many old rules that their leaders had taught them to obey. These rules were not from God. Jesus was teaching the people that the old \*wineskins were like those old rules. And the old coat was also like those old rules. The new \*wine and the new cloth are like the things that Jesus was teaching them. People must not mix these different things together.

## Jesus answers questions about the day when people should rest

**v23** On one \*Jewish day for rest, Jesus and his \*disciples were walking through the fields where \*wheat was growing. His \*disciples picked some \*wheat seeds. **v24** Some \*Pharisees said to Jesus, 'Look at your \*disciples! They are doing what they should not do on the day for rest. It is against the rules.'

**v25** 'Remember what David did', Jesus replied. 'He and the men with him were very hungry. You have read about this. **v26** David went into \*God's Great House. He ate the special bread from there. And he gave it to the men who were with him. This happened during the life of Abiathar, who was the most important \*priest. It is against God's rules for anyone except the \*priests to eat this special bread.'

We can read about this in 1 Samuel, chapter 21.

**v27** Then Jesus said to the \*Pharisees, 'God wanted to help people. So he made the day when they should rest. He did not make people so that there would be a day to rest. **v28** So, the \*Son of Man even has authority over the day when people should rest.'

## Chapter 3

### Jesus makes a man well

**v1** Again, Jesus went into the meeting place. A man was there. His hand was very small and weak and he could not use it. **v2** Some \*Pharisees were watching Jesus carefully. They wanted to find a reason to say that Jesus was doing wrong things. It was the day when people should rest. So the \*Pharisees watched to see if Jesus would make the man well on this day. **v3** Jesus said to the man, 'Stand here in front of everyone.'

**v4** Then Jesus said to the \*Pharisees, 'What can we do on our day for rest? What do the rules say? Do they say that we should do good things? Or do they say that we should do bad things? Should we save a person's life? Or should we kill?'

Nobody said anything.

**v5** Jesus looked round at everybody. He felt angry with them. He also felt sad because they did not want to change their minds. Then he said to the man, 'Lift your hand.' The man lifted it and his hand became well. **v6** Then the \*Pharisees left the building immediately. They met a group of people who wanted to obey Herod. And they talked with them about how they could kill Jesus.

The people who obeyed Herod were important \*Jews. Herod ruled part of \*Israel on behalf of the \*Romans. His friends were happy because the \*Romans had authority in \*Israel. They did not like Jesus. They thought that he would cause problems for Herod.

### Crowds follow Jesus

**v7** Jesus left that place and he went away to Lake Galilee with his \*disciples. A large crowd from Galilee followed them. **v8** Many people also came to him from Judea, Jerusalem and a part of Israel called Idumea. They came from places on the other side of the river Jordan. And they came from the towns called Tyre and Sidon. People were telling the news about the things that Jesus was doing. That is why all these people came. **v9** The crowd was very large. So Jesus asked his \*disciples to prepare a small boat for him. They did this so that the people would not push against him. **v10** Sick people pushed to the front, because they were trying to touch him. They knew that he had made many people well. **v11** Often, a person with a bad \*spirit saw Jesus. Then, the \*spirit caused the person to fall down on the ground in front of Jesus. The \*spirit caused that person to shout out, 'You are the Son of God.' **v12** Jesus often had to say to the bad \*spirits, 'You must not tell anyone who I am.'

### Jesus chooses 12 \*apostles

**v13** Jesus went up a mountain. He chose some men and he asked them to go there with him. So they met him there. **v14** He chose a group of 12 men who would be his \*apostles. He wanted them to be with him. And he would send them to teach people about God. **v15** He gave these men authority to cause bad \*spirits to leave people. **v16** These are the names of the 12 \*apostles:

Simon, whom Jesus called Peter,

**v17** James and John who were the sons of Zebedee. Jesus called them 'Boanerges'. It means 'men who are like a loud noise in a storm',

**v18** Andrew,  
Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
Matthew,  
Thomas,  
James, who was the son of Alphaeus,  
Thaddaeus,  
Simon the \*Zealot

**v19** and Judas Iscariot. He delivered Jesus to the people who were against him.

Jesus had many \*disciples. He chose 12 of them to be with him, so that he could teach them. He also called these 12 men apostles. The word apostle means that someone has sent the person out to do a job. Their job was to tell other people about Jesus. Matthew is another name for Levi. In Luke 6:16, Thaddaeus is called Judas, the son of James.

There are 12 \*families in \*Israel. We think that Jesus chose 12 \*apostles for that reason. We can read about the families in Genesis, chapter 46.

## Jesus talks about \*Satan

**v20** Then Jesus went into a house. And again, a crowd came to the house. There were so many people that Jesus and his \*disciples were not even able to eat. **v21** People told his \*family what was happening. So they went to take him away with them. They thought that Jesus was crazy.

Jesus' \*family lived in Nazareth. We think that they came 25 miles (40 kilometres) from that town to Capernaum to take him away with them.

**v22** Some teachers of God's rules came from Jerusalem. 'Jesus has a bad \*spirit called Beelzebul', they said. '\*Satan rules all the bad \*spirits. So \*Satan has given authority to Jesus. That is how Jesus causes the bad \*spirits to come out of people.'

Beelzebul is another name for \*Satan. They are both names for God's most important enemy.

**v23** So Jesus spoke to the teachers of God's rules. 'Come here and listen', he said to them. He used stories to explain to them. '\*Satan would not fight against himself! **v24** If armies in the same country start to fight each other, then they will destroy their own country. **v25** And if the people in one family start to fight against each other, they will destroy their own family. **v26** So \*Satan would not fight against himself. If he did, he would destroy his own \*power. That would be his end. **v27** Nobody can easily go into the house of a strong man to rob him. To do that, he must first tie up the strong man. Then he can take away all that man's valuable things. **v28** What I say to you is true. God can \*forgive all the wrong things that people do. He can also \*forgive people who say bad things about him. **v29** But God will never \*forgive people who say bad things about the \*Holy Spirit. They will always be \*guilty.'

**v30** Jesus said this to the teachers of God's rules, because they said, 'Jesus has a bad \*spirit.'

## Jesus' mother and his brothers come to look for him

**v31** Then, Jesus' mother and his brothers arrived and they stood outside the house. They sent someone with a message. They wanted Jesus to come to them. **v32** A crowd was sitting round Jesus. They said to him, 'Look! Your mother and brothers are outside. They are looking for you.'

**v33** Jesus answered, 'I will tell you who my mother and brothers really are.'

**v34** Then he looked at the people who were sitting round him in a circle. 'Look! Here are my mother and brothers! **v35** My brothers and sisters and mother are those people who obey God', said Jesus.

People who believe in Jesus become part of the family of God.

## Chapter 4

### Jesus tells a story about a farmer's seeds

**v1** Again, Jesus began to teach by Lake Galilee. The crowd that came together was very large. So, he climbed into a boat and he sat down. The boat was in the water, and the people stayed on the shore. **v2** Jesus used stories to teach them many things. **v3** 'Listen to me', said Jesus. 'A farmer went out to plant seeds. **v4** While he was planting the seeds, some seeds fell on the path. The birds came and they ate those seeds. **v5** Other seeds fell among the rocks. There was a little \*soil in that place. The seeds quickly began to grow, because the \*soil was not deep. **v6** But when the sun rose, it burned the young plants. They soon died because they had not grown down into the \*soil. **v7** Other seeds fell among bushes with sharp branches. Those bushes grew up with the young plants. The bushes were stronger than the farmer's plants. So the plants could not make any new seeds. **v8** But some seeds fell on good \*soil. Good strong plants grew from these seeds. Some plants made 30 new seeds. Some plants made 60 new seeds. And some plants made 100 new seeds.'

**v9** Then Jesus said, 'You have heard my words. So do what I say.'

When a farmer planted seeds, he threw them on to the ground round him.

### Jesus explains to his \*disciples why he uses stories

**v10** When Jesus was alone, his friends and the 12 \*disciples asked him about the story. **v11** 'God has let you understand how he rules his people', Jesus replied. 'But the other people listen to stories. **v12** This is so that:

"They are looking and looking. But they do not see.

They are listening and listening. But they do not understand."

If they did understand, they would obey God. And if they did obey God, he would \*forgive them.'

### Jesus explains the story about the seeds

**v13** Then Jesus answered the people who had asked him about the story. 'You should understand this story. If you do not understand it, you will not understand all the other stories. **v14** The seeds mean the message from God. The farmer is like a person who teaches people about that message. **v15** Some seeds fell on the path. The path is like some people who listen to the message. But then \*Satan comes quickly to them. And he takes the message away from their minds. **v16** Some of the seeds fell among rocks. This is like some people who listen to the message from God. They are happy to believe it for a time. **v17** But they are like plants that have not grown into the \*soil. So they will only believe for a short time. They may have problems. Or other people may do bad things to them because of God's message. The result is that those people stop believing. **v18** Some seeds fell among bushes that had sharp branches. This is like some other people who listen to the message from God. **v19** But they have many troubles in their minds. They think that more money and other valuable things will make them happy. So they do not let God's message change them. They are like plants that do not make new seeds. **v20** But some seeds fell on good \*soil. This \*soil is like other people who listen to the message from God. They understand it and they obey God. These people are like good plants. From one seed, the good plants make 30 seeds. Other good plants make 60 new seeds, and some good plants make 100 new seeds.'



## People put a light in a high place

**v21** Then Jesus said to his \*disciples, 'Nobody brings a \*lamp into a house and puts it under a jar or under a bed. You do not do that. You put it in a high place. **v22** God hides some things now. But there will be a time when people will see them. God covers some things now because he does not want people to see them yet. But there will be a time when people will see all those things.' **v23** Then Jesus said, 'You have heard my words. So do what I say.'

At that time, people burned oil in a dish. They called this dish a \*lamp. They put the \*lamp in a high place so that people could see. The word of God is like the light from a \*lamp. We should not hide it. Jesus wants people in every country to be able to listen to the message about him.

**v24** 'You should be careful about how you listen', said Jesus. 'God will give to you in the way that you give to other people. And you will receive even more. **v25** A person who has some things will receive more. Some people do not have those things. They will lose even the little bit that they do have.'

Jesus is telling his \*disciples about how to listen to him. They should listen carefully. Then they would be able to understand his message. They must believe the message from God. And then they must do what he says. So they will understand more and more. Some people think that they know about God. But they do not obey him. And so God will take away those things from their minds.

## Jesus tells a story about seeds

**v26** Then Jesus said, 'I will explain how God rules his people. A man throws seeds in his field. **v27** Then he sleeps each night and he wakes each day. The seeds start to grow into plants. They continue to grow, but the man does not know how. **v28** The \*soil causes the plants to grow. The leaves of the plant grow first. Then the flower appears, and then the seeds appear. **v29** When the plants have completely grown, the man will cut them down immediately. It is time for him to take the seeds to use for food.'

## Jesus tells a story about a very small seed

**v30** 'We should describe how God rules his people', said Jesus. 'I will explain it with another story. **v31** It is like this. A man takes a seed of the plant called mustard. He puts it in the \*soil. It is smaller than any other seed that is in the \*soil. **v32** But when it starts to grow, it becomes bigger than the largest bush. It will have big branches. And the birds will come from the sky and they will live there. They will build their homes in the shade of the branches.'

**v33** Jesus taught God's message to the people. He used many stories like these. He told the people as much as they could understand. **v34** He always used stories to teach the people. Then he explained everything to his own \*disciples when he was alone with them.

## Jesus stops a storm

**v35** On that same day, in the evening, Jesus spoke to his \*disciples. 'We should go across to the other side of the lake', he said. **v36** So they left the crowd. Jesus was already in the boat. So the \*disciples took him across the lake. Some other boats also went with them. **v37** Then a strong wind began to blow across the lake. Water began to fill the boat so that soon the boat was almost under the water. **v38** Jesus was in a comfortable place at the back of the boat. He was asleep. The \*disciples woke Jesus, and they said to him, 'Teacher, it seems not to matter to you if we die!'

**v39** Jesus woke and he spoke to the wind and to the water. 'Be quiet!' he said. 'Stop!' Then the wind stopped and the water became flat again.

**v40** 'You should not be afraid like that', Jesus said to his \*disciples. 'You should believe.'

**v41** Then they were very afraid. 'We do not know who Jesus really is', they said to each other. 'Even the wind and the water obey him.'

# Chapter 5

## Jesus meets a man who has many bad \*spirits inside him

**v1** Jesus and his \*disciples came to the other side of the lake. They came to a place near Gerasa.

This place is across the lake from Capernaum, on the east side. About a mile (1.6 kilometres) from the shore, there is a small village. There are some big holes in the rocks there. The people from the village buried dead people in the holes.

**v2-4** Jesus came out of the boat. And immediately a man met him. A bad \*spirit was living inside this man. So the man lived in a place where there were many human bones. Nobody could hold him. Often people tried to put metal round his ankles. They wanted to keep him in a safe place. But they all failed. He broke the metal. **v5** The man was always either by the bones or on the hills. During each day and each night, he screamed. And he used stones to cut himself.

**v6** He saw Jesus a long way away and he ran to meet him. He went down on his knees in front of Jesus. **v7** He screamed loudly, 'Jesus, we have nothing in common. You are the Son of the powerful God above. Please promise God that you will not hurt me.' **v8** He said that because Jesus had already said to the bad \*spirit, 'Come out of this man.'

**v9** Then Jesus asked the man, 'What is your name?'

The man replied, 'My name is Army because there are so many bad \*spirits in me.'

The word for 'Army' means a group of 6000 soldiers. People called him Army, because very many bad \*spirits lived in him. The bad \*spirits used the man's voice to speak to Jesus.

**v10** He said to Jesus many times, 'Please do not send these bad \*spirits out of this country.'

**v11** A large group of pigs was eating on the hill. **v12** 'Jesus, send us to the pigs. Let us go into them', said the bad \*spirits. **v13** Jesus let them. So, the bad \*spirits came out of the man and they went into the pigs. All the pigs rushed together down the hill into the lake. About 2000 pigs died in the lake.

**v14** The men who were feeding these pigs ran away. They told the people in the town and in the farms. Those people came to see what had happened. **v15** When they came to Jesus, they saw the man. The man was now sitting quietly. The bad \*spirits had gone out of him. He was wearing clothes and his mind was well again. This was the man that the army of bad \*spirits had ruled. All the people were afraid. **v16** The men who saw these events spoke to them. They told the other people what had happened to the man with the bad \*spirits. And they explained about the pigs. **v17** Then the people who lived there said to Jesus, 'Please leave our country.'

**v18** Jesus climbed back into the boat. But the man that the bad \*spirits had ruled spoke to him. He told Jesus that he very much wanted to be with him. **v19** But Jesus did not let him. Instead, Jesus said to him, 'Go to your home and to your friends. Tell them what the \*Lord has done for you. Tell them how he has been kind to you.' **v20** So the man went away. He began to speak to many people in the 10 cities there. He told them about the great things that Jesus had done for him. And all the people were very surprised.

## Jesus makes a dead girl alive again

**v21** So Jesus returned in the boat. He came to the other side of the lake. A large crowd came to him there. And he was by the lake. **v22** A man called Jairus came to Jesus. He was a leader at the meeting place. When he saw Jesus, he went down on his knees. **v23** 'Please, please come to my house and put your hands on my little daughter', he said to Jesus. 'She is very ill and she will soon die. But if you do this, she will live.' **v24** So Jesus started to go with Jairus.

A large crowd followed Jesus. And the people were pushing against him. **v25** There was a sick woman who had bled for 12 years. **v26** She had paid many doctors to help her, but they could not do anything. They had caused her more pain instead. Now she had spent all her money and she had not become any better. Instead, she became worse. **v27** People had told her about the things that Jesus did. So, she came in the crowd behind him and she touched his coat. **v28** She said, 'Even if I can only touch his clothes, I will become well again.' **v29** And immediately, the blood stopped. And she knew that she was well again.

This sick woman should not have been in the crowd. She should not have touched anyone. This was in the rules that God gave to the \*Jews. We can read about this in the book called Leviticus. (See Leviticus 15:25-27.)

**v30** Jesus knew immediately that something powerful had gone from him. So he turned round in the crowd and he asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'

**v31** 'You can see that the crowd is pushing against you', said his \*disciples. 'You cannot ask who touched you!'

**v32** But Jesus looked round him. He wanted to see who had touched him. **v33** The woman knew what had happened to her. And she felt very afraid. But she came to Jesus. And she went down on her knees. Then she told him everything that had happened to her. **v34** 'Young woman, do not have troubles in your mind', said Jesus. 'You are well again because you believed. Go now and be well.'

**v35** While Jesus was still speaking, some men arrived from Jairus's house. (Jairus was a leader at the meeting place.) 'Your daughter is dead', they said to Jairus. 'Do not ask any longer for the teacher to come.'

**v36** Jesus heard what the men said to Jairus. So Jesus said to him, 'Do not be afraid. Instead, believe.'

**v37** Jesus took only Peter, James and John (James's brother) with him. He would not let anyone else go with him. **v38** Then they came to Jairus's house. And Jesus saw that there were many people there. They were all crying. They were making a loud noise. **v39** Jesus went into the house and he said to the people, 'You should not be crying and making a loud noise. The child is not dead. She is asleep.' **v40** The people \*laughed at him.

Then Jesus sent them all out. He went into the place where the child was lying. The child's father and mother were with him. He also took Peter, James and John with him. **v41** Then Jesus held the little girl's hand. 'Talitha koum', he said to her. This means, 'Little girl, I ask you to stand up.' **v42** The little girl stood up immediately and she walked about. She was 12 years old. They were very surprised. **v43** 'You must not tell anyone what has happened here', Jesus said to them. 'Now give the little girl something to eat.'

## Chapter 6

### Jesus goes to his own town

**v1** Jesus left there. He came to his own town. His \*disciples followed him.

Jesus' \*family lived in a town called Nazareth.

**v2** When it was the \*Jewish day for rest, Jesus went to the meeting place. He began to teach the many people who were there. They were very surprised about the things that he was saying to them. 'We do not know how this man learned these things', they said to each other. 'We do not know how he knows so much. And we do not know how he does all these powerful things. **v3** We know who this man is. He is the \*carpenter. He is the son of Mary. He is the brother of James, Joses, Simon and Judas. His sisters live here in the town among us.' This was the problem that they had with him.

A carpenter is a man who works with wood. The people thought that they knew everything about Jesus. They believed that he was only a man like them.

**v4** 'People everywhere may speak well about a servant of God. But the people in that man's own town will not do that', Jesus said to them. 'His own people and his own \*family will not speak well about him.'

**v5** Jesus could not do any powerful thing in that town. But he did put his hands on a few sick people and he made them well. **v6** Jesus was very surprised because the people in that town would not believe.

Then he travelled through the villages that were round there in a circle. He was teaching the people in the villages.

## **Jesus sends the 12 \*disciples to tell God's message to people**

**v7** Jesus asked his 12 \*disciples to come to him. He started to send pairs of them to tell God's message to people. And he gave them authority over bad \*spirits.

**v8** Jesus told the \*disciples that they must not take anything for the journey, except only a stick. They must not take bread, a bag or money in their pockets. **v9** They should wear shoes. But they should not take extra clothes.

**v10** Jesus said to them, 'In each town, stay at the first house that you go into. Continue to stay there until you leave that town. **v11** Perhaps you might go to a town where the people do not accept you. They will not listen to you. So you should leave that town. Clean that town's dirt off your feet. So then it will be clear that they have done something wrong.'

**v12** So they went out. They told the people that they must change their minds. **v13** They caused many bad \*spirits to come out of people. They also put oil on many sick people; and the sick people became well.

## **Herod kills John the \*Baptist**

**v14** People told King Herod about these things. People were talking about Jesus. Some people were saying that Jesus was John the \*Baptist. They also said that John had become alive again. 'That is why Jesus does these very powerful things', they said.

**v15** Other people said, 'Jesus is Elijah.' And other people said, 'He is a servant of God. He is like God's servants who lived a long time ago.'

The name of this Herod was Herod Antipas and he ruled Galilee from 4 \*BC to 39 \*AD.

Some of the people thought that Jesus was Elijah. Elijah was a special servant of God. He had spoken powerful messages from God and he had done many great things. Elijah did not die. God took him to heaven (God's home). We can read about this in 2 Kings, chapter 2. Malachi was another special servant of God. He said that Elijah would return. (See Malachi 4:5.) People who were God's special servants were called prophets.

**v16** But when someone told Herod, he said, 'This is John. I sent a soldier to cut off his head. But John has become alive again!'

**v17** Herod himself had sent his soldiers to take hold of John. He had said to his soldiers, 'Tie \*ropes round John's hands and feet and put him in a prison.' Herod had done that because of Herodias. She was the wife of Herod's brother Philip. But Herod had married her. **v18** John had said to him, 'Herodias is your brother's wife. It is against the rules for you to have her as your wife.'

Herodias had left Philip, her husband. Then Herod married her. And so John told him what Moses had written in God's rules. God's rules said, 'A man must not marry another man's wife.' (See Deuteronomy 5:18.) Herod was angry with John when he told him that. So, Herod told his men that they must put John in a prison.

**v19** Herodias was very much against John. So she wanted to kill him. But she could not do that. **v20** That was because Herod was afraid of John. Herod knew that John was a good man. And Herod knew that John was a servant of God. So Herod kept John safe. Herod liked to listen to what John said. But he did not know what to do about the things that John said.

**v21** Then, on one day, Herodias had her chance. It was Herod's birthday and he asked many people to come to a special meal. Important men and officers came. And the rulers from Galilee were also there. **v22** The daughter of Herodias came in and she danced. Herod and his visitors were very happy when they saw her dance.

'Ask me for anything that you want', the king said to the young woman. 'I will give it to you.' **v23** And he promised: 'What I say is completely true. I will give you anything that you ask me to give to you. I will even give you half of all that I rule over.'

**v24** The young woman went out and she said to her mother, 'What should I ask him for?' 'Ask for the head of John the \*Baptist', her mother replied.

**v25** The young woman returned quickly and she spoke immediately to Herod. 'I want the head of John the \*Baptist. Put it on a plate! Do it now!'

**v26** Then Herod felt very sad. But he did not want to disappoint her, because of his promise. All his visitors had heard it. **v27** So, immediately, the king sent a soldier. The king told the soldier that he must bring John's head. So, the soldier went to the prison and he cut off John's head there. **v28** Then he brought it back on a plate. He gave it to the young woman. And the young woman gave it to her mother. **v29** People told John's \*disciples about it. So, they went to the prison and they took away John's dead body. And then they buried it.

## Jesus gives food to 5000 men and to their families

**v30** The \*apostles all came to Jesus. They told him about all the things that they had done. And they told him what they had taught. **v31** Many people were coming and going. Jesus and the \*disciples were too busy even to eat. So Jesus said to them, 'Come with me to a place where there are no other people. We should be alone together. Then we can rest for a short time.'

**v32** So they left the crowd. They went away in a boat together. They went into the \*wilderness. **v33** But many people saw that they were leaving the town. Those people recognised them. So they ran out from all the towns. And they reached the place before Jesus and the \*disciples arrived. **v34** Jesus climbed out of the boat and he saw a large crowd. Jesus felt sorry for them. He thought to himself, 'They are like sheep that have nobody to lead them.' So, he began to teach them many things.

**v35** When it was almost evening, Jesus' \*disciples came to speak to him. 'We are here in a place in the \*wilderness', they said. 'Soon it will be dark. **v36** The people do not have anything to eat. So, send the crowd away now. Ask them to go to the farms and villages that are near here. There they can buy some food for themselves.'

**v37** 'Give them some food to eat. You should do it', Jesus replied.

So the \*disciples said, 'We cannot go to buy bread for the people. A man must work for 8 months to get the 200 coins that we would need. We cannot give food to these people.'

These coins were called denarii. People who worked received about 1 coin each day.

**v38** Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves of bread do you have? Go and see.' When they had looked, they spoke to Jesus again. 'We have 5 loaves and 2 fishes', they said.

**v39** Jesus asked all the people to sit on the green grass. He wanted them to sit in large groups. **v40** So the people sat down in groups. Each group had 50 or 100 people in it. **v41** Then Jesus took the 5 loaves and the 2 fishes. He looked up to God's home, called heaven. And he thanked God for the food. Then he broke the bread into pieces. He gave the pieces of bread to the \*disciples. And they gave the bread to the people. Jesus also broke the two fishes into pieces for all the people. **v42** Everyone ate and they all had enough food. **v43** Jesus' \*disciples then picked up all the food that the people had not eaten. And they filled 12 baskets with pieces of bread and fish. **v44** About 5000 men ate the loaves.

Women and children also ate the loaves and the fishes.

## Jesus walks on water

**v45** Immediately, Jesus told his \*disciples that they must get into the boat. They should go to Bethsaida, which is on the other side of the lake. Jesus would go there after some time. But first, he would send the crowd away. **v46** So he said 'Goodbye' to the crowd. Then he went up a mountain to pray.

**v47** That evening, the boat was in the middle of the lake. Jesus was alone on the land. **v48** But he could see his \*disciples. They were trying to cause the boat to move along. But it was very difficult for them because the wind was blowing in the opposite direction. Then, when it was very early in the morning, Jesus came towards them. He was walking on the water. He wanted to pass them. **v49** But they saw that he was walking on the water. 'It is a \*spirit', they thought. And they screamed out. **v50** They all saw him and they were afraid. But immediately, Jesus spoke with them. 'Be brave. It is I, Jesus. Do not be afraid', he said to them. **v51** Then Jesus climbed into the boat with them. The strong wind stopped. They were completely surprised about what had happened. **v52** They did not understand what had happened to the loaves. And they were not ready to learn.

## Jesus makes many sick people well

**v53** They crossed the lake. They reached the shore at Gennesaret and they tied the boat there. **v54** When they came out of the boat, the people recognised Jesus immediately. **v55** They went to tell everyone who lived anywhere near there. They began to bring ill people to Jesus. They carried those ill people to him on small carpets. They brought those people to any place where he was. **v56** Jesus went into villages, towns and fields. Everywhere that he went, they brought sick people into their market places to him. The sick people asked Jesus for help. They wanted to touch even the edge of his coat. And every sick person who touched him became well.

## Chapter 7

### Jesus speaks to \*Pharisees and to some teachers of God's rules

**v1** A group of \*Pharisees and some teachers of God's rules came from Jerusalem. They came to talk with Jesus. **v2** They had watched Jesus' \*disciples. Some of the \*disciples did not wash their hands before a meal. Instead, they were eating their food as other people eat. **v3** (The \*Pharisees and all the \*Jews do not eat until they have washed their hands carefully. They do this because of a rule that their leaders made many years ago. **v4** When they come from the market place, they must always wash. Unless they do this, they cannot eat. Their leaders had also given them rules about how to do other things. For example, there are rules about how they should wash cups, pots and metal jars.)

The \*Pharisees washed their hands in a certain way before their meals. The \*disciples had clean hands already. So they did not think that they needed to wash again.

**v5** The \*Pharisees and the teachers of God's rules said to Jesus, 'Your \*disciples do not obey the rules that our leaders made many years ago. Your \*disciples have not washed their hands. They are eating their food as other people eat.'

**v6** Jesus said to the \*Pharisees and to the teachers of God's rules, 'What Isaiah said about you is true. You are \*hypocrites. He wrote down these words from God.

"These people say good things about me,  
but they do not really want to obey me.

**v7** They teach rules that men gave to them.

So they pray to me without any purpose."

**v8** 'You have stopped obeying God', Jesus said to them. 'Instead you obey the rules that men gave to people many years ago.'

**v9** He said to them, 'You are very careful to refuse God's rules, because then you can obey your own old rules! **v10** For example, Moses wrote, "You must love your father and your mother and you must obey them." He also said, "A person should die if he says bad things against his father or against his mother." **v11** But you teach that a person can say to his father or to his mother, "I would have given these gifts to you. But I cannot because I have given them to God instead." **v12** Then, you let him do nothing for his father or for his mother. **v13** So you have obeyed the rules that you received from your leaders many years ago. And you do not do what God wants. And you do many other things like that.'

**v14** Again, Jesus asked all the people to come near to him. 'Listen to me', he said, 'so that you can understand these things. **v15** God's people are different from other people. But they are not different because of things from outside that go into their bodies. It is because of the things that come from their minds. **v16** You have heard my words. So do what I say.'

## **Jesus explains to his \*disciples what he had taught**

**v17** Jesus left the crowd and he went into a house. Then his \*disciples asked Jesus to explain what he had taught.

**v18** 'I am surprised that you too are not able to understand', said Jesus. 'It should be clear that God's people are not different from other people because of their food. Food goes into a person's body from outside. **v19** You know that food does not go into the mind of a person. First, it goes into his stomach and then it goes out of his body. So all foods are clean.'

**v20** And Jesus said, 'God's people are different from other people because of things that come from them. **v21** So, bad thoughts come from a man's mind. And then that man does wrong things. He might have sex when he should not do it. He might rob somebody. He might kill somebody. He might have sex with another man's wife. **v22** He might want other people's things. He might be cruel to other people. He might want other people to believe things that are not true. He wants whatever things he can get. He thinks whatever thoughts he wants to think about people. He speaks whatever wrong words he wants to say. He thinks that he is very important. He thinks very silly things.

**v23** All these wrong things begin inside people's minds. They come out of those people. But God's people must be different from those people.'

## **Jesus travels out of Israel**

**v24** After that, Jesus went away. He was near the city called Tyre. He went into a house. He did not want anyone to know that he was there. But it was not possible to keep this a secret. **v25** Immediately, someone told a certain woman about Jesus. This woman had a daughter who had a bad \*spirit. The woman came and she went down on her knees by Jesus' feet. **v26** She was not a \*Jew; her \*family was from Syrophenicia. She asked Jesus to cause the bad \*spirit to go out of her daughter.

**v27** Jesus said to the woman, 'First, the children must eat all that they want. It is not right to take bread from the children. You should not throw the children's food to the dogs.'

**v28** The woman replied. She said to him, 'Yes sir. But small pieces of bread drop while the children eat. And the dogs under the table eat those pieces.'

**v29** 'Because you have said that, you can go to your home', Jesus replied. 'Now the bad \*spirit has left your daughter.'

**v30** The woman went to her home. She found the child, who was lying on the bed. The bad \*spirit had left the child.

**v31** Then Jesus went away from Tyre. He travelled through the city called Sidon. He went towards Lake Galilee. He was in the middle of the 10 cities there.

**v32** Some people brought a man to Jesus. This man could not hear and he could not speak clearly. The people asked Jesus to put his hand on the man.

**v33** Jesus led the man away from the crowd. Then he put his fingers into the man's ears. Then Jesus took water from his own mouth and he touched the man's \*tongue with it. **v34** Jesus looked up towards the sky. He made a low, sad sound. Then he said to the man, 'Ephphatha!' That means, 'Become open!' **v35** Then the man started to hear. And immediately, the man's \*tongue was able to move. And the man spoke clearly.

**v36** Jesus told the people that they must not tell anyone about this. But when Jesus asked them not to say anything, they spoke even more about it. **v37** The people were very surprised about everything that Jesus did. 'Jesus has done everything well', they said. 'If people cannot hear, Jesus makes them able to hear. If people cannot speak, Jesus makes them able to speak.'

## Chapter 8

### Jesus gives food to 4000 people

**v1** At that time, another large crowd had come to hear Jesus. The people had nothing to eat. Jesus asked his \*disciples to come to him. Then he spoke to them. **v2** 'I feel sorry for this crowd. They have been with me now for three days and they do not have any food. **v3** I do not want to send them back to their homes while they are hungry. They may fall down during their journey because of weakness. Some of them have travelled a long way.'

**v4** The \*disciples replied, 'We are in the \*wilderness. We cannot get enough bread to feed these people.'

**v5** 'How many loaves of bread do you have?' Jesus asked. 'We have 7 loaves', they replied.

**v6** Jesus told the crowd that they should sit on the ground. Then he took the 7 loaves. He thanked God for them. Then he broke the bread and he gave the pieces to his \*disciples. The \*disciples gave the bread to the people. **v7** The \*disciples also had a few small fishes, so Jesus thanked God for these. Then he told his \*disciples that they should give the fishes to the people too. **v8** The people ate, and they all had enough food. After the people had eaten, there were still some pieces of bread and fish. Jesus' \*disciples filled 7 baskets with these pieces. **v9** There were about 4000 people. And Jesus sent the people away. **v10** Immediately, he got into the boat with his \*disciples. Then they all returned to the part of the country called Dalmanutha.

Dalmanutha is on the west shore of Lake Galilee. It is south of the flat part of the country called Gennesaret.

**v11** Some \*Pharisees came. They began to argue with Jesus. They wanted him to do something powerful. They wanted him to show them that God had sent him. **v12** Jesus felt very sad. 'People today ask to see something powerful', he said. 'What I say is true. These people will not see the powerful thing that they want.' **v13** Then Jesus left the \*Pharisees again. He got back into the boat to go to the other side of the lake.

### Jesus talks about the \*yeast of the \*Pharisees and the \*yeast of Herod

**v14** Jesus' \*disciples had forgotten to bring bread with them. They only had one loaf in the boat. **v15** 'Be careful', Jesus said to them. 'You must watch for the \*yeast of the \*Pharisees and the \*yeast of Herod.'

People put \*yeast into flour and water when they want to make bread. The \*yeast grows and it causes the flour to become bigger. Then it is more like a loaf of bread. Then you can bake the bread and you can eat it. Jesus was not talking to them about the \*yeast that people use to make bread. He was talking about the things that the \*Pharisees taught to the people. See Matthew 16:12.

**v16** The \*disciples began to talk to each other about this. 'Jesus is saying this because we do not have any bread', they said.



**v17** Jesus knew about this. So he said to them, 'You should not be talking about the fact that you do not have any bread. You still do not recognise or understand. You seem unable to learn. **v18** You are like people who cannot see with their eyes. You are like people who cannot hear with their ears. Remember this! **v19** I broke 5 loaves for 5000 men. How many baskets did you fill with pieces of bread?'

'There were 12 baskets', they replied.

**v20** 'And then I broke 7 loaves for 4000 people. How many baskets did you fill with pieces of bread?' Jesus asked.

'There were 7 baskets', they replied.

**v21** 'You should understand now', he said to them.

## **Jesus makes a \*blind man able to see**

**v22** Jesus and his \*disciples came to a village called Bethsaida. Some people led a \*blind man to Jesus. They asked Jesus to touch the man. **v23** Jesus took the \*blind man's hand and he led the man out of the village. Jesus put water from his own mouth on the man's eyes. And Jesus put his hands on the man. 'Can you see anything?' Jesus asked.

**v24** The man looked up. 'I can see people', he replied. 'But they seem like trees that are walking about.'

**v25** So Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes again. The man looked carefully and then his eyes were well. Now he could see everything clearly. **v26** Jesus told the man that he must go back to his house. Jesus said, 'Do not even go into the village.'

## **Peter says who Jesus is**

**v27** Then Jesus and his \*disciples went to visit some villages. They were near to the town called Caesarea that Philip built. On the way, Jesus asked his \*disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'

**v28** 'Some people say that you are John the \*Baptist', they replied. 'Other people say that you are Elijah. And some other people say that you are one of God's servants.'

This is the same report that people told King Herod in chapter 6, verses 14-15.

**v29** 'But what do you think?' Jesus asked them. 'Who do you say that I am?'

'You are the \*Messiah', Peter answered him.

**v30** Then Jesus spoke with authority to his \*disciples. He said that they must not tell anybody about him.

The people were waiting for God to send someone special to them. They called this person the \*Messiah or the Christ. Jesus knew that the people had wrong ideas about this person. They thought that this person would save them from the \*Roman government. They thought that he would be a great soldier. So, Jesus wanted to teach the people what he, the \*Messiah, had come to do.

## **Jesus tells his \*disciples how he would die**

**v31** Then Jesus began to teach his \*disciples about the things that must happen to the \*Son of Man. People would cause many troubles for him. Important people would be against him. They would include the important \*priests, the leaders and the teachers of God's rules. People would kill him. But after three days, he would become alive again.

Before this time, Jesus had not told anyone so clearly what would happen to him.

**v32** What Jesus said was very clear. Then Peter took Jesus away from the other \*disciples. And Peter began to tell Jesus that he must not say those things.

**v33** But Jesus turned round and he saw his \*disciples. And he said that Peter was wrong. ‘\*Satan, go away from me!’ Jesus said to Peter. ‘Your thoughts do not come from God. Instead, you are thinking like men think.’

Peter did not understand that God wanted Jesus to die for us. \*Satan wanted Peter to stop Jesus, so that Jesus would not obey God. That is why Jesus called him \*Satan.

**v34** Then Jesus asked the crowd and his \*disciples to come to him. He said to them, ‘A person who wants to be my \*disciple must not think about himself. And he must not think about what he wants to do. He must decide that his own life is not important. And he must be like someone who carries his own \*cross. Then he should become my \*disciple. **v35** The person who wants to save his \*life will die. But another person may die because of me and because of God’s good news. Even if that person dies, he will save his \*life. **v36** Think about a person who gets the whole world and everything in it. If he loses his \*life, he has not received anything. **v37** A man can receive nothing that is better than his \*life. And all the money in the world cannot keep someone alive. **v38** People today do not obey God. They are very bad. But you must not be ashamed of me or of my words. If you are, the \*Son of Man will be ashamed of you. He will be ashamed when he returns. On that day, the \*Son of Man will shine because his Father is so beautiful. And God’s \*holy \*angels will be with him.’

## Chapter 9

### Three \*disciples see how great Jesus is

**v1** And Jesus said to them, ‘What I am saying is true. Soon God will begin to rule his people with great \*power. And some of the people who are standing here will see it. They will certainly not die before this happens.’

**v2** Six days after that, Jesus asked Peter, James and John to go with him. Jesus led them up a high mountain, where they were alone together. And they saw Jesus as they had never seen him before. **v3** His clothes became very white; they were shining. They were a brighter white than anyone on earth could wash them. **v4** Then the three \*disciples saw Elijah with Moses, who appeared to them. Elijah and Moses were talking with Jesus.

Moses had lived a long time ago. He was a leader of God’s people. He died about 1400 years before Jesus was born. We can read about Moses in the book called Exodus.

Elijah was one of God’s special servants who spoke God’s messages to the people. He lived about 850 years before Jesus was born. He was still alive when God took him up to live in heaven (God’s home). We can read about Elijah in the book called 1 Kings.

**v5** So Peter said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, it is good that we are here. Please let us build three huts. One hut will be for you. One hut will be for Moses. And one hut will be for Elijah.’ **v6** Peter did not really know what to say. That was because the three \*disciples had become very afraid.

Peter and his friends wanted to build the huts so that these important people could stay with them longer. But God did not want them to remain on the mountain. God sent these two men to talk to Jesus. They talked about the things that would happen in Jerusalem. Jesus would die on a \*cross there. We can read about that in Luke 9:31.

**v7** Then a cloud came. It covered them all. A voice spoke from the cloud. That voice said, ‘This is my son, and I love him. Listen to him.’

**v8** At that moment, the three \*disciples looked round. They saw that nobody else was there still. Only Jesus was with them.

**v9** While they were walking down the mountain again, Jesus said to the three \*disciples, ‘You must not tell anyone about the things that you saw. Tell people only after the \*Son of Man has become alive after his death.’ **v10** These \*disciples kept these words secret. But they talked together about the words, ‘alive after his death’. They wanted to understand those words.

**v11** Then the three \*disciples asked Jesus, 'Why do the teachers of God's rules say that Elijah must come first?'

**v12** Jesus said to them, 'Elijah does come first. He makes everything ready. But the Bible says that people will cause many troubles for the \*Son of Man. People will do the worst things to him. **v13** But I tell you that Elijah has already come. People did to him whatever things they wanted to do. The Bible says that those things would happen to him.'

When Jesus talked to them about Elijah in verse 13, he was really talking about John the \*Baptist.

## **Jesus helps a boy who has a bad \*spirit**

**v14** They reached the place where the other \*disciples were. They saw that there was a large crowd round the \*disciples. Some teachers of God's rules were arguing with them. **v15** The people in the crowd saw Jesus. And immediately they were very surprised. They ran to say 'hello' to Jesus.

**v16** Jesus asked his \*disciples, 'What were you arguing about with the teachers of God's rules?'

**v17** A man in the crowd answered. He said to Jesus, 'Teacher, I brought my son to you. He is not able to speak because he has a bad \*spirit. **v18** When the bad \*spirit takes hold of him, it throws him to the ground. Water comes out of his mouth and he bites his teeth together. Then his body seems dead. I asked your \*disciples to send the \*spirit out of him. But they were not able to do it.'

**v19** 'You people today still do not believe', Jesus said to them. 'It is very difficult to be with you. I am always waiting for you to believe. Bring the boy to me.'

**v20** So the people brought the boy to Jesus. When the \*spirit saw Jesus, it immediately caused the boy to fall badly. The boy fell on to the ground and he rolled about. Water was coming from his mouth.

**v21** 'How long has he been like this?' Jesus asked the boy's father.

'He has been like this since he was a small boy', the father replied. **v22** 'Often the \*spirit has caused him to fall into fire or into water. It is trying to kill him. But if you can do anything, be sorry for us. And help us!'

**v23** 'You should not say, "If you can do anything"', Jesus said to the father. 'Everything is possible for those people who believe.'

**v24** Immediately, the boy's father shouted, 'Oh! I believe! Help me to believe more!'

**v25** Jesus saw that a crowd was running together again. So he told the bad \*spirit that it must leave the boy. Jesus said to it, '\*Spirit, I am telling you that you must leave this boy. He cannot hear or speak because of you. But you must come out of him and you must never go into him again.'

**v26** The \*spirit caused the boy to scream. It caused him to fall several times. Then it came out of him. The boy seemed to be dead. So, many people said, 'He is dead.' **v27** But Jesus held the boy's hand and he helped the boy to stand up. So the boy stood up.

**v28** When Jesus went into a house, the \*disciples were alone with him. Then they asked him, 'Why could we not cause the bad \*spirit to leave the boy?'

**v29** 'You must pray. No other thing can cause this kind of \*spirit to go out of a person', said Jesus.

**v30** Jesus and his \*disciples left that place. They passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where he was. **v31** That was because he was teaching his \*disciples. He told them, 'Soon, someone will deliver the \*Son of Man to a group of men who will take him away. And they will kill him. And three days after that, he will become alive again.' **v32** The \*disciples did not understand what Jesus meant. And they were afraid to ask him.

## Jesus explains who will be the most important person

**v33** Jesus and his \*disciples arrived at Capernaum. When they were in the house, Jesus asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' **v34** But they did not say anything. They did not want to tell Jesus why they were arguing. On the way, they had argued about who was the most important \*disciple.

**v35** Jesus sat down. He asked the 12 \*disciples to come. Then he said to them, 'If you want to be the leader, make yourself less important than everyone else. Become the servant of everyone.'

**v36** Then he took a child. He put that child in the middle of the \*disciples. While Jesus hugged the child, he said to them, **v37** 'If someone accepts this child because of me, then he accepts me. If he accepts me, then he is not only accepting me. He is also accepting God, who sent me.'

Jesus loved children. And he showed his \*disciples that a child is important to God. We should also love people who do not seem important.

**v38** 'Teacher', John said to Jesus, 'we saw a man who is not in our group. He was causing bad \*spirits to go out of people. And he was using your authority to do it. He is not in our group. So we told him that he must not do it.'

**v39** 'Do not tell him that', Jesus said. 'That man is using my authority to do something powerful. Someone who does that cannot soon say anything bad about me. **v40** If someone is not against us, he is helping us. **v41** Somebody may give you a cup of water because you are a servant of the \*Messiah. God will be good to that person; he will not disappoint that person. What I am saying is true.

**v42** A person who believes may not seem important. But you should never cause that person to do wrong things. It would be better if someone put a big stone round your neck. It would be better if someone then threw you into the sea!

**v43-44** If your hand causes you to do wrong things, you should cut it off. A person with only one hand can go to the place where God rules. That is better than to go to the place called \*hell. There, the fire always burns. **v45-46** If your foot causes you to do wrong things, you should cut it off. A person with only one foot can go to the place where God rules. That is better than to go to the place called \*hell. **v47** If your eye causes you to do wrong things, then you should take it out. A person with only one eye can go to the place where God rules. That is better than to go to the place called \*hell.

**v48** "In \*hell, the \*worms do not die,  
and the fire never goes out." '

Isaiah wrote the words that are in verse 48. We can read them in Isaiah 66:24. These \*worms live in dead bodies.

Some old bibles have the same words in verse 44 and in verse 46.

Jesus does not want his \*disciples to cut their bodies. It is very important for them not to do wrong things. That is what Jesus is telling them.

**v49** 'God will put fire on everybody as people put salt on food.'

The fire will show what is good in everyone's lives.

**v50** 'Salt is good. But it must be salty. If your salt is not salty, you cannot make it salty. Be like good salt and love each other. Do not cause trouble among yourselves.'

## Chapter 10

### Jesus teaches about men who send their wives away

**v1** Then Jesus left that place and he went to Judea. And he went to the east of the river Jordan. Large crowds came to him again. So he taught them as he had done before.

**v2** Some \*Pharisees came to Jesus. They wanted to see how Jesus would answer their question. They asked, 'Can a man send his wife away, so that she is no longer his wife?'

**v3** Jesus answered them with a question. 'What rules did Moses write about this for you?'

God told the rules to Moses and Moses wrote them down. That happened many centuries before Jesus came to earth.

**v4** The \*Pharisees said, 'Moses said that a man could write a letter for his wife. The letter shows that the man and the woman are now separate. Then the man can send the woman away.'

**v5** 'You did not want to obey God. That is why Moses made this rule for you', Jesus said to them.

**v6** 'But at the start of the world, God made people male and female. **v7** This is the reason that a man leaves his father and his mother. Then God joins him and his wife together. **v8** Then the man and his wife become as one person. They are not separate; they are together as one person. **v9** God has put them together to be husband and wife. So nobody should make them separate.'

Jesus was telling them about things that are in Genesis 2:24.

**v10** When Jesus went into the house, the \*disciples asked him about these things again. **v11** So Jesus said to them, 'A man must not send his wife away and marry another woman. That is against God's rules. The man must not have sex with that other woman. **v12** And a woman must not leave her husband and marry another man. That is also against God's rules. The woman must not have sex with the other man.'

## Jesus prays for some children

**v13** People were bringing children to Jesus. They wanted him to put his hand on each child's head while he prayed for that child. The \*disciples told the people that they should not bring their children. **v14** But when Jesus saw this, he was angry. 'Do not stop the children', Jesus said to them. 'Let them come to me. People must be like these children so that God can rule their lives. **v15** What I say is true. A person must be like a child when that person asks God to rule his life. If he does not become like a child, God will not rule his life.' **v16** And Jesus hugged the children. Then he put his hands on each of them and he prayed for them.

## Jesus meets a rich man

**v17** While Jesus went on his way, a man ran to meet him. He went down on his knees in front of Jesus. 'Good Teacher', he said to Jesus, 'what must I do so that I can live always?'

**v18** 'I would like to know why you are calling me good', Jesus said to him. 'Only God is good. **v19** And you know God's rules.

"Do not kill anyone.

Do not have sex with a woman who is not your wife.

Do not rob anyone.

Do not say things that are not true.

Do not take things that are not yours.

Love and obey your father and your mother." '

**v20** 'Teacher', the man replied, 'I have done all these things since I was a young boy.'

**v21** Jesus looked at the man and Jesus loved him. 'There is still something else that you must do', Jesus said to him. 'Go. You must sell everything that you have. Give the money to poor people. Then you will have valuable things in God's home called heaven. And come to me. Be my \*disciple.'

**v22** When the man heard that, he was sad. Because he was a very rich man, he went away sadly.

**v23** Jesus looked round and he said to his \*disciples, 'It is very difficult for rich people to let God rule their lives.'

**v24** They were very surprised about Jesus' words. Then Jesus spoke again to them. 'Young people, it is very difficult for anyone to let God rule his life or her life. **v25** The hole in a \*needle is very small. The big animal called the camel cannot go through it. But it is even more difficult than that for a rich person to let God rule his life or her life.'

**v26** When his \*disciples heard Jesus, they were even more surprised. And they said to each other, 'So perhaps God will not save anyone!'

**v27** Jesus looked at them and he replied, 'It is impossible for people to do this. But God can do it. God can do everything.'

**v28** 'Look!' Peter said to Jesus. 'We left everything to become your \*disciples.'

**v29** Jesus said, 'What I say is true. Some people have left their house. Or they have left their brothers or sisters. Or they have left their mother or their father. Or they have left their children or their fields. They have done that because of me. And they have done it because of God's good news. **v30** But God will give those people many things instead. He will give them 100 things now, in this world, for each thing that they have left. They will receive houses and brothers and sisters. They will receive mothers and children and fields. But in this world, people will be against them. In the future world, they will live always. **v31** But many people who are very important now will not be important then. And people who are not important now will be very important then.'

## Jesus talks again about his death

**v32** Jesus and his \*disciples were walking along the road towards Jerusalem. Jesus was walking in front of them all, and the \*disciples were very surprised. The people who were following behind them were afraid. Jesus asked his 12 \*disciples to come close to him again. And he began to tell them what would happen to him soon. **v33** 'Look!' he said to them. 'We are going to Jerusalem. There, someone will deliver the \*Son of Man to the important \*priests and to the teachers of God's rules. These men will decide that he must die. Then they will deliver him to people who are not \*Jews. **v34** They will \*laugh at him. They will \*spit on him. They will hit him with sticks. Then they will kill him. After three days, he will become alive again.'

## James and John ask Jesus to do something for them

**v35** James and John, who were Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus. 'Teacher', they said, 'we want to ask for something. Please do it for us.'

**v36** 'What do you want me to do?' Jesus asked them.

**v37** They said to him, 'When you are king, we want to sit on your right side and on your left side.'

**v38** 'You do not understand what you are asking for', he said to them. 'People will cause troubles for me that are like a cup of very bad \*wine. Can you drink it too? They will be as bad as deep water that will cover me up to and over my head. Can you go to that place too?'

**v39** 'Yes, we can do all that', said James and John. Jesus said to them, 'Your troubles will be like mine. They will be like a cup of bad \*wine that you must drink. They will be as bad as water that will cover you up to and over your head. **v40** But I cannot give you the seats on my right side or on my left side. God has chosen who will sit there. He has prepared those seats for them.'

**v41** When the other 10 \*disciples knew about this, they were angry with James and John. **v42** But Jesus asked the \*disciples to come. Jesus said, 'You know the things that rulers do. They think that they rule over countries. So they do the things that masters do. And important people use their authority over people. **v43** But you should not be like that. The person who wants to be great among you must be your servant. **v44** Anyone who wants to be the most important person must work for you all. **v45** Even the \*Son of Man came to earth to be a servant. He did not come here to have servants who must work for him. He came to die so that many people can be free.'

## Jesus causes a \*blind man to see

**v46** Then Jesus and his \*disciples arrived in Jericho. When they were leaving the city again, a large crowd followed them. A \*blind man called Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the road. He was asking people to give him money. He was the son of Timaeus.

Bartimaeus was blind (he could not see). So he could not work. So he asked people to give him money. He needed that money to buy food.

**v47** Somebody told Bartimaeus that Jesus from Nazareth was walking past him. So he began to shout. He said, 'Jesus, you are the Son of David. Please be kind to me!'

**v48** Many people told Bartimaeus that he should be quiet. But he shouted even louder than before, 'Jesus, Son of David, please be kind to me!'

'Son of David' is a name for the special person that God sent to save the people. It is another name for the \*Messiah. David was the king of Israel many centuries before this.

**v49** Jesus stopped walking and he said to the people, 'Ask the man to come here.' So the people said to the \*blind man, 'Be brave. Stand up. Jesus is asking you to go to him.' **v50** So Bartimaeus threw away his coat. He jumped up and he came to Jesus.

**v51** Because of this, Jesus said to Bartimaeus, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

The \*blind man said to Jesus, 'Teacher, I want to see.'

**v52** 'Go', Jesus said to him. 'You are well because you believed.' Immediately, Bartimaeus could see and he followed Jesus along the road.

## Chapter 11

### Jesus rides into Jerusalem city

**v1** Jesus and his \*disciples were coming near to Jerusalem. They were almost at the villages called Bethphage and Bethany. They were on the hill called the \*Mount of \*Olives. Then Jesus sent two of his \*disciples.

Bethphage and Bethany were on the east side of the hill called the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is on the east side of Jerusalem. It is called this because many olive trees grow on it. An olive is a small fruit.

**v2** 'Go to the village that is in front of you', Jesus said to the two \*disciples. 'When you arrive at the village, you will immediately find a young \*donkey. Someone has tied it there. Nobody has ever yet ridden on it. Undo the \*rope and bring the \*donkey here. **v3** Someone may ask you, "Why are you doing this?" Say to him, "The Master needs the \*donkey. He will send it back here soon."'

A donkey is like a small horse.

**v4** So the two \*disciples went. They found the young \*donkey in the street. Someone had tied it outside, by a door. So the \*disciples undid the \*rope. **v5** Some people were standing there. They said to the two \*disciples, 'What are you doing? Why are you undoing the \*donkey's \*rope?' **v6** The \*disciples answered them. They repeated what Jesus had asked them to say. The people then let them take the \*donkey away. **v7** The two \*disciples brought the young \*donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on the back of the animal. Then Jesus sat on it. **v8** Many people put their coats down on the road. Other people put down branches. They had cut those branches from the trees.

The people did this so that the \*donkey would walk on the coats and branches. People did this when a king or a great leader came.

**v9** Many people went in front of Jesus, and other people followed him. All of them were shouting,

'We ask you to save us!

Great is the king who comes on behalf of the \*Lord!

**v10** Great will be the future government of our great King David!

We ask you to save us powerfully!

**v11** Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. He went to \*God's Great House and he looked at everything there. It was late in the day, so he went out of the city to Bethany. And the 12 \*disciples went with him.

## **A tree without fruit**

**v12** On the next day, they returned from Bethany. And Jesus was hungry. **v13** He saw a \*fig tree, which was a long way away. There were leaves on it. So he went to see if it had fruit on it. When he reached it, he found nothing except leaves. That was because it was not the right season for fruit. **v14** So Jesus said to the tree, 'Nobody will ever eat fruit from you again.' And his \*disciples heard this.

## **Jesus goes to \*God's Great House**

**v15** When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to \*God's Great House. People were buying and selling things there. He caused them all to leave. Some people were supplying money there. He pushed over their tables. And he pushed over the seats of the men who sold birds.

Only \*priests went into \*God's Great House. Other people could go into the yards that were round it. There was a market in one of the yards. People could buy money and animals there. People had to use special money at \*God's Great House.

**v16** Jesus would not let anyone carry things through there. **v17** While he was teaching the people, Jesus said, 'The Bible says:

"My house will be a place where people from all countries pray.

But you have made it a place where robbers hide." '

**v18** The important \*priests and the teachers of God's rules heard this. And they thought about how they could kill him. They were afraid of him. That was because all the crowd were listening to him. And the things that he taught caused the crowd to be very surprised.

**v19** When it was evening, Jesus and his \*disciples went out of the city.

## **The \*fig tree is dead**

**v20** The next morning, Jesus and his \*disciples passed the \*fig tree. They saw that it was completely dead. **v21** Peter remembered what Jesus had said. So he said to Jesus, 'Teacher, look at that \*fig tree. You said that it should die. And it has died.'

**v22** So Jesus said to them, 'You must believe God. **v23** What I say is true. A person could say to this mountain, "Move and throw yourself into the sea." He must not let other ideas come into his mind. He must believe that those things will happen. If he does believe it, those things will happen.

**v24** So I tell you this. When you pray to ask God for anything, believe. Believe that you have received that thing. If you do, you will have it. **v25-26** When you stand to pray, \*forgive other people. If you have anything against anyone, forgive that person. If you do forgive them, your Father God, in his home called heaven, will forgive you. He will forgive you for the bad things that you have done.'

## **Jesus talks about his authority**

**v27** Jesus and his \*disciples arrived again in Jerusalem. Jesus was walking about at \*God's Great House. The important \*priests, the teachers of God's rules and the important \*Jews came to Jesus.

**v28** 'What authority do you have to do these things?' they asked him. 'Who gave you the authority to do these things?'

**v29** 'I will ask you one question', Jesus replied. 'You should answer me. If you do that, I will answer you. And I will tell you what authority I have to do these things. **v30** John \*baptised people. Was his authority from God, or was it from men? Tell me the answer.'



**v31** Then the \*Jewish leaders talked with each other. They said, 'We could say that God gave John his authority. But, if we say that, Jesus will say to us, "You should have believed him." **v32** We do not want to say that men gave John his authority.' They did not want to say it because they were afraid of the crowd. All the people believed that John really was a special servant of God.

**v33** So the \*Jewish leaders answered Jesus and they said, 'We do not know who gave John his authority.'

And Jesus said to them, 'You will not tell me. So I will not tell you what authority I have to do these things.'

## Chapter 12

### Jesus tells a story about a garden

**v1** Then Jesus began to speak to the important \*Jews again. He told them stories. He said, 'There was a man who made a garden. He planted \*vines there and he planted strong bushes round them. He prepared a place where he could make the \*grapes into \*wine. He also made a tall building. Then the man found some men who would work for him. And he went away to another country.

From a tall building, someone could watch for any animals or bad people who were coming to the garden.

**v2** When it was time to cut the \*grapes, the man sent a servant to the workers. The man wanted the workers to give him some fruit from the garden. **v3** But the workers took the servant and they hit him with sticks. They sent him away with nothing. **v4** So the man sent another servant to the workers. They hit this servant on the head. And they did other bad things to him. **v5** The man then sent another servant, but the farmers killed this servant. He sent many other servants. The workers hit some servants with sticks. And the workers killed some servants.

**v6** The man had only one person that he could still send. This was his own son, and the man loved him very much. So, last of all, he sent his son to the workers. That was because he said, "The workers know that my son is important."

**v7** But those workers said to each other, "This son will receive the garden from his father. We should kill the son and then the garden will be ours." **v8** The workers took the son and they killed him. Then they threw his dead body out of the garden.'

**v9** 'I will tell you what the master of the garden will do', said Jesus. 'He will come and he will kill the workers. He will give the garden to other people.'

In this story, the master of the garden was like God. The garden was like Israel, and the workers were like the leaders in Israel. The servants that the master sent to the field were like the \*prophets. The master's son was like Jesus.

The workers were cruel to the man's servants because the workers did not want to obey the man. They killed his son for the same reason. They are like people who do not want to obey God. God may give them many chances to change their minds. But if they do not obey God, he will certainly \*punish them in the end.

**v10** 'I am sure that you have read these words in the Bible:

"The builders did not want to use a certain stone.

But that stone became the most important stone at the corner.

**v11** The \*Lord God did this.

And we can see that he did something great." '

The words are from Psalm 118:22, 23. The stone is like Jesus. The leaders did not think that he was important. But God decided that Jesus was important. In the end, he will rule over everybody and over everything.

**v12** The leaders wanted to put Jesus in a prison. They knew that he had told this story about them. But they were afraid of the crowd. So, they left him and they went away.

### **The \*Pharisees ask about the money that \*Caesar demanded**

**v13** Then the leaders sent some \*Pharisees to Jesus. They also sent some men who wanted to obey King Herod. They tried to use Jesus' words to cause trouble for him. **v14** These men came to Jesus. 'Teacher', they said, 'we know that you only say true things. It does not matter to you what other people think. You do not change your answers if someone is important. You really do teach us what God wants us to do. So should we pay money to \*Caesar (the \*Roman ruler), or should we not? **v15** Should we give that money, or not?'

Jesus knew that those men were not honest. So he said, 'You should not ask that question to cause trouble for me. Bring me a coin. I want to see it.' **v16** So they brought it. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose picture is on this coin? Whose name is on it?'

They replied, 'It is \*Caesar's picture, and \*Caesar's name.'

**v17** So Jesus said to them, 'So give to \*Caesar the things that are his. And give to God the things that are God's.'

They were very surprised.

### **The \*Sadducees ask Jesus a question**

**v18** Also, some \*Sadducees came to Jesus. Sadducees do not believe that anyone can become alive again after death. They asked Jesus about this.

The *Sadducees were a group of *Jewish leaders. They taught that death was the end.
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**v19** 'Teacher', they said to Jesus, 'Moses wrote these things for us in our rules. If a man dies without children, his brother must marry the man's wife. And then their children will be called the children of the brother who died. **v20** At one time, there were 7 brothers. The oldest brother married a woman. But he died without children. **v21** So the second brother married her. He also died without children. Then the third brother married this woman. **v22** And the same thing happened to all 7 brothers. They had no children. After this, the woman also died. **v23** You teach that at some time dead people will live again. On that day, whose wife will that woman be? She married all 7 brothers.'

**v24** 'You are very wrong', Jesus said to the \*Sadducees. 'This is because you do not know the Bible. And you do not know how powerful God is. **v25** At some time, people who have died will become alive again. But then men and women will not marry. They will not have husbands or wives. Instead, they will be like the \*angels in God's home. **v26** But God does make dead people alive again. You should have read what Moses wrote. See the chapter about the bush. There, God spoke to Moses and God said, "I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob." **v27** God is not the God of people who are dead. He is the God of people who are alive. So you are very wrong.'

Verse 26: We can read about this event in Exodus, chapter 3.
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### **Jesus teaches people about the most important rule**

**v28** One of the teachers of God's rules came near. He heard Jesus' conversations with the leaders. The teacher knew that Jesus had answered them well. So the teacher asked Jesus, 'Which rule is the most important among God's rules?'

**v29** 'This rule is the most important rule', replied Jesus. 'Listen, everyone from \*Israel's \*families. The \*Lord, our God, is the only \*Lord. **v30** And you must love the \*Lord, your God. Love him with all your mind. Love him with all your life. Love him with all your thoughts. Love him with all that you do. **v31** The second most important rule is this: You must love other people as much as you love yourself. No other rules are as important as these two.'

**v32** The teacher of God's rules said to Jesus, 'Teacher, you answered well. You are right to say that the \*Lord is the only God. And there is no other God except him. **v33** We must love him with all our mind. We must love him with all that we learn. We must love him with all that we do. We must also love other people as much as we love ourselves. This is more important than all the gifts or animals that we offer to God.'

**v34** Jesus heard that the man had answered well. So Jesus said to him, 'You are almost ready for God to rule your life.' After that, everybody was afraid to ask Jesus any more questions.

## **Jesus teaches the people about the \*Messiah**

**v35** Jesus was teaching the people at \*God's Great House. He said, 'The teachers of God's rules talk about the \*Messiah. And they say that he is King David's son. Think about this. **v36** The \*Holy Spirit helped David himself to write:

"The \*Lord said to my \*Lord:

Sit at my right side until I win completely against your enemies.

You will even be able to put your feet on them."

**v37** David himself calls the \*Messiah "\*Lord". So we should not say that the \*Messiah is only David's son.'

The large crowd liked to listen to the things that Jesus was saying.

The \*Messiah was a special person that the \*Jews were waiting for. They believed that God would send him to help them.

Jesus explained a very important fact to the teachers of God's rules. Jesus is a man but he is also God. In verse 36, the first time that David says "\*Lord" he is talking about God. The second time that he says "\*Lord" he is talking about Jesus, the \*Messiah.

**v38** While Jesus was teaching the people, he said, 'Be careful about the teachers of God's rules. They want people to think that they are important. So they walk about in long clothes. They like it if people recognise them in the market place. **v39** They want the best seats in the meeting places. They choose the most important places at special meals. **v40** These men take everything away from women after their husbands have died, even their houses. Then they pray for a long time so that other people will hear them. God will \*punish those men very much because of these things.'

## **Jesus talks about people who give to God**

**v41** The crowd were giving their gifts for \*God's Great House. They threw their coins into a box. Jesus sat near the box and he watched them. Many rich people put a lot of money into the box. **v42** But then a woman came. Her husband had died and she was poor. She put in two coins that had very small value.

**v43** Jesus asked his \*disciples to come to him. 'What I say is true', he said to them. 'This poor woman has put a better gift into the box than all the other people have put in. **v44** All those rich people only put a part of their money into the box. And they have plenty of money. This woman has nothing. But she put in all the money that she had. She has put in all the money that she needs to live.'

# **Chapter 13**

## **Jesus talks about future events**

**v1** Then Jesus left \*God's Great House. While he was leaving, one of his \*disciples said to him, 'Teacher, look at the large stones that are in the walls of God's House. The buildings are very strong!'

**v2** Jesus said to him, 'Look at all these large buildings! Enemies will completely destroy them. They will throw down every stone that is on top of another stone.'

**v3** After that, Jesus was sitting on the hill called the \*Mount of \*Olives. He could look across at \*God's Great House. Peter, James, John and Andrew went together to talk with him. The crowd was not there. **v4** 'Please tell us when these things will happen', they said. 'What will we see just before all these things happen?'

**v5** Jesus began to say to them, 'Be careful! Some people will tell you things that are not true. Do not believe those people. **v6** Many people will say that they have come on my behalf. They will say, "I am here!" Many people will believe their false words. **v7** People will tell you about wars. And there will be reports about wars. Do not be afraid. Those things must happen, but that is not yet the end. **v8** People in one country will attack the people in another country. Kings and their armies will fight against other kings and their armies. The ground will move in many different places. Some people will be without food. These things are like the first pains before a baby is born.

**v9** So, be careful! People will take you to their rulers. People will hit you in the meeting places. People will bring you to stand in front of kings and in front of rulers. You will be there on my behalf. And you will tell them about me. **v10** And you must first tell the good news to people in every country. **v11** People will take you away and they will bring you to their leaders. But do not be afraid about the words that you should say. You should say the words that God puts into your mind at that time. You will not be speaking your own words. Those words will come into your mind from the \*Holy Spirit.

**v12** A man will send his own brother to die. A father will send his own child to die. Children will be against their parents and they will ask rulers to kill their parents. **v13** All people will be cruel to you because you are mine. But God will save the person who waits patiently until the end.

**v14** There will be a time when you will see a very bad thing. It is the very bad thing that destroys. It will stand where it should not be. (When you read this, you must understand it.) When you see this thing, people in Judea must run to the hills to hide. **v15** A person who is on his roof must not go down into his house. He must not stop to get anything from his home. **v16** A person who is in a field must not go back to his home. He must not return to pick up his coat.

In verse 14, Jesus was talking about something that people would make. They would not pray to God but they would pray to it instead.

Verse 15: At that time, people often sat on the roof of their house after they had finished their work. The roof was flat, and it was cool there. There were steps outside the house up to the roof.

**v17** That time will be bad for women who are hoping to have a baby soon. And that time will be bad for those women who are trying to give milk to their babies. **v18** You must pray to God that these troubles will not happen in winter. **v19** Very bad troubles will happen to people. Nothing as bad as those troubles has ever happened since God made the world. Nothing as bad as those troubles will ever happen again after that time. **v20** The \*Lord God will cause those days of very bad trouble to be less. If he did not do that, there would be nobody still alive. But God will cause those days to be less. He will do that to help the people that he has chosen. **v21** Someone may say to you then, "Look, here is the \*Messiah!" Or they may say, "Look, he is there!" Do not believe them. **v22** Some people will say to you, "I am the \*Messiah." Other people will say, "I am a special \*messenger from God." But their words are false. They will do powerful things. Those things will surprise everyone very much. If possible, they would even cause the people that God has chosen to believe them. **v23** So be careful! I have told you about all these things before they happen.

## **The time when the \*Son of Man returns**

**v24** Then, after all these bad things have happened, the sun will become dark. And the moon will not shine. **v25** Stars will fall out of the sky. And the powerful things in the sky will leave their usual places.

**v26** Then people will see the \*Son of Man. He will come in the clouds. He will be very powerful and very beautiful. **v27** Then he will send the \*angels. And they will bring together all the people that God has chosen. The \*angels will bring them from every direction. And God's people will come from every part of God's home and from every part of earth.

## A lesson about the \*fig tree

**v28** Here is a lesson about the \*fig tree. When the new branches on the tree start to grow, the leaves appear. Then you know that the summer will begin soon. **v29** So you will see that these things are happening. And then you will know that the \*Son of Man will come soon. He will be like someone at the door who is ready to come in. **v30** What I say to you is true. The people who are alive will not all die first. Some of them will not die until all these things have happened. **v31** The earth and the sky will have an end. But my words will never have an end.

## Nobody knows when the \*Son of Man will return to the world

**v32** Nobody knows the day or the hour when all these things will happen. Even the \*angels who are in God's home do not know. Even the Son does not know. Only God the Father knows when they will happen. **v33** Watch carefully! You do not know when all these things will happen. So keep yourselves ready. **v34** It is like when a master begins a journey. Before he leaves his house, he gives authority to his servants. He tells each servant about the work that he should do. Then he tells the servant at the door to be ready for his master's return.

**v35** And you do not know when the master of the house will return. So keep yourselves ready and watch carefully. He might arrive in the evening, or in the middle of the night. Or he might arrive early in the morning, or just before the sun rises. **v36** He may surprise you and he may find you asleep. **v37** I am saying this to you. And I am also saying this to everyone else. Keep yourselves ready!

## Chapter 14

### The important \*priests and the teachers of God's rules want to kill Jesus

**v1** It was now two days before the \*Passover and the days when the \*Jews eat flat bread. The important \*priests and the teachers of God's rules wanted to kill Jesus. But they wanted to take him away secretly. So they tried to decide how they could do that. **v2** 'We do not want to do it during the \*Passover', they said to each other. 'The people will be angry. And they may fight against us if we do that.'

### A woman pours expensive oil on Jesus' head

**v3** While Jesus was in Bethany, he went to Simon's house. People called that man, 'Simon with the illness in his skin'. While Jesus was eating a meal, a woman came into the house. She brought a small stone jar that contained expensive oil with a lovely smell. The person who made that oil had used only one plant. It was the plant called nard. The woman broke the jar to open it. And then she poured the oil over Jesus' head.

Nard is a plant that people use to make expensive oil. The plant grows in the country called India. People kept the oil in a special stone jar. The woman had to break the jar so that she could pour out the oil.

**v4** But some people became angry. 'This woman should not have wasted the oil', they said to each other. **v5** 'She should have sold it and she should have given the money to poor people. She could have sold it for more than 300 coins. A man would have to work for a year to get that much money.' So, they spoke angrily to the woman.

**v6** But Jesus said, 'Do not speak to her like that! Do not cause trouble for her. She has done a good thing to me. **v7** You will always have poor people with you. You can help them at any time that you want. But you will not always have me with you. **v8** She did what she was able to do. She poured oil over my body to prepare it. So now, my body is ready for people to bury me. **v9** What I say to you is true. Everywhere, people will tell other people about God's good news. At the same time, they will also tell those people about the thing that this woman did. And so they will remember her.'

## Judas agrees to help the important \*priests

**v10** Then Judas Iscariot went to the important \*priests. He said that he would help them to catch Jesus. (Judas was one of the 12 \*disciples.) **v11** The important \*priests were very happy about this. And they promised to give him money. Then Judas watched for the right moment for him to give Jesus to them.

## Jesus eats his last meal with his 12 \*disciples

**v12** It was now the first day of the whole week when the \*Jews eat flat bread. On this day, each family would kill a young sheep for the \*Passover meal. Jesus' \*disciples said to him, 'We will go to prepare the \*Passover meal for you. Where do you want us to do that?'

**v13** So Jesus sent two \*disciples. 'Go into the city', he said to them. 'A man, who is carrying a jar of water, will meet you. Follow him. **v14** He will go to a house. And you must say to the master of that house, "The Teacher sends this message to you: 'Where is the room for visitors where I can eat the \*Passover meal with my \*disciples?' " **v15** Then the man will show you a large room upstairs. The room will have in it all the things that you will need. You should prepare the \*Passover meal for us there.'

**v16** Then the two \*disciples left and they went into the city. They found everything as Jesus had told them. So, they prepared the \*Passover meal there.

**v17** When it was evening, Jesus arrived with the 12 \*disciples. **v18** While they were eating the meal, Jesus said, 'What I say to you is true. One of you will help the \*Jewish rulers to take me away. It is someone who is eating this meal with me.'

**v19** The \*disciples became very sad. Each one of them said to Jesus, 'I hope that you do not mean me!'

**v20** 'It is one of the 12 \*disciples. That man is putting his bread into the same dish as I am', Jesus said to them.

There was a dish on the table with some food in it. They all put their bread into this dish and they ate the food with the bread.

**v21** 'The \*Son of Man must go, as the Bible says', Jesus said. 'But it will be very bad for that man who helps to lead the \*Son of Man away. It would have been a better thing for that man if he had never been born.'

## The \*Passover meal

**v22** While Jesus and his \*disciples were eating, he took a loaf. He thanked God for it. Then he broke the bread and he gave the pieces to them. 'Take this bread and eat it', he said to them. 'This is my body.'

**v23** Then Jesus took a cup. He thanked God. Then he gave the cup to them and they all drank from it.

**v24** 'This is my blood', he said to them. 'It shows that there is a promise from God. When I die, my blood will leave my body. And so God will save many people. **v25** What I say is true. I will not drink \*wine again until God begins to rule his people. And then I will drink the new \*wine.'

**v26** Then Jesus and his \*disciples sang a song to God. Then they went out. They went to the hill that people call the \*Mount of \*Olives.

Judas was not still with the other \*disciples. He left earlier. See John 13:29-30.

## Jesus tells the \*disciples what will happen

**v27** Then Jesus said to them, 'Tonight's events will cause you all to do wrong things. The Bible says:

"I will kill the man who leads the sheep.

And the sheep will run away in different directions.”

**v28** But I will become alive again. Then I will go before you to Galilee.’

Verse 27: See Zechariah 13:7.

**v29** Peter said to Jesus, ‘Even if everyone else does wrong things, I will not leave you.’

**v30** ‘What I say to you is true’, Jesus replied to Peter. ‘Tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me. You will do it before the \*cockerel makes its noise for the second time.’

**v31** But Peter answered Jesus strongly, ‘If necessary, I will die with you. But I will never tell anyone that I do not know you.’ All the other \*disciples said the same thing.

## Jesus prays in the garden called Gethsemane

**v32** Then they arrived at a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus said to his \*disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ **v33** Then Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. He started to feel that troubles were filling his mind. **v34** ‘I am very sad. I could die because I feel so sad. Wait here and keep awake’, Jesus said to them.

**v35** Jesus went a short way in front of them. He went down on the ground. He prayed that, if possible, God would save him from the events of that time. **v36** He said, ‘Abba, (my Father), you can do anything. Please take this pain away from me. But I do not ask you to do what I want. I choose what you want.’

**v37** Jesus returned and he found Peter, James and John. They were sleeping. He said to Peter, ‘Simon, you are asleep! You could not keep awake for even one hour! **v38** You must keep awake and you must pray. If you do not do that, you might do the wrong thing. You really want to do the right thing, but it is too difficult for you.’

**v39** Jesus went away again and he prayed again. He said the same words to God. **v40** Jesus returned again to Peter, James and John. He saw that they were sleeping. They could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.

**v41** When Jesus returned the third time, he said to them, ‘You should not be sleeping and resting. You have slept enough. This is the hour. Look! See the man who is helping bad men to take the \*Son of Man away. **v42** Stand up; we are going. Look! Here is the man who will help them to take me away.’

## Judas leads the men who will take Jesus away

**v43** Jesus was still speaking when, immediately, Judas arrived. He was one of Jesus’ 12 \*disciples. A crowd came with him. They were carrying long sharp knives and heavy sticks. The important \*priests, the teachers of God’s rules and the leaders had sent these men.

**v44** Before this, Judas had said to these men, ‘I will kiss one of the men. That is the man that you must take away. Lead him away and do not let him go.’ **v45** When they arrived, Judas went immediately to Jesus. ‘Teacher’, he said to Jesus. Then he kissed Jesus in a friendly way. **v46** So the men took hold of Jesus. **v47** But a certain man who was standing there took his long sharp knife. And he used it against the servant of the most important \*priest. He cut off the servant’s ear.

**v48** Then Jesus spoke to the crowd. ‘You have come with long sharp knives and with heavy sticks to take me away’, he said. ‘That is how you would take a robber away. But you know that I am not a robber. **v49** I was with you every day at \*God’s Great House when I was teaching the people. You did not take me away then. But the things that are in the Bible must happen.’ **v50** Then all Jesus’ \*disciples left him and they ran away.

**v51** A certain young man was following Jesus. He was only wearing one piece of cloth over his whole body. The men tried to take hold of this young man. **v52** But the young man left the piece of cloth behind, and he ran away. When he ran away, he was not wearing anything.

We think that this young man was called Mark. Mark wrote this book.

## The most important \*priest asks Jesus questions

**v53** The men took Jesus to the most important \*priest. All the important \*priests met, with the leaders and with the teachers of God's rules.

The most important \*priest was called Caiaphas. When all these important \*Jews met together, they were called the Sanhedrin. They decided together about how to rule the people. There were 71 men in the Sanhedrin. The most important \*priest ruled the meeting. The Sanhedrin had a lot of power, but they could not decide to kill a bad person. Only the \*Roman rulers could decide that.

**v54** Peter followed Jesus. But he did not go near Jesus. So Peter went into the yard outside the house of the most important \*priest. He sat down with the \*guards. Peter kept himself warm by the fire.

**v55** The important \*priests and everyone at the meeting wanted Jesus to die. So they tried to find some men who could say things against Jesus. But they did not find anyone who could help them.

**v56** Many people said things about Jesus. But they were saying things that were not true. And they did not agree with each other.

In \*Jewish rules, two or more people had to say the same thing about a person. Then the \*judge would believe that their words were true. He would agree that the person had done something wrong.

**v57** Then some men stood up and they said something else about Jesus. But their words were also not true. **v58** They said, 'We heard Jesus say, "I will destroy \*God's Great House, which men have built. In three days, I will build another House for God. It will not be men who build this new house."' **v59** Even then, these people who were speaking against Jesus did not say the same thing.

**v60** Then the most important \*priest stood up in the middle and he spoke to Jesus. 'You should reply now. These people have said that you have done many bad things. What do you say about this?' **v61** But Jesus did not reply. He did not say anything.

So again, the most important \*priest asked Jesus, 'Are you the \*Messiah? Are you the Son of God?'

**v62** 'I am', Jesus replied. 'And you will all see the \*Son of Man. He will be sitting at the right side of God, who is most powerful. And he will come with the clouds of God's home, which is called heaven.'

**v63** The most important \*priest tore his own clothes. 'We do not need anyone else to tell us about Jesus', he said. **v64** 'You have heard the bad words that he has spoken against God. What do you decide?'

Everyone agreed that Jesus should die.

Caiaphas tore his own clothes to show other people that he was very angry.

**v65** Then some of the men began to \*spit on Jesus. They covered his eyes and they hit him. They said, 'Speak God's words, if you can!' Then the \*guards slapped Jesus while they were taking him away.

## Peter says three times that he does not know Jesus

**v66** Peter was still outside in the yard. One of the young women who worked for the most important \*priest came. **v67** She saw Peter, who was making himself warm by the fire.

She looked at him and she said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.'

**v68** 'That is not true!' he replied. 'I do not know what you are talking about! I do not understand what you mean!' Then Peter walked to the gate of the house.

**v69** The young woman saw him, and again she began to say to the other people there, 'This man is one of the men who were with Jesus.' **v70** But Peter again said that it was not true.



After some time, the other people who were standing there said to Peter, 'You are from Galilee. So we are sure that you were with Jesus.'

They knew that he was from Galilee. They knew it because of the way that he spoke (Matthew 26:73).

**v71** Peter began to speak strongly to them. 'I do not know this man that you are talking about', he said. And Peter asked God to \*punish him if his words were not true. **v72** Immediately, the \*cockerel made its noise for a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: 'You will say three times that you do not know me. You will do it before the \*cockerel makes its noise for the second time.'

When Peter thought about this, he wept.

## Chapter 15

### Pilate asks Jesus questions

**v1** Immediately in the morning, all the important people had a meeting. The important \*priests met with the leaders, the teachers of God's rules, and the other important people. They tied Jesus and they led him away. They brought him to Pilate.

Pilate ruled Jerusalem on behalf of the \*Roman government.

**v2** Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the \*Jews?'

Jesus replied, 'Yes, it is as you say.'

**v3** Then the important \*priests said to Pilate that Jesus had done many bad things. **v4** So Pilate asked him again, 'What is your answer? You should say something! Listen! They are saying that you have done many bad things.'

**v5** Jesus still did not answer him. And Pilate was very surprised about that.

**v6** Each year during the \*Passover, Pilate let one person go out of the prison. The people had to ask him for the person that they wanted. **v7** A man called Barabbas was in the prison at that time. He and some other men had fought against the government. And they had killed someone when they were fighting. **v8** The crowd came to Pilate. And they asked Pilate to do what he usually did.

**v9** Pilate answered the people, 'Do you want me to make the king of the \*Jews free for you?' **v10** Pilate knew why the important \*priests had brought Jesus to him. The people seemed to like Jesus more than they liked the \*priests. And that had made the priests angry. **v11** But the important \*priests talked strongly to the people. They told the people that they should ask Pilate to make Barabbas free instead.

**v12** So Pilate again asked the crowd, 'So what should I do to Jesus? He is the man that you call "the king of the \*Jews".'

**v13** The people shouted again. They shouted, 'Kill him on a \*cross!'

**v14** 'Why should I kill him on a \*cross?' Pilate asked. 'What bad things has he done?'

But the people shouted even louder, 'Kill him on a \*cross!'

**v15** Pilate decided to do what the crowd wanted. So he made Barabbas free for them. He told his soldiers that they should take Jesus away. They should hit him many times with a \*whip. Then they should put him on a \*cross to die.

Pilate was afraid that the crowd would start to fight. So he did what they had asked him to do. He wanted them to be happy. People with authority used a \*whip to \*punish someone who had done something wrong. It had long narrow pieces of leather. And there were pieces of metal on the ends.

**v16** Then the soldiers took Jesus to the yard at the ruler's house. And they told all the soldiers in their group that they must come. **v17** Then they put a dark red coat on Jesus. They made a \*crown out of sharp branches, and they put it on his head.

A \*crown is usually a special hat that a king wears. But this \*crown was sharp and it was painful for Jesus to wear it. The dark red coat was also like the coat that a king wore. The soldiers did not believe that Jesus was really a king.

**v18** Then the soldiers began to shout to Jesus, 'Oh yes, King of the \*Jews!' **v19** The soldiers took a stick and they hit Jesus on the head with it. They \*spat on him. Then they went down on their knees in front of him. They told him how great he was. **v20** But they were \*laughing at him. Then they took off the dark red coat. They put Jesus' own clothes back on him. Then they led him towards the place where they would put him on the \*cross.

## The soldiers put Jesus on a \*cross

**v21** A man called Simon was walking past Jesus and the soldiers. He was coming in from outside the city. The soldiers told Simon that he must carry Jesus' \*cross. Simon was from the city called Cyrene. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. **v22** The soldiers brought Jesus to the place that was called Golgotha. (Golgotha means 'the place of a \*skull'.)

The skull is the bone inside the head. Golgotha was the place where the \*Roman soldiers killed robbers.

**v23** They gave Jesus some \*wine to drink. They had put some medicine called myrrh into the \*wine. But Jesus would not drink the \*wine. **v24** Then the soldiers put Jesus on the \*cross. They took his clothes for themselves. They played a game to decide which soldier would get each of his clothes.

**v25** It was 9 o'clock when the soldiers fixed Jesus to the \*cross. **v26** Above his head, they put a notice to say why they were \*punishing him. The notice said, 'The King of the \*Jews'. **v27** They also put two robbers on \*crosses with Jesus. One robber was on the right side of Jesus. And the other robber was on his left side. **v28** [The Bible says that this would happen. And it did happen. The Bible says, 'People included him with people who did not obey God's rules.']

You can read this in Isaiah 53:12.

Verse 28 is not in many old copies of Mark's book.

**v29** The people who walked by moved their heads from one side to the other side. And they said bad things to Jesus. They said to him, 'Oh! You said that you would destroy \*God's Great House. And you said that in three days you would build it again. **v30** If you can really do that, save yourself. Come down from the \*cross!'

**v31** The important \*priests and the teachers of God's rules \*laughed about him to each other. 'This man saved other people. But he cannot save himself. **v32** If he is the \*Messiah, the king of Israel, he should come down from the \*cross now. We would see it and then we would believe.' The two men who were on the \*crosses next to Jesus also said bad things to him.

## Jesus dies

**v33** At midday, the whole country became dark. It continued to be dark until 3 o'clock. **v34** At 3 o'clock, Jesus shouted loudly, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani.' That means, 'My God, my God, I want to know why you have left me alone!'

**v35** Some people were standing near his \*cross and they heard him. They said, 'Look! He is asking Elijah to come.'

**v36** One man ran to get a soft cloth. He poured bad \*wine on it. And he put it on the end of a stick. Then he lifted it up to Jesus so that he could drink the \*wine from it. 'Wait!' he said. 'We will see if Elijah comes to take Jesus down from the \*cross.'

**v37** Then Jesus shouted loudly again and after that, he died.

**v38** And someone or something tore the curtain inside \*God's Great House completely into two parts from the top down.

The curtain was in front of the special room inside \*God's Great House. God tore it from the top down. The curtain was too thick for a man to tear it.

**v39** The captain of the soldiers was standing in front of Jesus. He saw how Jesus died. 'It is true', he said. 'This man was the Son of God.'

The captain was an important soldier. He had authority over 100 other soldiers.

**v40** Some women were also there. They were not very near the \*cross. But they were watching all these events. Mary, from the town called Magdala, was among the women. Another woman called Mary was also there. She was the mother of the younger James and Joses. Salome was also there. **v41** These women had been Jesus' \*disciples when he was in Galilee. There, they had helped him. And many other women were there who had come to Jerusalem with him.

## Joseph buries Jesus' dead body

**v42** It would soon be Friday evening. The \*Jews were preparing for Saturday, when they rested.

**v43** A man called Joseph went to see Pilate. Joseph was from a town called Arimathea. He was a good man and he was an important leader of the \*Jews. He was waiting for the time when God would start to rule his people. Joseph bravely asked Pilate for the dead body of Jesus. **v44** Pilate was surprised that Jesus had already died. He asked the captain of the soldiers to come to him. Then he asked him when Jesus had died. **v45** The captain told Pilate that Jesus was dead. So then Pilate let Joseph have Jesus' dead body. **v46** Joseph bought a new piece of soft white cloth. He took Jesus down from the \*cross. He put the cloth round him. And he buried him in a large hole that Joseph's workers had cut into the rock. After this, he rolled a very big stone in front of the hole.

**v47** Mary from the town called Magdala, and Mary, the mother of Joses, were watching. They saw where Joseph had put Jesus' dead body.

In that country, people buried dead bodies in large holes in the rock. They put a big stone in front of the hole to close it.

## Chapter 16

### Jesus becomes alive again

**v1** After the day for rest had finished, the women bought some seeds with a beautiful smell. They wanted to put those seeds and some oil on Jesus' body. These women were Mary from Magdala, Salome, and Mary the mother of James. **v2** They went out very early in the morning on the first day of the week (Sunday). The sun was just rising. They went to the hole in the rock where Joseph had buried Jesus' dead body.

The \*Jews rested on Saturdays until the sun went down. The women had bought the seeds after that, during Saturday evening. The \*Jews always put these seeds on a dead body when they buried it.

**v3** The women asked each other, 'Who will roll the big stone away for us? It is in front of the hole in the rock where they buried Jesus.'

**v4** They looked and they saw the stone. It was a very big stone. But someone had already rolled it away from the hole. **v5** When the women went into the hole in the rock, they saw a young man. He was sitting on the right side of the place. He wore long white clothes. They were very afraid.

This young man was an \*angel.

**v6** The young man said to them, 'Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth. The soldiers killed him on a \*cross, but he has become alive again. He is not here. Look! You can see the place where the men put him. **v7** But you must go to tell his \*disciples and Peter about this. Tell them that Jesus is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you.'

Peter had said three times that he did not know Jesus. So maybe Peter thought that he was not still a \*disciple. But the young man's words included Peter. So Peter would know that Jesus still wanted him to be his \*disciple.

**v8** The women went out of the hole in the rock. They ran away from there. They felt afraid and confused. They did not say anything to anyone, because they were afraid.

People have found many old copies of Mark's book. Some important copies do not have verses 9-20. But most copies have verses 9-20 at the end of the book.

**v9** Jesus became alive again early on the first day of the week, Sunday. He appeared first to Mary from Magdala. Jesus had caused 7 bad \*spirits to leave her. **v10** She went to the people who had been with Jesus. They were all very sad and they were crying. Mary spoke to them. **v11** She told them that Jesus was alive. And she told them that she had seen him. But they did not believe it.

**v12** After these things had happened, Jesus appeared to two other \*disciples. They were walking away from the town. He seemed to be different to them. **v13** Those two \*disciples went and they told all the other \*disciples. But the other \*disciples also did not believe them.

**v14** After that, Jesus appeared to the 11 \*disciples while they were eating. He told them that they were wrong not to believe. They should have changed their minds. People had seen that he was alive. But the \*disciples did not believe them.

**v15** And Jesus said to them, 'Go to all people everywhere in the world. Tell God's good news to everyone. **v16** If a person believes, then you should \*baptise that person. And God will save that person. But if a person does not believe, God will be that person's \*judge. And he will \*punish that person. **v17** These powerful things will happen after people believe. On my behalf, they will send bad \*spirits out of people. They will speak new languages. **v18** If they pick up a snake, it will not hurt them. If they drink poison, it will not hurt them. They will put their hands on ill people, and God will make those people well.'

## Jesus goes up to God's home called heaven

**v19** So, after the \*Lord Jesus had spoken to them, God took him up into God's home. And Jesus sat down at the right side of God.

**v20** But the \*disciples went out everywhere. They told people God's good news. The \*Lord worked with them. And the \*Lord did powerful things to show that their message was true.

## Word List

**AD** ~ years after Jesus was born.

**angel** ~ one of God's special servants in God's home. Angels bring messages from God.

**apostle** ~ a special \*disciple of Jesus. These men had a special job to do for him. God sent them to teach other people about Jesus.

**baptise** ~ John baptised the people who came to him. The people were sorry for all the wrong things that they had done. And they wanted to obey God. So they asked John to baptise them. John used water from the river Jordan to do this. Today, we baptise people who become Christians. In some churches, the person must bathe his whole body. In other churches, the water goes only on the person's head. And in some churches, Christians also baptise children who are born into Christian families.

**baptism** ~ the event when someone \*baptises a person.

**Baptist** ~ John was called John the Baptist because he \*baptised people.

**BC** ~ years before Jesus was born.

**blind** ~ a blind person cannot see.

**Caesar** ~ the most important \*Roman ruler. He lived in the city called Rome.

**camel** ~ a large animal like a horse that can live in dry places. It can carry heavy things on its back.

**carpenter** ~ a carpenter is a man who works with wood.

**cockerel** ~ male of a bird called a hen.

**cross** ~ someone fastened one piece of wood across another piece of wood. This made a cross. The \*Roman soldiers fixed people to crosses to kill them.

**crown** ~ a special hat that a king wears on his head; or, a hat that is like a king's crown.

**disciple** ~ someone who wants to do the same things as another person and who wants to learn from him. At that time, the disciple usually travelled with his teacher and he worked for his teacher.

**donkey** ~ an animal like a small horse.

**enemy** ~ a person who wants to hurt or to attack.

**family** ~ family included father, mother and children; sometimes it means father, grandfathers and those who had been born before them.

**fast** ~ when you decide not to eat any food for a certain time.

**fig** ~ a fruit that is good to eat.

**forgive, forgiven** ~ not to remember wrong things that a person has done; to choose not to \*punish someone for wrong things that the person has done. God forgives us for the wrong things that we have done. He chooses to do this, but we must change our minds. We must ask him to come into our lives.

**God's Great House** ~ the special big building in Jerusalem usually called the temple. There people prayed and they gave gifts to God. Only \*priests went into the building. Other people went into the yards that were there.

**grape** ~ a fruit that people eat or they make it into \*wine.

**guard** ~ a guard keeps things or places or people safe; or he is like a policeman who takes people away.

**guilty** ~ when we have done wrong things, we are guilty.

**hell** ~ the place where God sends some people after they die. People are very sad there because of their pains and troubles. It is a place for people who did not want to believe in Jesus during their lives.

**holy** ~ special for God.

**Holy Spirit** ~ The Holy Spirit is God, even as the Father and the Son are God. But there is only one God. The Holy Spirit is always working in this world. He helps people to believe. He teaches them. And he is present in the lives of people who believe.

**honey** ~ honey is very sweet. An insect called a bee makes honey.

**hypocrites** ~ hypocrites say that they do one thing. But really, they do something different. They want people to think that they are good. But, really, they are bad people.

**Israel** ~ all the people in the \*families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God chose Israel to be his special people. The word can also mean the country that God gave to these people.

**Jew** ~ a person who is born from the \*families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**Jewish** ~ a word that describes a \*Jew or anything that is for the \*Jews.

**judge** ~ to say what is right or wrong, good or bad. A judge is a person with authority to say if another person is right or wrong.

**lamp** ~ a light to use in a house.

**laugh at, laugh about** ~ to laugh against someone to cause him to feel bad; to laugh when a person says cruel things about someone.

**life** ~ perhaps '\*soul'. The same word in the Greek language can mean 'life' or '\*soul'. We are not sure which is the right English word in Mark 8:35-37.

**Lord** ~ a name for God and for Jesus. The word means 'master'. But it also translates God's name from the language called Hebrew. And in that language, God's name may mean 'He is always God.'

**messenger** ~ a person who brings a message to other people.

**Messiah** ~ God said that he would send a special person to save his people. That person was called the Messiah. Jesus is this person. The word 'Christ' is a translation of 'Messiah'.

**Mount of Olives** ~ a hill near Jerusalem city where many \*olive trees grow.

**needle** ~ a thin sharp piece of bone or metal. It has a small hole at one end. People use it when they make clothes.

**net** ~ people tie many thin \*ropes across each other to make a net. People use nets to catch fish or birds.

**olive** ~ a tree with small fruits; or the fruits themselves.

**Passover** ~ an important holiday for the \*Jews. Each family eats a special meal on this day every year. They remember that God helped the \*Jews to leave Egypt. They were slaves in Egypt and Moses led them away.

**Pharisees** ~ a group of \*Jews. Pharisees went to a special school to learn God's rules. They tried to obey all God's rules. But many Pharisees did not like the things that Jesus taught.

**power** ~ a person who has power can do powerful things.

**priest** ~ a man who offered gifts to God on behalf of other people. The \*Jews had priests who worked in \*God's Great House.

**prophet** ~ a person who tells people messages from God. He is a special servant of God.

**punish** ~ to cause someone pain. Usually, it is because that person has done wrong things.

**Roman** ~ a person or a thing from the city called Rome.

**rope** ~ a long thin piece of strong material. People use ropes to tie things together.

**Sabbath** ~ the day when the \*Jews rested. It started on Friday at sunset. They did no work until Saturday at sunset.

**Sadducees** ~ a group of \*Jews who did not believe that dead people could become alive again.

**Satan** ~ the bad \*spirit that God sent away from God's home a long time ago; he is the leader of all the bad \*spirits.

**skull** ~ the largest bone inside the head.

**soil** ~ the top part of the ground. Plants grow in it.

**Son of Man** ~ the name that Jesus used when he talked about himself. This name appears in the books of Daniel and Ezekiel.

**soul** ~ a part of a person that we cannot see. Our soul is in us while we are alive. It continues to live after we die.

**spirit** ~ another part of a person that is alive, but which we cannot see. There are also good spirits. They are like \*angels. The \*Holy Spirit is God's Spirit. There are also bad spirits.

**spit, spat** ~ to send water out of the mouth.

**tongue** ~ the large red part of the body in the mouth; it helps us to speak.

**vine** ~ a plant that has fruit called \*grapes.

**wheat** ~ a plant that has many seeds. It grows on farms. People make flour with the seeds. And they bake it to make bread.

**whip** ~ soldiers used a whip to hit people. It had long narrow pieces of leather. There were pieces of metal on the ends. The whip caused a lot of pain.

**wilderness** ~ a wilderness is a place where there are not many plants. Not many people live there.

**wine** ~ a drink that people make from \*grapes. It has alcohol in it.

**wineskin** ~ a kind of bag. People did not then have bottles for \*wine. So they kept the \*wine in wineskins. People made them from the skin of animals.

**worm** ~ a small, thin animal that lives under the ground. Some worms eat dead things.

**yeast** ~ people put yeast into flour and water when they want to make bread. The yeast grows and it causes the flour to become bigger. Then it is more like a loaf of bread. Then you can bake the bread and you can eat it.

**zealot** ~ an enemy of the \*Roman government. The zealots were a group of people who fought against the \*Romans in \*Israel.

## Book List

Alan Cole ~ Mark ~ Tyndale Bible Commentaries

Robert G. Bratcher ~ A Translator's Guide to the Gospel of Mark ~ United Bible Societies

Alfred Marshall ~ The Interlinear NRSV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English ~ Zondervan

Hear this Good News for Everybody! An EasyEnglish Version with Notes (1200 word vocabulary) of the Gospel of Luke ~ Wycliffe Associates (UK)

Matthew tells us the Good News about Jesus. An EasyEnglish Version with Notes (1200 word vocabulary) of the Gospel of Matthew ~ Wycliffe Associates (UK)

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