# Luke

Luke is an historical account of Jesus’ life.

It was written in the form of a letter to a man named TheoPhilus by Paul’s traveling companion Luke the Physician about 64 CE, probably in the Greek language.

It’s partially based on the Gospel of Matthew. According to ancient church historians, Matthew was only available in Aramaic at the time, but Luke was writing to a Greek-speaking disciple.

**The Poetry of Jesus**

Many of Jesus’ sermons and parables were given as poetry. This was common at the time because most people were illiterate, and there were no ways to electronically record speeches. The main way to communicate was through word of mouth, and poetry and songs were the easiest things to remember and to repeat.

This poetic cadence is clearly seen by translators, but most Bibles have chosen not to translate it as poetry. Why not? Perhaps it’s because it requires more effort, and because many Bible readers aren’t interested in the beauty of his words, but in the contents.

However, Jesus made much effort to speak and teach beautifully, so it’s only proper that we also put in much effort to convey this to modern readers. So, we’ve attempted to translate Jesus’ words just as he spoke them – poetically – while maintaining accuracy as much as possible.

### Luke

## Chapter 1

1Since many others have already taken on the job of putting together a statement of the facts regarding the things we believe 2(as they were given to us by those who were eyewitnesses from the earliest [times], and by caretakers of the message)... 3It seemed good for me to trace everything accurately from the start, then write it down for you in the order that it happened, O mighty TheoPhilus, 4so that you can have confidence in the things you’ve been taught by word of mouth.

5In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a Priest named ZechariAh who was of the division of AbiJah. He had a wife named EliZabeth [meaning, *My God has Sworn*], who was a descendant of Aaron. 6Both of them were found righteous by God, because they obeyed all the commandments and requirements of Jehovah.

7However, they never had children and they were both advanced in years, so EliZabeth was [beyond child-bearing age].

8Then it was while [ZechariAh] was assigned as the Priest before God (in his division of Priests, 9following the custom of the Priesthood), that he had been chosen by lot to enter the temple sanctuary of Jehovah to burn incense there. 10Since it was the scheduled time for offering incense, a large crowd of people had also gathered outside to pray.

11Well, Jehovah’s messenger then appeared to [ZechariAh], standing on the right-hand side of the incense altar! 12Well, upon seeing him, ZechariAh was very frightened!

13However, the messenger said to him:

 ‘Don’t be afraid ZechariAh, because your prayers have been heard! Your wife EliZabeth will give birth to a son for you, and you must call his name John [Greek: *YoHanain*, meaning *Jehovah Is Merciful*].

 14‘He’ll be a great joy for you, and a delight… In fact, many people will rejoice at his birth, 15because he’ll be great in the eyes of Jehovah.

 ‘[This son] won’t drink any wine or liquor at all, and he will be filled with Holy Breath while he’s still in his mother’s womb!

 16‘Thereafter, he will turn many sons of IsraEl back to their God Jehovah, 17and he’ll travel before him with the power and spirit of EliJah as he prepares a people for the Lord – by turning the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the [hearts] of those who don’t obey to righteous good sense.’

18But ZechariAh asked the messenger:

 ‘How can I be sure of this? After all, I’m quite old and my woman is advanced in years.’

19Then the messenger replied:

 ‘I’m GabriEl – someone who stands before God – and I was sent to bring this good news to you!

 20‘But because you don’t believe these words (which will come true right on time), {Look!} you’ll be silent and won’t able to talk until the day that these things happen!’

21Meanwhile, the people who were waiting [outside] for ZechariAh started wondering why he was taking so long in the temple sanctuary. 22So when he [finally] came out [of the sanctuary] and couldn’t speak, they realized that he’d just seen a supernatural vision… He gestured to them with his head, but he couldn’t talk.

23Well, when his service time [in the Temple] was finished, he went back home, 24and that’s when his wife EliZabeth became pregnant.

However, she hid herself for five months, saying:

 25‘It’s Jehovah’s will that I do this, so that people won’t laugh at me.’

26Well, it was in her 6th month that the Messenger GabriEl was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin who was engaged to a man named JoSeph who was from the house of [King] David. This virgin’s name was Mary [Greek: *Mariam*].

28And when he came to her, he said:

 ‘Rejoice, you most beloved person, because Jehovah is with you!’

29Well, these words bothered her, because she wondered just what type of greeting that was.

30Then the messenger said:

 ‘Don’t be afraid Mary, because you’ve found God’s favor.

 31‘Look! You’ll conceive in your belly and give birth to a son whom you are to name Jesus [Aramaic: *IShoah*, Hebrew: *YeShuah*, meaning *Jehovah’s Salvation*]. 32He will be great and he’ll be called the Son of the Most High, and Jehovah God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

 33‘He will then rule over the house of Jacob throughout the ages, and there’ll be no end to his Kingdom.’

34But Mary asked the messenger:

 ‘How can this be possible, since I haven’t been with a man?’

35And the messenger replied:

 ‘God’s Holy Breath will come over you and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you, so that what will be born will be called Holy… God’s Son.

 36‘Look! Your relative EliZabeth is also pregnant with a son, even in her old age! And this is the 6th month for this so-called *sterile woman*, 37because nothing is impossible when God says it’ll happen.’

38Then Mary said:

 ‘Look! I’m Jehovah’s slave girl! May this thing that you told me about, happen to me!’

And at that, the messenger left her.

39So after that, Mary got up and quickly traveled to a Judean city located in the hill country, where she 40entered the home of ZechariAh to speak to EliZabeth.

41And just as EliZabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in her womb jumped, and EliZabeth was filled with Holy Breath, 42for she shouted aloud:

 ‘You’re a blest woman, and the fruit of your womb is blest! 43So, how is it that the mother of my Lord has come to me? 44Look! When I heard the sound of your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy! 45The woman who has faith will be blest, and everything that Jehovah said to her will come true.’

46Then Mary said:

 ‘I give glory to Jehovah with my whole soul,
 47And over my God and my Savior,
 My body will cry out in joy,
 48For He’s looked down on His lowly slave girl.

 ‘{Look!} By all peoples, I’ll be called blest,
 49For the Almighty One did great things for me…
 The One whose Name is Most Holy.

 50‘For generations, He has shown mercy
 To those who show that they fear Him.
 51But, with His strong arm, He will scatter
 Those who think in their hearts that they’re better.

 52‘He removes kings from their thrones,
 And He puts the humble in charge.
 53He fills the hungry with good things,
 And He sends the rich off as starved.

 54‘He sent help to IsraEl, His child,
 And He remembered His mercy
 55As He promised to AbraHam, our father,
 And to his offspring, throughout the ages.’

56So, Mary stayed there with EliZabeth for about three months before she returned home.

57Well, it soon came time for EliZabeth to deliver her baby, and she had a son. 58So when her neighbors and relatives heard how Jehovah had shown such magnificent mercy towards her, they were all overjoyed. 59But when they went to circumcise the boy on the 8th day, they expected that he would be named after his father, ZechariAh.

60However, his mother said:

 ‘Absolutely not! He will be called John.’

61But [the neighbors] said:

 ‘That isn’t the name of any of your relatives!’

62So they nodded to the father, to ask what he wanted to call it. 63And after asking for a tablet, he wrote:

 ‘His name is John.’

And this really caused them to wonder.

64Well at that, [ZechariAh] was suddenly able to speak… His tongue came loose, and he started talking and praising God 65(which frightened all the neighbors). And thereafter, these things were talked about throughout the hills of Judea.

66Also, everyone who heard about it made a note of it in their hearts, for they were all wondering what this little boy would [grow up to] be, since the hand of Jehovah was upon him.

67Then ZechariAh ([the boy’s] father) became filled with Holy Breath and he spoke this prophecy:

 68‘Praise Jehovah, IsraEl’s God,
 For He looked down and set free His people.

 69‘He raised the horn of salvation for us
 In the house of his servant David,
 70Just as He promised through the mouths of the holy
 Back in the age of the Prophets,
 71To save us from our enemy’s hands,
 And from the hands of all those who hate us,
 72To fulfill [His] mercy to our fathers
 By remembering His Holy Sacred Agreement,
 73And His oath to AbraHam, our father,
 74That we don’t have to fear our enemy’s hands;
 For because we’re His servants, He’ll save us,
 75And we’ll loyally stand here before Him
 As righteous, throughout [the rest of] our days.

 76‘But, as for you, little boy;
 You’ll be called a Prophet of the Most High,
 And you’ll travel ahead of Jehovah,
 To prepare the road that’s before him.

 77‘You’ll tell his people how [they can] be saved
 By seeking forgiveness of their sins,
 78Through the tender mercies of God,
 Who looks down on us from above
 As though it were a new day,
 79Which is shining on those in the darkness,
 And on those who are sitting in the shadow of death.
 For he’ll straighten [the paths for] our feet,
 And guide us in the ways that are leading to peace.’

80Well, after that the little boy grew and he kept getting stronger in the Breath [of God]. Then he went and lived in the desert until the day that he presented himself to IsraEl.

### Luke

## Chapter 2

1Back in those days, Caesar Augustus had decreed that everyone in the land had to be registered, 2and this first registration took place when QuiRinius was the governor of Syria. 3So, everyone had to return to his hometown to be registered.

4As a result, JoSeph had to travel from Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city of BethLehem in Judea (because he was from the house and family of David) 5to be registered with Mary (who was pregnant), whom he married like he’d promised.

6Well, while they were there, the time came for her to have her baby. 7So she gave birth to her first son and wrapped him tightly in a cloth, then laid him in a feed trough, because there wasn’t any room for them in the lodge.

8At the time, there were some shepherds who had been staying outdoors in the surrounding countryside, keeping watch over their flocks throughout the night. 9Then a messenger of Jehovah [appeared] to them – and the glory of the Lord started shining around them, which frightened them.

10But the messenger told them:

 ‘Don’t be afraid. Look! I’m bringing you good news of great joy for everyone, 11because a Savior – the chosen Lord – has been born to you today in David’s city! 12This is the sign to look for: You’ll find an infant wrapped tightly in a cloth and lying in a feed trough.’

13And after that, a large heavenly army suddenly appeared along with the messenger, praising God and saying:

 14‘Glory in the highest to God,
 And on the earth, [may there be] peace
 Among the people with whom He is pleased.’

15So after the messengers [of God] went back up into the sky, the shepherds said to each other:

 ‘Let’s go to BethLehem and see this thing that the Lord’s revealed to us.’

16Therefore, they went and quickly found Mary and JoSeph, along with the infant, who was lying in the feed trough. 17So when they saw this, they explained to them what they’d been told about the little boy.

18Well, all those who heard about this were amazed by the things that the shepherds were saying, 19and Mary started preserving all these words, drawing conclusions about them in her heart.

20Meanwhile, the shepherds kept on glorifying and praising God for all the things that they saw and all the things that they’d heard… Just as it had been spoken to them.

21Eight days later, when the time came to circumcise the boy, he was given the name Jesus [Greek: *YaySous*, Hebrew: *YeShua*] (the name that [God’s] messenger had said he should be called before he was conceived in Mary’s womb).

22Well, it was at the end of the [seven] days of purification (required by the Law of Moses) that they took him to JeruSalem to present him to Jehovah, 23exactly as it was written in His Law, which said:

 ‘Every male who opens a womb must be called holy to Jehovah.’ [Exodus 13:2]

24So they offered the sacrifice that was specified in the Law – a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25{Look!} [At this time] there was a man in JeruSalem named SimeOn; he was a righteous and devout person who had been expecting IsraEl’s comforter, and [God’s] Holy Breath was in him. 26You see, it had been divinely shown to him by the Holy Breath that he wouldn’t die before he saw Jehovah’s Anointed, 27and he came to be in the Temple that day because [God’s] Breath led him [there].

So, as the parents were carrying the boy (Jesus) in to do what the Law customarily required, 28[SimeOn] took him in his arms and praised God saying:

 29‘Now, O Sovereign Lord,
 You can set Your slave free in peace, as You said,
 30For my eyes have now seen this one who’ll save…
 31The one You provided for all men to see…
 32The revealing light to all nations,
 And a glory to IsraEl, Your people.’

33Well, Joseph and his mother were amazed by all the things that he said about him, 34and SimeOn also blest them.

However, he said this to [Jesus’] mother Mary:

 ‘Look… This young one has been appointed
 To elevate and debase many in IsraEl.
 He will serve as a sign that’s spoken against,
 35So your soul will be run through, as by a sword,
 For [he will] reveal what many have thought in their hearts.’

36There was also the Prophetess AnNa (a daughter of the tribe of Asher). This woman was well up in years and had only been married for seven years after her virginity. 37She was [now] an 84-year-old widow who was always at the Temple, serving there day and night, fasting, and praying. 38Right then, she stood up and gave thanks to the Lord as she talked about [the child] to all those who were expecting JeruSalem’s release by ransom.

39Then, after [JoSeph and Mary] did everything that Jehovah’s Law required, they went back to their home in Nazareth of Galilee. 40So the little boy grew and became strong in spirit and filled with wisdom, as God’s favor continued upon him.

41Well, every year his parents would travel to JeruSalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42And when he was 12 years old, they again followed the custom of going to the festival. 43But after the festival days were over and as they were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in JeruSalem… And Joseph and his mother didn’t notice it.

44So, assuming that he was somewhere in the company of all the people who were traveling with them, they were a day’s journey away before they finally started searching for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they couldn’t find him, they returned to look for him in JeruSalem.

46It took them three days, but they finally found him in the Temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions… 47And his understanding and answers amazed everyone who heard him.

48Well, since they’d been in such a panic as they searched for him, his mother said:

 ‘Child! Why did you treat us this way? Your father and I have been worried to death searching for you!’

49But he replied:

 ‘Why’d you need to search for me? Don’t you know that I need to be around the [things] of my Father?’

50However, they really didn’t grasp the meaning of all that he was saying.

51Then, after he returned home to Nazareth with them, he always obeyed them, and his mother carefully kept all these things that were said in her heart. 52So Jesus continued to progress in wisdom, physical growth, and in the favor of God and men.

### Luke

## Chapter 3

1It was in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and Herod was district ruler of Galilee (but Philip his brother was district ruler of the countries of Ituraea and Trachonitis), and Lysanias was district ruler of Abilene, 2in the days of High Priests AnNas and CaiAphas, that God’s words came to John (son of ZechariAh) [while he was] in the desert.

3So he traveled throughout the country around the JorDan preaching an immersion of repentance for forgiveness of sins, 4just as it was written about him in the book of the Prophet IsaiAh:

 ‘Listen!

 ‘Someone calls out in the desert:

 *‘Prepare the way for the Lord.*
 *Straighten out all of his roads;*
 5*Fill the gullies and level the mountains and hills;*
 *Straighten the curves and smooth-out the ruts,*
 6*So all flesh will be able to see*
 *What God has provided to save them.’*
 [Isaiah 40:3]

7And as he saw the crowds coming out to be immersed by him, he said to them:

 ‘Offspring of vipers!

 ‘Who’s frightened you into fleeing the rage that’s about to arrive?

 8‘For you must first produce the type of fruitage that shows you’re ready for repentance! And you shouldn’t say of yourselves, *We have AbraHam as our father*, because I tell you that God has the power to raise children of AbraHam from these stones!

 9‘Why, the ax is now lying at the roots of the trees – and every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire!’

10So the crowds started asking him:

 ‘Then, what we must do?’

11And he replied:

 ‘Those who have two suits of clothes should share them with those who have none, and those who have something to eat should do the same thing.’

12Then even the tax collectors came to be immersed. And when they asked, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ 13He told them:

 ‘Just collect a fair tax!’

14Also, when those in the military came and asked him what they should do, he told them that they shouldn’t harass or falsely accuse anyone, and to be satisfied with just their provisions.

15Well, since the people had been looking for [the coming of the Messiah] at that time, everyone was wondering in their hearts whether John was the Anointed One.

16But John told them this:

 ‘My part is just to dip [you] in water.
 However, someone greater is coming behind me,
 Whose sandals I’m unfit to untie,
 And he’ll immerse you people with fire and [Holy] Breath.

 17‘His shovel is already in his hand,
 And he’s going to sweep his threshing floor clean.
 Then he will carry the wheat to his barn,
 But he’ll burn the chaff with an unquenchable fire.’

18[John] also said many other encouraging things as he was preaching the good news to the people.

19However, Herod (the district ruler) had been scolded [by John] because of Herodias (his brother’s wife), and because of all the other bad things that he was doing. 20And [eventually], Herod added to this [badness] by locking John in jail.

21Well, it was after all the [other] people had been immersed that [John] also immersed Jesus. And as [Jesus] was praying, the sky opened up 22and the Holy Breath came down upon him in the shape of a dove.

Then a voice came out of the sky [that said]:

 ‘You’re My Beloved Son and I approve of you.’

23Well, Jesus came into his power when he was about 30 years old, being the son (as the opinion was):

 • of JoSeph,
 • of Heli,
 • 24of MatThat,
 • of Levi,
 • of Melchi,
 • of JanNai,
 • of JoSeph,
 • 25of MatTathias,
 • of Amos,
 • of Nahum,
 • of Esli,
 • of NagGai,
 • 26of MaAth,
 • of MatTathias,
 • of Semein,
 • of JoSech,
 • of Joda,
 • 27of JoAnan,
 • of Rhesa,
 • of ZerubBabel,
 • of ShealthiEl,
 • of Neri,
 • 28of Melchi,
 • of Addi,
 • of Cosam,
 • of ElMadam,
 • of Er,
 • 29of JoShua,
 • of EliEzer,
 • of JoRim,
 • of MatThat,
 • of Levi,
 • 30of SymeOn,
 • of Judas,
 • of JoSeph,
 • of JoNam,
 • of EliAkim,
 • 31of Melea,
 • of MenNa,
 • of MatTatha,
 • of Nathan,
 • of David,
 • 32of JesSe,
 • of Obed,
 • of BoAz,
 • of SalMon,
 • of NahShon,
 • 33of AmiNadab,
 • of Arni,
 • of HezRon,
 • of Perez,
 • of Judah,
 • 34of Jacob,
 • of IsaAc,
 • of AbraHam,
 • of Terah,
 • of NaHor,
 • 35of Serug,
 • of Reu,
 • of Peleg,
 • of Heber,
 • of SheLah,
 • 36of Kainan,
 • of ArPachShad,
 • of Shem,
 • of Noah,
 • of Lamech,
 • 37of MethuSelah,
 • of Enoch,
 • of JaRed,
 • of MaHalaleEl,
 • of Kainan,
 • 38of Enosh,
 • of Seth,
 • of Adam,
 • of God.

### Luke

## Chapter 4

1[Well after this happened], Jesus became filled with the Holy Breath. Then he left the JorDan, and [Holy] Breath led him into the desert, 2where he was tempted by the Slanderer for 40 days. But because he hadn’t eaten anything during that entire period, he became very hungry. 3So the Slanderer came to him and said:

 ‘If you’re a son of The God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread!’

4But Jesus told him:

 ‘It’s written that people can’t just live on bread… They also need the Word of God.’ [Deuteronomy 8:3]

5So [the Slanderer] took him up on a mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth in an instant of time, 6and he said:

 ‘I will give you glory and power over all of these. For they’ve all been given to me, and I can give them to whomever I wish. 7They’ll all be yours if you’ll just bow to your face before me.’

8But Jesus replied:

 ~~‘Get behind me Satan, for~~ [spurious, copied from Mark 8:33]

 ‘It’s written:

 *‘You should only bow to Jehovah your God,*
 *And Him alone, should you serve.’*
 [Deuteronomy 6:13]

9Then [the Slanderer] took him into JeruSalem and put him on one of the Temple’s highest towers, and said:

 ‘If you’re a son of The God, jump down from here; 10for it’s written:

 *‘He will order His messengers to protect you;*
 11*So they’ll lift you up on their hands,*
 *And you won’t bump your foot on a stone.’*
 [Psalm 91:12]

12But Jesus replied:

 ‘It’s also said:

 *‘You must not put Jehovah your God to the test.’* [Deuteronomy 6:16]

13So after the Slanderer finished his tempting, he left him until the appointed time.

14Then the Power of [God’s] Breath moved Jesus to return to Galilee, and his fame spread throughout all that area. 15He also started teaching in the synagogues, where he was honored by everyone.

16Well, when he got to Nazareth (where he was brought up), as was his custom on the Sabbaths, he went into the synagogue and stood up to read.

17Then someone handed him the scroll of the Prophet IsaiAh to read, so he opened it and found the place where it said:

 18*‘The Breath of Jehovah is upon me,*
 *And I’ve been anointed by Him*
 *To teach good news to the poor.*

 *‘He sent me to heal broken hearts;*
 *To proclaim a release to the captives;*
 *A regaining of sight to the blind;*
 *Deliverance to those who’ve been oppressed;*
 19*And to announce the year of Jehovah’s favor.’*
 [Isaiah 61:1-2]

20Thereafter, he rolled up the scroll and handed it back to the attendant, and he sat back down... While everyone in the synagogue was staring at him.

21Then he said:

 ‘Today this scripture that you just heard, has been fulfilled!’

22Well after that, everyone started praising him as they marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. But they were also asking:

 ‘Isn’t this JoSeph’s son?’

23So he told them:

 ‘You would undoubtedly like to apply the words to me:

 *‘Heal yourself, doctor!’*

 ‘And:

 *‘Do all the things that we heard you did in CapharNaum here in your own hometown!’*

24Then he said to them:

 ‘I tell you the truth when I say that no Prophet is ever accepted in his own hometown. 25Therefore, although it’s a fact that there were many widows in IsraEl back in the days of EliJah (back when the skies were closed up for 3-1/2 years, causing a terrible famine in the land) 26EliJah wasn’t sent to any of them. Rather, he was just sent to a widow in the land of Sidon.

 27‘And although there were many lepers in IsraEl during the time of the Prophet EliSha, the only one who was cleansed was NaAman – a Syrian.’

28Well, this made everyone who heard him say this in the synagogue very angry, 29so they got up and pushed him outside to the edge of the mountain upon which the city was built, and they wanted to throw him down headfirst!

30But he just walked through their midst and continued on his way.

31From there, he went on to CapharNaum (a city in Galilee), where he again taught on the Sabbath. 32And those [people] were amazed by his way of teaching, because he spoke with such great authority.

33There he found a man in that synagogue [who was possessed by] an unclean demon.

And [the demon] shouted at him:

 34‘Ah! What dealings do we have with you, Jesus… You Nazarene? Did you come here to destroy us?

 ‘I know exactly who you are; [You’re] the Holy One of God!’

35But Jesus scolded it saying:

 ‘Put a muzzle on it and come out of him!’

So the demon threw the man down in their midst, then it came out without hurting him.

36Well, everyone was astonished and they all started speaking to each other and asking:

 ‘What kind of talk is this? He gives orders to unclean spirits with authority and power, and out they come!’

37So the news about him was echoed everywhere throughout that entire region.

38Then, after he left that synagogue, he went to Simon’s house. And there, Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, so they asked him to help her. 39Therefore, he stood over her and scolded the fever, and it left her... Then she got right up and started serving him!

40Well after sunset, all those who had people who were sick with various infirmities brought them to him, and he laid his hands on each one and cured them all.

41Demons also came out of many of them, shouting:

 ‘You’re the Son of The God!’

But because they knew that he was the Anointed One, he scolded them and he wouldn’t allow them to speak.

42Then the next day, he walked out by himself to an isolated place. So the crowds started searching for him, and when they finally found him, they tried to keep him from leaving.

43But he told them:

 ‘I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to other cities… That’s why I was sent here.’

44So thereafter, he preached in the synagogues throughout all of Galilee.

### Luke

## Chapter 5

1Well, there was an occasion when people were crowded very close to [Jesus] as they listened to the word of God. And at that time, he happened to be standing beside Lake GenNesaret.

2So, noticing two boats that were docked at the lakeside where the fishermen had gotten out and were washing off their nets, 3[Jesus] got into one of the boats that belonged to Simon, and he asked him to pull out a short distance from the land.

Then he sat down and he started teaching the crowds from the boat. 4And when he finished speaking, he said to Simon:

 ‘Now, pull out to where it’s deep and let down your nets for a catch.’

5But Simon replied:

 ‘Lord, we worked all night long and we didn’t catch anything.

 ‘However, because you asked, I’ll lower the nets.’

6Well when they did this, they netted a huge number of fish. In fact, their nets started to rip! 7So they waved to their partners in another boat to come and help. And when they got there, they filled both boats to the point where they were about to sink!

8Well upon seeing this, Simon (Peter) fell down at Jesus’ knees and said:

 ‘Get away from me, because I’m a sinful man, O Lord!’

9[He said this] because when they’d brought in so many fish, Simon and those who were with him were amazed and overwhelmed… 10As were his partners James and John (the sons of Zebedaiou).

But Jesus said to Simon:

 ‘Stop being afraid! For from now on, you’re going to be catching men!’

11So then they rowed their boats back to land and they just walked away from everything to follow him.

12On another occasion, while he was in one of the cities, {Look!} there was a man who was full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell to his face and begged:

 ‘Lord; if you just want to, you can make me clean!’

13So [Jesus] stuck out his hand and touched him, saying:

 ‘I want to… Be clean!’

And immediately, the leprosy left the man!

14Thereafter, he ordered the man not to tell anyone about this. He just said:

 ‘Go and show yourself to the Priests and give an offering for your cleansing as a witness to them, just as Moses commanded.’

15However, word about him kept spreading, and huge crowds would assemble – both to listen, and to be cured of their illnesses. 16As a result, [Jesus] had to go out into the desert to even pray.

17Well, several days later, while he was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of the Law were there [sitting among a crowd] of people who had come from every village of Galilee, Judea, and from JeruSalem, because [Jesus] was healing by the power of Jehovah.

18Then {Look!} some men arrived that were carrying a paralyzed man who was lying on a cot, and they were trying to find a way to bring the man to [Jesus]. 19But because they couldn’t get through the crowd, they climbed up on the roof and lowered the little cot through the tiles, down in front of Jesus.

20And when he saw their faith, he said:

 ‘Man – your sins are forgiven!’

21Well at that, the Scribes and Pharisees started asking each other:

 ‘Just who is this who talks so blasphemously?

 ‘Who can forgive sins other than The God?’

22But Jesus recognized what they were thinking and he asked them:

 ‘What are you concluding in your hearts? 23Which is easier to say, ‘*Your sins are forgiven*,’ or, ‘*Get up and walk*’?

 24‘But, just so you’ll know that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins on the earth...’

He then said to the paralyzed man:

 ‘I tell you: Get up, pick up your little cot, and go home!’

25And at that, the man stood right up before them all, then he picked up the [cot] that he’d been lying on and went home, glorifying The God.

26Well, everyone was delighted and they all started glorifying The God. But they were also frightened and said:

 ‘We’ve seen some very strange things today!’

27Then sometime later, [Jesus] went out and happened to notice a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax office, and he said to him:

 ‘Come be my follower!’

28Well, [Levi] got right up, and leaving everything behind, he started following him.

29Then that evening, Levi held a big reception feast for [Jesus] in his home, where a large crowd of tax collectors and others were reclining with him at the meal. 30So the Pharisees and their Scribes started complaining to the disciples, asking:

 ‘Why is he eating and drinking with the tax collectors and sinners?’

31But Jesus told them:

 ‘Those who are healthy don’t need a doctor, only the sick do.
 32So I came to call sinners to repentance, not righteous people.’

33Then later on, they said this to him:

 ‘Why is it that, although John’s disciples and those of the Pharisees fast frequently in order to make requests [of God], your [disciples] just go on eating and drinking?’

34And Jesus told them:

 ‘Friends of the bridegroom can’t be expected to fast while the groom is with them, can they? 35But the days will surely come when the groom will be taken away; and that’s when they’ll fast.’

36Then he gave them this illustration:

 ‘No one cuts a patch from new cloth,
 To repair a rip in old clothes.
 For if they do, the patch will rip out…
 And the new patch won’t match the old anyhow.

 37‘And they don’t put new wine in old wineskins.
 For new wine will burst the old skins,
 Breaking the skins and spilling the wine…
 38So, new wine is put in new wineskins.
 39And anyone who’s tasted the old wine,
 Doesn’t want the new anyway...
 For they say that the old [wine] is better!’

### Luke

## Chapter 6

1Now, [Jesus] happened to be walking through some grain fields on a Sabbath and his disciples had been picking the grain, rubbing it in their hands, and eating it.

2So some of the Pharisees asked him:

 ‘Why are they doing something that isn’t legal on the Sabbath?’

3And Jesus replied:

 ‘Haven’t you ever read how David did the same thing when he and his men got hungry… 4How he went into the Temple of God and ate the presentation bread, sharing some with his men… Something that isn’t legal for anyone to eat other than the Priests?’

5Then he added:

 ‘The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath!’

6And on another Sabbath, he again went into the synagogue and started teaching.

Well, there he found a man whose right hand was withered, 7and the Scribes and Pharisees were watching [Jesus] closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath, so they could accuse him of some wrongdoing.

8However, because [Jesus] knew what they were thinking, he said to the man with the withered hand:

 ‘Get up and go stand in the center [of the room].’

So [the man went over there] and stood. 9 Then Jesus asked them all:

 ‘Is it legal to do good or bad, or to save a life or destroy it on the Sabbath?’

10And after looking around at everyone, he said to the man:

 ‘Now, stretch out your hand.’

And when he did, his hand was healed!

11Nevertheless, [the Scribes and Pharisees] went into a rage and they started talking to each other about what they could do to Jesus.

12It was also about this time that Jesus went up a mountain to pray, and he spent the whole night there in prayer to God. 13Then the next day, he called his disciples to him and chose 12 of them whom he started calling Apostles [meaning, Sent Ones].

14There was:

 • Simon (whom he also named Peter) and,
 • his brother Andrew, as well as...
 • James,
 • John,
 • Philip,
 • BarTholomew [or, NathaniEl],
 • 15Matthew,
 • Thomas,
 • James, [the son] of AlphaEus,
 • Simon (who’s called the zealous one),
 • 16Judas [ThadDaeus, the son] of James, and
 • Judas IsCariot (who turned traitor).

17Well, after they came down [the mountain], he found a level spot where a large group of his disciples, as well as a huge crowd of people from Judea, JeruSalem, and the seaside areas of Tyre and Sidon came to listen to him and to be healed of their illnesses.

18And there, as many people who were bothered by unclean spirits were being healed, 19everyone else in the crowd was trying to touch him. So power flowed from him, and he healed them all.

20Then he looked at his disciples and he said this to them:

 ‘Blest are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God;
 21Blest are the hungry, for they’ll be filled;
 And blest are those who are crying,
 For they’ll find reasons to laugh.

 22‘You’re blest whenever men hate you
 And don’t wish to be among you;
 Or when they say bad things about you
 And call you wicked for the Son of Man’s sake.

 23‘In that day, be happy and jump for joy,
 For {Look!} your reward in the heavens is great,
 Since these are the very same things
 That their fathers used to say of the Prophets.

 24‘But, woe to those who are rich,
 For they won’t receive any comfort.
 25And woe to those with full [stomachs],
 For they’ll be the ones going hungry.

 ‘Also, woe to those who are laughing,
 Because they’ll be crying and mourning.
 26And woe when people say nice things about you,
 For that’s what their fathers said of false prophets.

 27‘I say this to all that will listen:

 ‘Show love for those who oppose you,
 And do good to all those who hate you.
 28Yes, praise the ones who would curse you,
 And pray for those who insult you.

 29‘If someone should slap you on [the right] cheek,
 Turn [your left] to him also.
 And if someone should take all your clothes,
 Offer your underwear too.

 30‘Yes, to each one who asks, you should give,
 And don’t tell them that they must repay…
 31Treat others as you wish to be treated!

 32‘And if you love just those who love you,
 What kind of good are you doing?
 Even sinners love those who love them.

 33‘Also, if you’re just good to those who do good for you,
 What kind of kindness are you showing?
 Even sinners will do that same thing.

 34‘And if you choose to lend without interest
 To those whom you know will repay you,
 What kind of good deed are you doing?
 For, sinners lend to sinners without interest
 When they know that they’ll be paid back.

 35‘So love those [that hate you] and do what’s good,
 And lend without hope of return;
 Then you’ll receive a better reward…
 You’ll be the sons of the Most High,
 Who is kind to even the ungrateful…
 36Yes, show mercy as your Father shows mercy.

 37‘Don’t judge [others], so you won’t be judged…
 Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned…
 Set free, and you’ll be set free.

 38‘Give to others and you’ll receive…
 They’ll give you a generous portion,
 Overflowing and tightly packed down.
 For the amount that you measure [to others]
 Is the amount that they’ll measure to you.’

39Then he spoke these parables to them:

 ‘If a blind man leads another who’s blind,
 Won’t both fall into a pit?

 40‘A disciple isn’t over his teacher,
 But those who learn [from their teachers]
 Will then become like their teachers.

 41‘Why look for chaff in your brother’s eye,
 When you can’t see the rafter in yours?
 42For, how can you say to your brother:

 *‘Let me remove that [chaff] from your eye...’*

 ‘When you can’t see the rafter in yours?

 ‘Hypocrite!

 ‘First remove the rafter from your own eye,
 And then you’ll be able to see clearly
 How to take the [chaff] from your brother’s eye.

 43‘A good tree doesn’t produce rotten fruit
 And a rotten tree doesn’t give good fruit…
 44So all trees are known by their fruit.
 As you don’t pick figs from the briers,
 And you don’t cut grapes from thorn bushes.

 45‘So a good man brings good from the good in his heart,
 While the wicked bring bad things from theirs;
 For their mouths speak from all the badness
 That they’ve treasured within their hearts.

 46‘And why cry out to me, *‘O Lord, O Lord,’*
 If you don’t do the things that I say?
 47Those who come here to listen and do as I say
 48Are like the man who dug down to rock
 To lay the foundation for his house.
 So when floods and the river washed on it,
 It stood, because it was built upon rock.

 49‘But those who don’t listen and do as I say
 Are like the man who built his house on the sand.
 So when the river washed on it,
 It collapsed, resulting in damage.’

### Luke

## Chapter 7

1Well, after he’d finished saying all these things within earshot of the people, he traveled on to CapharNaum. 2And there, a [Roman] centurion who had a trusted servant that was sick and near death 3sent some Judean elders to ask him to come and save his slave’s life (for he’d heard about Jesus).

4So they quickly went to Jesus and begged him, saying:

 ‘[The centurion] is worthy of your doing this for him, 5because he loves our nation and he built a synagogue for us!’

6So Jesus went off with them. But he wasn’t very far from the house when the centurion sent his friends to say:

 ‘Sir, don’t bother [coming here], because I’m unfit to have you under my roof. 7It’s only because I consider myself so unworthy that I didn’t come to you personally.

 ‘Just say the word and [I know that] my servant will be healed. 8For I’m also a man who is given authority, since I have soldiers under me. So if I tell this one to leave, he leaves, and if I tell that one to come, he comes… Whatever I tell my servants to do, they do.’

9Well when Jesus heard this, he was amazed, and he turned to the crowd that was following him and said:

 ‘I tell you – I haven’t found this much faith anywhere in IsraEl!’

10And then, after the friends that he sent returned to the man’s house, they found his slave to be in good health.

11Well from there, Jesus traveled with his disciples and quite a crowd to a city called Nain. 12And as he was approaching the city gate, {Look!} he saw that they were carrying out [the body] of a man who’d just died… The only son of a woman who was a widow, and she was being followed by a large crowd [of mourners].

13So when the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity and he said to her:

 ‘Stop crying.’

14Then he went over and touched the open casket; and at that, the pallbearers stopped. And Jesus said:

 ‘Young man – I tell you to get up!’

15Well, the man who had been dead then sat up and started talking… And so [Jesus] gave him to his mother.

16Of course, everyone was startled by this, and they all started glorifying God, saying:

 ‘A great Prophet has been raised among us,’

and,

 ‘God has started paying attention to His people!’

17So thereafter, the news about him was spread throughout all of Judea and all the lands roundabout.

18Meanwhile, John’s disciples had been reporting back to him about the things that were happening. 19So John called two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask:

 ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’

20And when they got to [Jesus], the men told him:

 ‘John the Immerser sent us to ask if you’re the Anointed One, or if we’re to expect someone else?’

21Well, during that same hour, Jesus cured many people who were ill or in great pain or had wicked spirits, and he granted many blind people the gift of vision. 22And after that, he said this [to John’s disciples]:

 ‘Now, go back and report what you’ve seen and heard to John. [Tell him that] the blind are seeing, the lame are walking, lepers are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, and the poor are hearing the good news…

 23‘So, the one who isn’t stumbled by me will be blest.’

24Well, after John’s messengers left, he asked the crowd this about John:

 ‘What did you go to the desert to see…
 Reeds being blown in the wind?
 25Yes, what did you go out to see…
 A man who’s dressed in soft clothes?
 Those who dress and live well,
 Are the ones who are living in mansions.

 26‘So, what did you go out to see… A Prophet?
 Yes, and I say, much more than a Prophet,
 27For, he’s the one of whom it was written:

 *‘{Look!} I will send My messenger before him,*
 *To prepare the road that he’ll travel.’*
 [Malachi 3:1]

 28‘So I tell you this:

 ‘Of all those born of a woman,
 None have been greater than John.
 Yet the least in the Kingdom of God
 Will be greater than him.’

29Well, when all the common people and the tax collectors heard this, they praised God’s righteousness, because they’d all been immersed with John’s immersion. 30But the Pharisees and those who were trained in the Law disregarded this counsel from God, and they didn’t go out to be immersed by John.

31[So, Jesus said this to them]:

 ‘To what can I compare this people…
 Yes, what are they really like?
 32They’re like children that play in the markets
 And shout at each other and say:
 *We played the flute, but you didn’t dance…*
 *We wailed, but you didn’t cry.*

 33‘For when John the Immerser arrived,
 He didn’t feast or drink any wine…
 Yet you said that he had a demon!

 34‘But when the Son of Man arrived here,
 Eating well and drinking the wine,
 You called him an alcoholic and glutton…
 A friend to tax collectors and sinners!

 35‘But wisdom is proven righteous by its results.’

36Thereafter, one of the Pharisees invited [Jesus] to dine with him, so he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at his table.

37But {Look!} a woman of the city (a known sinner), who had learned that [Jesus] was going to recline for a meal in the house of the Pharisee, brought in an alabaster jar of perfumed ointment... 38And she reclined behind him at his feet and started weeping and wetting his feet with her tears, then wiping them dry with her hair, as she tenderly kissed his feet and greased them with the perfumed ointment.

39Well, when the Pharisee that invited him saw this, he thought to himself:

 ‘If this man was truly a Prophet, he’d know who it is and just what kind of woman is touching him… She’s a sinner!’

40Then Jesus said to him:

 ‘Simon, I have something to tell you.’

And [Simon] replied:

 ‘Go ahead and tell it, Teacher!’

[And Jesus said:]

 41‘There were two men who each owed money to a certain lender... One was in debt for 500 silver coins, and the other for 50. 42Well, when neither one could pay him back, he freely forgave them both.

 ‘So, which one will love him more?’

43Then Simon answered:

 ‘I guess it’s the one he forgave the most.’

And [Jesus] said:

 ‘You judged correctly.’

44Then Jesus turned and looked at the woman, and he said to Simon:

 ‘Do you see this woman?

 ‘When I entered your house, you didn’t give me any water for my feet… Yet this woman wet my feet with her tears, and she wiped them dry with her hair!

 45‘And you didn’t greet me with a kiss… Yet from the time that I entered, this woman has been tenderly kissing my feet.

 46‘You didn’t grease my head with oil either… Yet this woman greased my feet with perfumed ointment.

 47‘So I tell you: Although she has many sins, they are forgiven because she showed a lot of love. However, those who haven’t been forgiven for much, don’t love as much.’

48Then he told her:

 ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

49Well at that, those who were reclining at the table with him started wondering within themselves:

 ‘Just who is this man who [thinks he can] even forgive sins?’

50But he said to the woman:

 ‘Your faith has saved you. Go your own way in peace.’

### Luke

## Chapter 8

1Well after that, [Jesus] started traveling from city to city and village to village with the twelve [disciples], preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God.

2Also [traveling with him] were some women whom [he’d] cured of wicked spirits and illnesses. There was Mary (whom is called the Magdalean) from whom 7 demons had come out, 3Joanna the wife of Chuza (Herod’s top aid), as well as Susanna and many others that were serving his needs from their possessions.

4Well when a large crowd had gathered along with those who were traveling with him from city to city, he spoke to them using this parable:

 5‘A farmer went out to plant seeds.

 ‘And as he was planting, some fell by the road,
 Which were walked on, and birds came to eat them.

 6‘Others fell among rocks,
 Where they dried up after they sprouted,
 Because there was too little water.

 7‘Still others fell among thorns,
 Which grew and then choked them out.

 8‘But some fell on the good soil and grew,
 Producing fruit 100 times more.’

And after he said this, he shouted:

 ‘Let those who have ears to hear, listen to me!’

9Well, his disciples later asked him what this parable meant. 10So he said:

 ‘While you’ve been allowed to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, the rest of these people just hear the stories. So when they look, they look in vain, and when they hear, they don’t understand.

 11‘Now, the illustration means this:

 ‘The seeds are the word of God.

 12‘Those [that fall] by the road are people who listen, but then the Slanderer comes and snatches the word from their hearts, so they don’t believe and come to salvation.

 13‘Those which fall on the rocks are the ones who hear and welcome the word with joy... But because they don’t have any roots, they only believe for a season. So, when a time of testing comes along, they fall away.

 14‘As for those which fall among the thorns... These are the ones who’ve heard, but because of their daily concerns such as [seeking] wealth and the pleasures of living, they’re choked out and fail to produce any fruit.

 15‘However, [those which fall] on the good soil have good and pure hearts. And after hearing the Word, they remember it and keep on bearing fruit.

 16‘Understand that nobody lights a lamp and then covers it with a pot, or hides it under a bed… They put it on a lampstand so that those who step in can see by the light.

 17‘So there’s nothing hidden that won’t be shown,
 Or nothing covered that won’t be known,
 And then brought out in the light.

 18‘So pay attention to the way that you listen...
 For those who have will be given more.
 But as for those who have nothing,
 What they think they have will be taken away from them.’

19It was then that [Jesus’] mother and brothers came to see him, but they were unable to reach him because of the crowd.

20So someone came up to him and said:

 ‘Your mother and brothers are waiting outside and [they] want to see you.’

21But he replied:

 ‘My mother and brothers are these that hear the word of God and obey it.’

22Well, some days later, [Jesus] and his disciples got into a boat, and he said to them:

 ‘Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.’

So they set off... 23And as they were sailing along, he fell asleep.

But then a violent windstorm came down on the lake, and the boat started taking on water, putting them in a dangerous situation.

24So [the disciples] went over and woke Jesus up and said:

 ‘Lord… Lord… We’re about to drown!’

Then when he awoke, he scolded the wind and the raging water, which made things suddenly become very calm and peaceful.

25And then he asked them:

 ‘Where is your faith?’

Well, they were frightened and awestruck [by what had happened], and they started asking each other:

 ‘Who really is this? For he even orders the wind and waves and they obey him!’

26Then from there, they sailed on to the country of the GeraSenes, which is on the shore directly across from Galilee.

27And when he stepped out on land, a demonized man came from the city to meet him. This man hadn’t worn clothing for some time, and he didn’t live in a house, for he stayed among the tombs.

28And when he saw Jesus, he screamed and fell down in front of him, shouting:

 ‘What dealings do I have with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God?
 I beg you… Don’t torment me!’

29([He said this, because Jesus] had ordered the unclean spirit to come out of the man).

[This man had been] arrested repeatedly, then bound with chains and leg irons and put under guard... But he would break the chains, and the demons forced him to [live in] such isolated places.

30So Jesus asked him:

 ‘What’s your name?’

And they replied:

 ‘Legion’ (because many demons had entered him).

31And they kept begging him not to order them to go away into the abyss.

32Well at the time, a large herd of pigs happened to be feeding there on the mountain; so they begged [Jesus] to allow them to go into [the pigs]… And he gave them permission.

33Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the whole herd ran down a steep drop-off into the lake and drowned!

34Well, when the herders saw this, they ran and reported what had happened throughout the whole city and countryside. 35As a result, the people all came to see this. When they got to Jesus, they found the man whom the demons had left now wearing clothes and in his right mind – [sitting] there at Jesus’ feet… And this frightened them.

36Then those who had witnessed what had happened explained to the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. 37And the huge number [of people] who had come from the surrounding area started begging [Jesus] to leave them, because they were so frightened!

So, he stepped back into the boat to return [to the other side of the lake].

38However, the man whom the demons had left started begging [Jesus] to let him go back with him. But he sent the man away, saying:

 39‘Just go home and tell everyone about all the things that God has done for you.’

So the man went back and spread the word about what Jesus had done throughout the whole city.

40Meanwhile, a crowd was waiting for Jesus when he got back [to the other side], because they were all expecting him.

41And {Look!} a man named JaiRus (who was a presiding officer of the [local] synagogue) came to him and fell at Jesus’ feet, begging him to come to his home, 42because his only daughter (who was about 12 years old) was dying.

Well, as he was on his way [to the man’s house], the people were all crowded closely around him, 43and a woman who had [been experiencing] a blood flow for some 12 years (which no one had been able to cure) 44came up behind him and touched the fringe of his robe… And her flow of blood stopped instantly!

45So Jesus asked:

 ‘Who touched me?’

Well, everyone denied it. And Peter said:

 ‘Master, there’s a whole crowd of people around you [and they’re all] touching you!’

46But Jesus said:

 ‘Someone else touched me, because I felt the power flowing out of me.’

47So, seeing that [what she did] didn’t go unnoticed, the woman came up and fell down in front of Jesus trembling, then she told everyone why she touched him and of how she’d been healed instantly.

48So [Jesus] said to her:

 ‘Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go your own way in peace.’

49Then as he was still talking, someone came up beside the presiding officer of the synagogue and said:

 ‘Your daughter has died, so don’t bother the teacher anymore.’

50But when he heard this, Jesus said to the man:

 ‘Don’t be afraid; just have faith and she’ll be saved.’

51Well when he got to the man’s house, he wouldn’t let anyone go inside with him other than Peter, John, James, and the girl’s father and mother. 52Meanwhile, [outside] the people were all crying and beating themselves in grief over her. So he said to them:

 ‘Stop crying! The girl isn’t dead, she’s just sleeping.’

53Then they all started laughing at him, because they all knew that she’d died. 54But thereafter, he went inside and took her by the hand and called her, saying:

 ‘Child, get up!’

55And at that, she started breathing and she stood up! Then he ordered that she be given something to eat.

56Well, they were beside themselves [with joy]… But he warned them not to tell anyone what happened.

### Luke

## Chapter 9

1Sometime later, he brought the 12 [disciples] to him and gave them power and authority over the demons and [the power] to cure illnesses! 2Then he sent them off to preach about the Kingdom of God and to do healing.

3He told them:

 ‘Don’t carry anything with you… Not a staff, or a food pouch, or bread, or silver, or even two pairs of underwear! 4But, wherever you enter a home, lodge there and go out [to preach].

 5‘And wherever people fail to welcome you, just shake the dust off your feet as you’re leaving that city, as a witness against them.’

6So they left and traveled throughout all the villages, declaring the good news and curing people everywhere.

7Meanwhile, Herod (the district ruler) had heard about everything that was happening, and he was bothered by doubts. You see, some people were saying that [Jesus] was actually John raised from the dead, 8while others were saying that EliJah had appeared, and still others were saying that he was one of the ancient Prophets that had risen.

9But Herod was wondering:

 ‘Since I beheaded John, who’s this man whom I’m hearing all this about?’

So he looked for an opportunity to see [Jesus].

10Well, after the Apostles had returned [from their preaching], they told [Jesus] about all that they’d done. Then he took them along with him to a place where they could be alone, close to a city called BethSaida.

11However, when the crowds learned where he was going, they followed him… But he kindly welcomed them and started speaking to them about the Kingdom of God, as he healed those who needed a cure.

12Well, as the day was drawing to a close, the 12 came to him and said:

 ‘You should dismiss the crowd so they can go into the villages and surrounding countryside to find provisions and a place to rest, because this is a very desolate place.’

13But he said:

 ‘Why don’t you give them something to eat?’

But they replied:

 ‘We don’t have anything… Other than five loaves [of bread] and two fish. Should we go out and buy food for all these people? 14There are about 5,000 of them!’

But he told his disciples:

 ‘Have them recline as they do at meals in rows of about 50 each.’

15So [the Apostles] did this, and everyone reclined on the ground.

16Then he took the five [loaves of] bread and the two fish, and after looking up to the heavens, he spoke a blessing over them, broke them up, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

17Then everyone ate until they were satisfied… And [afterward], they picked up 12 baskets of leftovers!

18Well later, as he was praying in a quiet spot, his disciples came to him and he asked them:

 ‘Who are the crowds saying that I am?’

19And they replied:

 ‘Some are saying that you’re John the Immerser, others are saying that you’re EliJah, while others are saying that you’re one of the ancient Prophets who’s been raised [from the dead].’

20Then he asked:

 ‘You though... Who do you say I am?’

And Peter replied:

 ‘[You’re] God’s Anointed One.’

21And at that, he firmly instructed them not to say this to anyone. 22Then he told them this:

 ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things… He will be rejected by the elders, Chief Priests, and Scribes, and he will be killed.

 ‘But on the third day, he will wake up.’

23And after that, he said this [to all of his followers]:

 ‘If you wish to follow me, you must set aside everything else that you want, then pick up your own execution pole every day and walk behind me.

 24‘For those who wish to save their lives will lose them,
 While those who lose their lives for my sake will save them.

 25‘Indeed, what profit is there for a man who gains the whole world, just to lose it or to be destroyed?

 26‘Yet if anyone is ashamed of me and what I’m saying, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he arrives in his glory and in the glory of the Father and His holy messengers.

 27‘And I tell you the truth: some [of you who are] standing here won’t even taste death before you’ve seen the Kingdom of God!’

28Well, just as he said, this is what happened about eight days later:

He’d taken Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray... 29And as he was praying, his face changed and his clothes started to glow!

30Then {Look!} two men appeared and started talking to him… It was Moses and EliJah! 31(They could recognize them.) And these men started talking [with Jesus] about his departure that was about to be fulfilled in JeruSalem.

32Until then, Peter and the others had been very sleepy. But when they saw his glory and the two men standing with him, they were suddenly wide-awake! 33And through the separation between them, Peter said to Jesus:

 ‘Master, it’s good for us to be here, so let us erect three temporary structures… One for you, one for Moses, and one for EliJah!’

But he really didn’t know what he was saying. 34And just as he said that, a cloud formed and started to cover them... Then [Moses and EliJah] disappeared into the cloud, which frightened [the Apostles].

35And a voice came from the cloud that said:

 ‘This is My Son… The one whom I’ve chosen. Listen to him!’

36Well, after they heard the voice, they suddenly saw Jesus standing all by himself! But back then, they didn’t say anything or tell anyone about the things that they saw.

37Then the next day, as they were descending the mountain, they were met by a huge crowd.

38And {Look!} a man shouted from the crowd:

 ‘Teacher! I beg you to take a look at my son, for he’s the only one I have!

 39‘Look! A spirit comes over him and he screams... Then it throws him into convulsions and he foams [at the mouth]. And although it stops after that, it leaves him all bruised!

 40‘I begged your disciples to throw it out, but they couldn’t do it!’

41So Jesus said:

 ‘O faithless and twisted people! How much longer must I stay among you and put up with you?

 ‘Bring your son over here!’

42However, just as [the son] was approaching, the demon threw him to the ground and forced him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus scolded the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father… And everyone was astonished by the majestic power of God.

43Well, his disciples were stunned by all the things that [Jesus] was doing, but then he said to them:

 44‘Let these words live in your ears:

 ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men!’

45However, they still didn’t understand what he was saying. In fact, it was hidden from them so they couldn’t understand, and they were afraid to ask him anything more.

46But then later, [the Apostles] started wondering which of them would be the greatest. 47And because Jesus knew what they were thinking in their hearts, he took a little boy and sat him down next to him, 48then he said:

 ‘Whoever welcomes this young child in my name, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me.

 ‘Therefore, the one who acts as the least one among you will be the greatest.’

49In reply, John said:

 ‘Master, we saw a man casting out demons by using your name and we tried to stop him, because he isn’t one of us!’

50But Jesus said to him:

 ‘Don’t try to stop him, because those who aren’t against you, are for you!’

51Now, since the number of days before he was going to be lifted up were about to run out, Jesus became firm in his resolve to go up to JeruSalem. 52So he sent messengers ahead of him, and they entered a Samaritan village in order to prepare [for his arrival].

53However, [the people there told them] that he wasn’t welcome if he was headed towards JeruSalem! 54And when the Disciples James and John [heard about] this, they asked Jesus:

 ‘Lord, do you want us to call fire down from the sky to wipe them out?’

55But he turned and scolded them, ~~and said, You don’t know what kind of spirit you are.~~ 56~~For the Son of man didn’t come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.~~ [spurious words] and they traveled on to another village.

57Well, as they were traveling along the road, someone said to [Jesus]:

 ‘Lord, I’ll follow you wherever you go!’

58And Jesus told him:

 ‘Foxes have burrows, and [birds] in the skies have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’

59Well after that, he invited someone else to become his follower. But the man replied:

 ‘First let me go and bury my father.’

60And [Jesus] told him:

 ‘Let the dead bury their own dead! You should go out and preach about the Kingdom of God!’

61Then another one came up and said:

 ‘I’ll follow you Lord… But first let me say goodbye to those in my home.’

62However, Jesus told him:

 ‘No one who looks back after he puts his hands to a plow is well suited for the Kingdom of God.’

### Luke

## Chapter 10

1Well after that, the Lord appointed 70 others that he sent out ahead of him in pairs into every city and place that he was going to go.

2And he told them:

 ‘There’s a huge harvest, but there aren’t enough workers. So, beg the Master of the harvest to force more workers to do the harvesting.

 3‘Now, get going!

 ‘Look; I’m sending you out as lambs among wolves. 4Therefore, don’t carry a bag of money or a food pouch or sandals, and don’t [stop to] greet people along the road.

 5‘Then as you enter each house you should say:

 *‘May this house have peace.’*

 6‘And if a son of peace lives there, your peace will rest upon him… But if not, it’ll return to you. 7So, stay in that house and eat and drink the things that they provide, because a worker deserves his wages… Don’t keep moving from one house to another.

 8‘Also, whenever you enter a city and they welcome you, eat whatever they set before you, 9then cure their sick and tell them that the Kingdom of God is near!

 10‘But whenever you enter a city and they fail to welcome you, go into its main streets and say:

 11*‘We’re wiping off the dust that got stuck on our feet in this city – and giving it all back to you!’*

 ‘Remember this: The Kingdom of God is really near!

 12‘And I tell you – it’ll be easier for Sodom to endure [the Judgment] day than for such a city to do so!

 13‘So, woe to you ChoraZin! And woe to you BethSaida! For if the powerful deeds that happened in you had also happened in Tyre and Sidon, they’d have repented in sackcloth and ashes a long time ago. 14This is why it’ll be easier for Tyre and Sidon to endure the Judgment Day than for you.

 15‘And you, O CapharNaum; will you be lifted into the heavens? [No,] you’ll go down to the place of the dead!

 16‘Understand that those who listen to you’re also listening to me, and those who ignore you are also ignoring me… And those who ignore me are ignoring the One who sent me.’

17Well, when the 70 whom Jesus had sent out in pairs finally returned, they joyfully said to him:

 ‘Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we used your name!’

18And he replied:

 ‘I was watching the Opposer falling like lightning from the sky! 19For I’ve given you the authority to walk on serpents, scorpions, and on the power of the enemy… And nothing will harm you!

 20‘However, don’t be joyful because [evil] spirits obeyed you; be joyful that your names have now been written in the heavens!’

21Then the Holy Breath caused him to shout out joyfully:

 ‘I publicly praise You Father, Lord of the heavens and the earth, because You’ve hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and You’ve uncovered them to infants.

 ‘Yes Father; this is why such clear reasoning was approved by You.

 22‘Now my Father has given me everything! For nobody knows the Son as well as the Father, [and nobody knows] the Father as well as the Son… And to whoever the Son wants to reveal Him.’

23Then with that, he turned to his disciples and spoke to them privately, saying:

 ‘The eyes that are seeing the things that you’re seeing, are blest; 24for I tell you that many prophets and kings wished to see the things that you’re seeing, but didn’t see them, and to hear the things that you’re hearing, but didn’t hear them.’

25{Look!} Then a man who knew the Law very well stood up [in the crowd], and to test [Jesus], he asked:

 ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit age-long life?’

26And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘What’s written in the Law… What have you read there?’

27Then the man said:

 ‘You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart, soul, strength, and mind, and you must love your neighbor as yourself.’ [combination of Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and 34]

28And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘That’s the right answer. Keep on doing that and you’ll live.’

29But [because the man] wanted to show how righteous he was, he asked Jesus:

 ‘Well then, just who really is my neighbor?’

30And this is how Jesus replied:

 ‘A man was traveling from JeruSalem to JeriCho when he was jumped by some robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and left him for dead.

 31‘Well, it so happened that a Priest was traveling along the same road. But when he saw [the injured man], he passed on the opposite side.

 32‘In the same way, when a Levite reached that place and saw him, he too passed on the opposite side.

 33‘However, when a Samaritan came along and saw him, he felt pity for him. 34So he got down and poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he mounted the man on his own animal and carried him to an inn, where he cared for him.

 35‘And the next day, he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, and told him:

 *‘Attend to this man, and I’ll repay you for all that you spend beyond this when I return.’*

 36‘Now, which of the three men seems to have made himself a neighbor to the person who had been jumped by the robbers?’

37And the [young man] answered:

 ‘The one who showed mercy to him.’

Then Jesus said:

 ‘Go your way and do the same thing.’

38Now, as they were traveling along, they entered a certain village where there was a woman named Martha, who welcomed him into her home. 39This woman had a sister named Mary, who then sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to all that he was saying. 40But at the time, Martha was distracted, because she was busy preparing [a meal].

So she came to him and said:

 ‘Lord, doesn’t it bother you that my sister has left me to do all the preparing by myself? Tell her to give me a hand!’

41But the Lord replied:

 ‘Martha, Martha,

 ‘You’re worried and upset about [preparing] many things, 42when all we need is just a few things… Or just one.

 ‘Mary has chosen the best part… Something that they can’t take away from her.’

### Luke

## Chapter 11

1Well, Jesus happened to be in a certain place praying; and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him:

 ‘Lord, teach us how to pray, as John taught his disciples.’

2Then he told them:

 ‘When you pray, you should say:

 *‘Our Father who’s in the heavens,*

 *‘May Your Name be treated as Holy,*
 *And may Your Kingdom arrive.*

 *‘May Your Will be done on the earth,*
 *As it is done in the heavens.*

 3*‘Give us the bread that we need for each day,*
 4*And [please] forgive all our sins,*
 *As we forgive those [who’ve sinned against] us.*

 *‘Into temptation, don’t let us be led,*
 *And from the evil one, save us.’*

5Then he asked:

 ‘Which of you has a friend to whom you could go at midnight and say:

 *‘Friend, loan me three loaves [of bread]* 6*because another friend of mine has arrived after a long journey, and I don’t have anything [to feed him]?’*

 7‘Wouldn’t he call to you from inside [his house] and say:

 *‘Don’t give me any trouble! My door is already locked and my kids are here in bed with me, so I can’t get up and give you anything!’*

 8‘But I tell you the truth – although he won’t get up to give you anything because he’s your friend, he will get up and give you what you need if you keep on bothering him!

 9‘Therefore:

 ‘If you keep asking, you’ll receive,
 If you keep searching, you’ll find,
 And if you keep knocking, it’ll be opened.

 10‘For, those who keep asking, will [get what they ask],
 Those who keep searching will find [what they want],
 And for all that keep knocking, the door will be opened.

 11‘Now, which father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? 12Or if he asks for an egg, who would hand him a scorpion?

 13‘Therefore, if you – in your wicked condition – know to give good gifts to your children... How much more will your Father in heaven give Holy Breath to those who keep asking Him?’

14Well, [Jesus] had once cast out a demon that was causing a man to be unable to talk. And after the demon came out, the man spoke, which amazed the crowds.

15But some of [the Pharisees] said:

 ‘He’s throwing out the demons with the help of BeElZebub, the ruler of the demons!’

16And at this same time, others were trying to tempt him by asking him to give them a sign from heaven. 17But knowing what they were thinking, Jesus said this:

 ‘A kingdom that’s divided can be conquered,
 And a house that’s [divided] can fall.

 18‘So if the Opposer is opposing himself,
 How can his kingdom survive?

 ‘Now, you say that I’m casting out demons by the power of BeElZebub; 19but if I’m casting out demons by BeElZebub, whose [power] are your sons using when they do the same thing?

 ‘It’s over things such as this that you’re going to be condemned!

 20‘For if I’m really casting out demons by the finger of God, then you’ve been overrun by His Kingdom!

 21‘When a strong, well-armed man guards his mansion,
 All of his things will be safe.

 22‘But if someone who’s stronger should come there,
 And take the weapons in which he put trust...
 He will divide up the loot.

 23‘Now, those who aren’t with me are against me,
 And those not with me are scattering!

 24‘When an unclean spirit comes out of a man,
 It travels through [many] dry places
 In search of a [good] place to rest.
 And when it doesn’t find one, it says:
 *‘I’ll go back to the house that I moved from.’*

 25‘Then, when he sees it swept and arranged,
 26He goes back with seven more spirits
 That are even more wicked than him!

 ‘And after they get back inside,
 They’ll all continue to live there.
 And so, the end result for that man,
 Is worse than it was at the start.’

27Now, as he was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd shouted:

 ‘Blest is the womb that carried you – and the breasts that you fed from!’

28But he replied:

 ‘No, blest are those who hear the word of God and obey it!’

29Well, a crowd was starting to form, so he said:

 ‘This is a wicked people that’s always looking for signs. But no sign will be given to it other than the sign of Jonah… 30For just as Jonah was a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this people.

 31‘Why, the Queen of the South will be raised in the Judgment,
 Along with this people,
 And she will speak in judgment against it.

 ‘For she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom.
 But look! Something more than Solomon is here!

 32‘The people of Nineveh will be raised in the Judgment,
 Along with this people,
 And they’ll also condemn it.

 ‘For they repented at what Jonah preached.
 But look! Something more than Jonah is here!

 33‘No one lights a lamp and then hides it,
 And they don’t put it under a basket.
 They set it on a lampstand instead,
 So people can see where they’re going.

 34‘Now, the body’s lamps are your eyes.
 And when you keep your eyes simple,
 They’ll make your whole body bright;
 But, if you have eyes that are wicked,
 They’ll make your whole body dark.

 35‘So be sure that your light isn’t darkness.
 36For if your whole body is bright,
 It’ll serve a lamp to shine on your way.’

37Well after he said this, a Pharisee asked [Jesus] to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at his table. 38However, the Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus hadn’t washed before dinner.

39But the Lord said to him:

 ‘You Pharisees like to wash the outsides of dishes and cups, but your insides are filled with wickedness and robbery!

 40‘Unreasonable people! Didn’t the One who made the insides also make the outsides?

 41‘However, if you’ll be charitable to those who are in need, {Look!} not just your outsides, but everything about you will be clean!

 42‘But, woe to you Pharisees... For although you offer even your mint and your rue when you tithe, you keep overlooking justice and the love of God!

 ‘Yes, you do all that [the Law] requires of you… But then you bypass all the rest.

 43‘Yes, woe to you Pharisees... For you love [to sit in the] front seats in the synagogues and [to receive] all the greetings in the markets! 44Yes, woe to you, for you’re like the hidden graves that men unwittingly walk on.’

45Well in reply, someone who was trained in the Law said to him:

 ‘Teacher, you know, when you say things like this, you’re insulting us!’

46But [Jesus] replied:

 ‘Woe to you who are trained in the Law, for you pile loads upon men so high that they can’t be carried and which you wouldn’t touch with even a finger!

 47‘Yes, woe to you! For you build tombs for the Prophets that were murdered by your fathers! 48And in so doing, you’re testifying against yourselves, since you’re approving of the very same things that your fathers did when they murdered those Prophets… Those whose tombs you’re now building.

 49‘It was concerning such things that the Wisdom of God said this:

 *‘I’m sending Apostles and Prophets to you*
 *Whom you’ll persecute and you’ll kill.’*

 50‘And this is why the blood of all of the Prophets
 That’s been spilled since this system was founded
 Will be laid upon this people…

 51‘From the blood of Abel to that of ZechariAh,
 Who [was murdered] between the [Temple] and Altar…
 It’ll all be laid upon this people!

 52‘So, woe to you who are trained in the Law,
 For although you accept the key to [great] knowledge,
 You fail to come through [the door],
 While blocking the way for everyone else trying to enter!’

53So after he said these things, he got up and walked out.

For the Scribes and Pharisees were just trying to pin him down... Constantly asking him questions about things 54as they were lying in wait, trying to trap him in anything that he might say.

### Luke

## Chapter 12

1Well, a huge crowd had gathered… There were so many thousands that they were literally stepping on each other. Then [Jesus gave this warning to] his disciples.

He said:

 ‘Watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

 2‘For there’s nothing hidden that won’t be exposed,
 And no secret that won’t be known.
 3So the things that you say in the darkness,
 Will be all heard in the light.
 And whatever is whispered within private rooms,
 Will be shouted aloud from the rooftops!

 4‘I tell you this, my friends:

 ‘Fear not those who can kill the body,
 But can do no more than that.

 5‘Let me show you whom you must fear:

 ‘Fear the One, who after killing [your body],
 Can throw [your life] into the garbage…
 Yes, He’s the One you must fear!

 6‘Although you can buy 5 sparrows with just 2 small coins,
 In the eyes of God, they’re not overlooked…
 7And He’s even numbered the hairs on your head.
 So you have no reason for fear,
 Since, more than many sparrows, is your value!

 8‘I tell you this:

 ‘For those who’ll admit before others,
 That they’re united with me.
 The Son of Man will also admit
 That they’re one with him before angels.
 9But for those who deny me to others,
 I’ll deny knowing them before angels.

 10‘Now, those who speak against the Son of Man can be forgiven; but those who blaspheme [God’s] Holy Breath won’t be forgiven! 11So when they drag you up before synagogues, or authorities, or government officials, don’t worry about what you must do or what you must say in your defense. 12For you’ll be taught what to say by [God’s] Holy Breath at that time.’

13Then someone in the crowd shouted:

 ‘Teacher, tell my brother to share his inheritance with me!’

14And [Jesus] said:

 ‘Man, who appointed me as judge or arbitrator between you two?’

15Then he [went on] to say this:

 ‘Keep your eyes open and guard against greed... For the things that you own won’t buy you life.’

16And then he gave them this parable:

 ‘A rich man’s fields produced well, 17so he thought about this and then asked himself:

 *‘What should I do, since there’s not enough room*
 *In which to store all my crops?’*

 18‘Then he said:

 *‘Ah, I’ll do this –*
 *I’ll tear down my barns and build larger,*
 *And that’s where I’ll put all my wheat*
 *As well as my other good things.*

 19*‘Then I’ll say to myself:*
 *You now have many good things*
 *Saved away [to last] many years.*
 *So, you can just take it easy…*
 *Yes, eat, drink, and enjoy it!’*

 20‘But God said:

 *‘O foolish man!*
 *Tonight, they’re demanding your life!*
 *So, who will now own all these things?’*

 21‘Yes, this is what will happen to a man
 Who lays away treasures for himself,
 But fails to gain wealth with God.’

22Then he said to his disciples:

 ‘This is why I’ve told you not to worry about your lives and about what you’ll eat, or about your bodies and what you’ll wear.

 23‘For your lives are worth so much more than food, and your bodies are worth [so much more] than clothes.

 24‘Notice the ravens; they don’t plant or harvest, and they don’t have barns or storage sheds, since they’re fed by God… So [think about] how much more you’re worth than those birds!

 25‘And which of you can add even a smidgen to your lives by worrying?

 26‘So if [worry] is unable fix little things, why be concerned about all these other things?

 27‘Also notice how the lilies grow; although they don’t work or spin cloth – I tell you that even Solomon in all of his glory wasn’t as well-dressed as they are! 28So if God so well clothes the plants in the fields – that are here today and thrown into an oven tomorrow – how much more would He rather clothe you… You with so little faith?

 29‘Therefore, stop searching for things to eat and drink, and don’t worry about how you’re going to get them! 30For these are the kinds of things that all the ethnics are pursuing.

 ‘However, your Father already knows that you need all these things. 31And if you’ll keep on seeking His Kingdom first, you’ll receive all the rest.

 32‘Don’t be afraid, little flock... For it’s the delight of your Father to give you the Kingdom!

 33‘Therefore, sell everything that you own and give it to those who really need it. Make purses for yourselves that won’t wear out… The unfailing treasures in the heavens, which can’t be consumed by thieves or by moths.

 34‘For where your treasures are is where your hearts will be.

 35‘Therefore, wrap on your sashes and light up your lamps, 36then act like men who are expecting their master’s return from his wedding, so that when he arrives and starts knocking, you can open [the door] to him right away.

 37‘Blest are those slaves who are watching
 When their master arrives!
 For I tell you this as the truth:
 He will then put on his apron,
 And make them recline at his table;
 Then, he will come there and serve them!

 38‘If it’s in the 2nd watch that he should arrive,
 Or even if it’s during the 3rd...
 You’ll be blest if he finds you doing these things!

 39‘Recognize this:

 ‘If the master of the house would’ve known
 The time when the thieves would arrive,
 He would have been keeping watch
 And not let them enter his house.

 40‘Likewise, you must also be ready!

 ‘For the Son of Man will arrive
 At a time that you consider unlikely.’

41Then Peter asked:

 ‘Lord, are you giving this parable to just us, or to everyone?’

42And the Lord said:

 ‘Who is the faithful house steward…
 The sensible one, assigned by his lord
 To be in charge over his faithful friends,
 And to provide their meals at the right times?

 43‘Such a slave will be blest
 If he’s found doing that when his master arrives.
 44I tell you the truth…
 He will put him in charge of everything he owns!

 45‘But if that slave should say in his heart:
 *‘My master’s return is delayed!’*
 And then he starts beating [the Lord’s] boys and girls,
 And he feasts, drinks, and gets drunk…
 46His master will arrive on an time and date
 That he’s not been expected,
 And he’ll whip him and count him among the unfaithful.

 47‘So the slave that knows what his master expects
 And doesn’t prepare or do what he wants
 Will be lashed with a whip many times.
 48But the one who doesn’t understand
 And does things for which he deserves to be whipped,
 Will be beaten with [just a] few [strokes].

 ‘For from those to whom much is given,
 Much is also expected.
 And from those who’ve been put in charge over much,
 Much is also required.

 49‘I came here to start a fire on the earth; so, what more could I possibly wish than to see it already lit?
 50But there’s also an immersion coming that I must endure, and I’m under great pressure until it arrives.

 51‘Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth?
 No, I’ve come to create divisions!
 52So, if there are five in a house,
 They’ll be divided three against two,
 Or two against three.

 53‘Fathers will be against their own sons,
 And sons [will be] against their own fathers…
 Mothers will be against their own daughters,
 And daughters will be against their own mothers.
 It will be mothers-in-law against daughters-in-law,
 And daughters-in-law against mothers-in-law!’

54Then he said this to the crowd:

 ‘When you see a cloud arise in the west,
 You say that a storm is approaching… And it happens.
 55And when you see the wind blow in from the south,
 You say that a heat wave is coming… And it happens.

 56‘Hypocrites! Since you know how to read the land and the sky,
 Why can’t you read the [signs of the] times?

 57‘It’s best to decide the right thing to do
 58Than to [argue] your case before rulers.

 ‘So, try to resolve things before you take it to them,
 So you won’t be brought in front of a judge,
 Who may hand you over to the bailiff,
 Who will thereafter throw you into a jail.

 59‘I tell you:

 ‘If that happens, you won’t get out
 Until you’ve paid your last cent.’

### Luke

## Chapter 13

1Well at the time, some people there were talking to Jesus about certain Galileans whose blood had been mixed with their sacrifices by [Pontius] Pilate.

2So [Jesus] asked them:

 ‘Do you think those Galileans suffered such things because they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?

 3‘No! For I tell you this: If you don’t repent, you’ll be destroyed that same way!

 4‘And what about those 18 people upon whom the tower at SiloAm fell and killed? Do you think they were worse sinners than all the others that live in JeruSalem?

 5‘No! I tell you this: If you don’t repent, you’ll all be destroyed that same way!’

6Then he gave them this parable:

 ‘There was a man who had a fig tree in his vineyard,
 And when he went there looking for fruit,
 He wasn’t able to find any.

 7‘So he said to the man who cared for the vineyard:

 *‘For the past three years,*
 *I’ve come looking for fruit from this tree,*
 *But so far, I haven’t found any.*
 *So, you should just cut it down,*
 *For it is just wasting space.’*

 8‘But [the vinedresser] gave this reply:

 *‘Master,*
 *Leave it alone for just one more year,*
 *While I’ll cultivate and fertilize it,*
 9*Then, it may bear fruit in the future…*
 *But if not, I’ll just cut it down.’*

10Well, [on another occasion], he happened to be teaching in one of the synagogues on a Sabbath 11where {Look!} there was a woman who’d endured a spirit of weakness for some 18 years… She was bent over and unable to straighten herself.

12And when Jesus saw this, he called to her and said:

 ‘Woman, you’re now free from this weakness.’

13Then he laid his hands on her and she straightened up instantly and started glorifying God.

14However, the chief of the synagogue resented this because Jesus had performed the cure on the Sabbath.

So he said to the crowd:

 ‘There are *six days* when work should be done. Come to be cured on *those days*, not on the Sabbath!’

15But the Lord replied:

 ‘Hypocrite! Don’t you untie your bulls and burros from their stalls and lead them out to drink on the Sabbath?

 16‘Yet, this is a daughter of AbraHam, whom the Opposer has held tied {Look!} for some 18 years! So, isn’t it appropriate for her to be untied from this type of bondage on the Sabbath?’

17Well after he said that, all those who opposed him were ashamed; and the crowd started rejoicing over all the glorious things that he was doing.

18Then he went on to say:

 ‘To what can the Kingdom of God be compared?
 To what can it really be likened?

 19‘It’s like the seed of the mustard
 That a man had planted in his garden.
 For it grew and became as tall as a tree,
 In whose branches, the birds of the skies came to roost.’

20And once again, he said:

 ‘To what can the Kingdom of God be compared?
 21It’s like a little fermentation
 That a woman hid in three scoops of flour,
 Until the mass rose and was filled with [the yeast].’

22Well, he did all of this as he was teaching in city after city and village after village on his way to JeruSalem.

23Then someone asked:

 ‘Lord, will only a few be saved?’

And he said to him:

 24‘You must strive to enter through the gate that’s narrow,
 For I tell you that many will try to get in,
 But they’ll not have enough strength.

 25‘So when the master gets up and latches the door;
 If you find yourself on the outside,
 Knocking and shouting:

 *‘Lord, open to us!’*

 ‘He will say:

 *‘I don’t know where you’re from!’*

 26‘And if you should say:

 *‘But before you, we ate and we drank,*
 *And you taught us along our main streets!*

 ‘Yet, he will then give this reply:

 27‘*No I don’t know where you’re from…*
 *Get away from me, you unrighteous people!’*

 ‘Then, you’ll be crying and grinding your teeth
 When you see AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob
 With all the Prophets in the Kingdom of God,
 As you are left on the outside.

 29‘For they’ll come from the east, west, north, and the south
 To recline at the table in the Kingdom of God.
 30But {Look!} those who are last will be first,
 And those who are first will be last.’

31Well within that very same hour, some Pharisees came to him and said:

 ‘You’d better get out of here and go, because Herod is looking to kill you!’

32But he replied:

 ‘Go tell the old fox that I’ll keep on casting out demons and healing today and tomorrow, and I’ll be finished on the third day.

 33‘However, I’ll also keep moving [on towards JeruSalem] today, tomorrow, and the next day, since it wouldn’t be fitting for a Prophet to be destroyed outside of [that city].

 34‘O JeruSalem, JeruSalem… You murderer of the Prophets and stoner of those being sent to you. How often I’ve wanted to gather your young like a hen brings her chicks under her wings! But you didn’t want it...

 35‘So look! Your house has now been taken from you!

 ‘And I’m telling you that you won’t see me again until [you’re ready to] proclaim:

 *‘Praised is the one coming in Jehovah’s Name!’* [paraphrase of Psalm 118:26]

### Luke

## Chapter 14

1Well, there was a time when [Jesus] went to eat a meal at the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on a Sabbath… And everyone there was watching him closely. 2Then {Look!} a man suffering from edema came to him.

3So Jesus asked those students of the Law and the Pharisees this:

 ‘Is it legal to cure on the Sabbath or not?’

4However, they wouldn’t answer.

So he touched [the man] and healed him, and then he sent him away. 5And Jesus asked them:

 ‘If your burro or bull fell into a well on the Sabbath, who of you wouldn’t immediately go and pull him out?’

6Well, they were unable to come up with a reply.

7Then, after noticing how the guests were choosing the best spots at the table, he gave them this parable:

 8‘If you’re invited to a wedding reception,
 Don’t go and recline in the very best place.
 For if someone more honored arrives,
 9The host will have to come there and say:

 *‘Let this man have that spot.’*

 ‘And you’ll be shamed when you’re sent to the least honored place.

 10‘So whenever you’re invited [to a banquet],
 Go and recline in the very last spot.
 Then, when the host arrives, he’ll say:

 *‘Friend, take a better position!’*

 ‘And you’ll be honored before all his guests.
 11For the self-exalting will be humbled,
 And the humble will be lifted high.’

12Then Jesus said to the man who invited him:

 ‘When you spread a dinner or a supper,
 Don’t call your friends and your brothers,
 Nor your kin or your rich neighbors;
 For, you’ll then get your reward
 When they invite you [for a meal].

 13‘But whenever you’re planning a banquet,
 Invite the crippled and poor,
 As well as the lame and the blind…
 14Those who can’t repay you;
 For then you’ll receive your reward
 When the righteous are standing again.’

15Well, when one of the guests heard this, he shouted:

 ‘Aren’t those who [are invited to] dine in the Kingdom of God those who’ll be blest?’

16And [Jesus] said:

 ‘There was a man who prepared a large supper,
 And he invited many [friends] to come there and dine.
 17So, after the meal was prepared,
 He sent his slave out to tell them:

 *‘Come on, for [the banquet] is ready!’*

 18‘But each thereafter gave an excuse.
 Said the first:

 *‘I must look at a field that I’ve bought;*
 *So, please let me be excused.’*

 19‘And then another said this:

 *‘I’ve purchased five pairs of oxen,*
 *And I must now go to inspect them;*
 *So, please let me be excused.’*

 20‘Still another replied:

 *‘Because I’m about to get married,*
 *I’m unable to come at this time.’*

 21‘Well when the slave returned and reported these things,
 The master of the house became angry,
 And this is what he said to his slave:

 *‘Go quickly to the main streets and alleys,*
 *And bring the crippled and poor,*
 *As well as the blind and the lame.’*

 22‘And when he returned, the slave told him:

 *‘Although I did everything you told me to do,*
 *There’s still plenty of room!’*

 23‘So the master then gave these instructions:

 *‘Go out to the roads and backyards,*
 *And make people come, so my house will be filled!*
 24*For I tell you that nobody I invited*
 *Will get even a taste of my supper!’*

25Well, since a large crowd had come there with him, he turned to them and said:

 26‘Unless those who come to me care less for their fathers, mothers, wives, children, brothers, and sisters – yes, even for their own lives – they can’t become my disciples...

 27‘Nor can anyone follow me who’s unwilling to carry his own impaling pole!

 28‘For, which of you who might choose to build a tower for himself wouldn’t first sit down to calculate the costs, so you’d be sure that you have enough [funds] to complete it?

 29‘Because, if you laid the foundation and then found out that you couldn’t finish the project, everyone who sees it would make fun of you and say:

 30*‘This man started the job, but then he couldn’t complete it!’*

 31‘Or, what king, when he’s marching [to battle], doesn’t first sit down and ask his advisors if his 10,000 troops can possibly beat the one coming with 20,000?

 32‘Because if he’s unable to do that, while [his enemy] is still far away, he’ll send his ambassadors to sue for peace.

 33‘So, you must be sure too!

 ‘For anyone who’s unwilling to give up everything they own, isn’t capable of being my disciple!

 34‘Yes, salt is good... But if it loses all its strength,
 What good will it be for seasoning your food?
 35So if it isn’t any good to use on soil or manure,
 People will just throw it away!

 ‘Now, let those who have ears pay attention to this!’

### Luke

## Chapter 15

1Well, tax collectors and sinners kept coming to [Jesus] to listen to the things that he was saying. 2And because of this, the Pharisees and Scribes started murmuring:

 ‘This man accepts sinners… And look, he even eats with them!’

3So he then told them this parable:

 4‘Which of you who owns 100 sheep,
 And then should lose just one,
 Wouldn’t leave the 99 out in the fields,
 To search for the lost until it is found?

 5‘Then when you find it, you will rejoice,
 And [carry it home] on your shoulders.
 6And when you get home,
 You’ll call your friends and neighbors and say:

 *‘Come and with me, rejoice,*
 *For I’ve found my sheep that was lost!’*

 7‘So in the same way, I tell you this:

 ‘There is more rejoicing in heaven
 Over just one sinner that turns from bad ways,
 Than over 99 of the righteous
 Who have no need of repentance.

 8‘Or when a woman with 10 silver coins
 Finds that she has lost one,
 She’ll light [all her] lamps and sweep her whole house
 To search until she has found it.
 9And when she finds it, she’ll call her neighbors and friends, and say:

 *‘Come and with me rejoice,*
 *For I’ve found the silver coin that I lost!’*

 10‘So I tell you:

 ‘There is joy among the angels of God
 Over each sinner that repents.’

11Then he said:

 ‘There once was a man who had two sons.
 12And the youngest went to his father and said:

 *‘Please give me my share of what I’ll inherit!’*

 ‘So he gave him the portion that was his.

 13‘Well just a few days after that,
 This younger son gathered his things
 And traveled to a far-away land,
 Where he quickly squandered all that he had.

 14‘Then after he’d spent [all his money],
 A famine came to that land,
 Which left him in a very bad spot.

 15‘So he went to work for a man in that place
 That sent him to watch over his pigs.
 16And soon he even started longing
 For the carob pods he was feeding the pigs,
 For the man gave him nothing [to eat].

 17‘Then when he came to his senses,
 He thereafter asked of himself:

 *‘Since my father’s hired-hands have plenty of bread,*
 *Why am I here, dying from hunger?*

 18*‘So I’ll get up and return to my father!*
 *And since I’ve sinned against heaven and him,*
 19*I’ll admit that I am unworthy*
 *To be called his son anymore,*
 *And I’ll tell him that I just want to work*
 *As one of his hired hands.’*

 20‘So then he got up and returned to his father.

 ‘However, while he was still far way,
 His father recognized him in the distance,
 And in pity, he ran and fell on his neck
 And then he tenderly kissed him.

 21‘But the son said:

 *‘Father, I’ve sinned against heaven and you,*
 *So I’m unworthy to be called your son anymore…*
 *Just let me be one of your hired hands.’*

 22‘But the father said this to his slaves:

 *‘Quickly bring him a robe…*
 *Bring the very best one,*
 *Then put a ring on his finger*
 *And put some shoes on his feet.*

 23*‘Also, slaughter the calf that we’ve fattened with wheat,*
 *Then let’s hold [a feast] and have a good time!*
 24*For my son who was dead is alive…*
 *He was lost, but now he’s been found!’*

 ‘So thereafter, they held a banquet for him.

 25‘Meanwhile, the older son had been out in the fields.
 And as he returned and got close to his home,
 He could hear [the sounds] of music and dancing.
 26So he called to one of the servants and asked,

 *‘What is happening here?’*

 27‘And in reply, [the servant] said this:

 *‘Your brother has just returned,*
 *So your father had us slaughter the calf that was fattened,*
 *Because [your brother] returned in good health!’*

 28‘Well at that, [the son] became very angry
 And he refused go back inside.
 So his father came and begged him to come on in.
 29But this is what he said to his father:

 *‘Even though I’ve slaved for you all these years*
 *And I’ve never broken your rules,*
 *You’ve not given me even a single kid goat*
 *That I could enjoy with my friends.*

 30*‘Yet, when this son returns home*
 *Who spent all his money on whores,*
 *For him, you slaughtered the wheat-fattened calf!’*

 31‘But this is what his father then said:

 *‘Child, you’ve always been with me,*
 *And everything I have is yours also.*
 32*However, we had to celebrate and rejoice,*
 *Because your brother, who was as one of the dead,*
 *Has now been brought back to life…*
 *The one who was lost, has been found!*’

### Luke

## Chapter 16

1Then [Jesus] went on to say this to his disciples:

 ‘There was a rich man who had a house manager that was accused of mishandling his belongings. 2So [the rich man] called him in and asked:

 *‘What’s this that I’m hearing about you?*
 *Turn in your things! You’re not managing [my] house anymore!’*

 3‘Then the [house manager] thought to himself:

 *‘What should I do now that my master is taking away my position? I’m not strong enough to dig and I’d be too ashamed to beg.*

 4*‘Ah! I know what I’ll do when I lose my job… I’ll do something to make people welcome me into their homes!’*

 5‘So he called in everyone who owed debts to his master, and he asked the first one:

 *‘How much do you owe my master?’*

 6‘He replied:

 *‘900 gallons (3,400l) of olive oil.’*

 ‘Then he told him:

 *‘Here, take your contract, then sit down and quickly write 450.’*

 7‘Then asked the next:

 *‘How much do you owe?’*

 ‘And he replied:

 *‘36,000 quarts (34,000l) of wheat.’*

 ‘So he told him:

 *‘Take your contract and write 29,000.’*

 8‘Well, although [what he’d done] was unrighteous, his master praised him, because he showed very good sense.

 ‘As you can see, the sons of this age are better at understanding how to deal with this people than the sons of light.

 9‘Therefore, I’m telling you to befriend unrighteous wealth, so that when everything else fails, they’ll welcome you into their tents throughout the ages.

 10‘For the one who’s faithful in little things
 Will also be faithful in much.
 But the one who’s unrighteous in little things
 Will also be unrighteous in much!

 11‘So if you fail to prove that you’re faithful
 With the unrighteous wealth [of this world]...
 Who will trust you with things that are true?
 12And if you fail to prove that you’re faithful
 With things belonging to others...
 Who of us will trust you with our things?

 13‘You can’t slave for two [different] masters;
 For you’ll dislike one and you’ll love the other,
 And you’ll stick to one while despising the other…
 So you can’t slave for both God and wealth.’

14Now, the Pharisees (who loved silver) were listening to him as he was saying these things, and they were looking at him with contempt.

15So he said to them:

 ‘You claim to be righteous before men, but God knows what’s really in your hearts; and things that are important to men are disgusting in God’s eyes.

 16‘Until John [came along], we had the Law and the Prophets. However, since then, what’s been preached is the Kingdom of God – and everyone has been trying to force their way into it.

 17‘Yet, it’d be easier for the land and sky to pass away than for a single stroke on one of the Law’s letters to fail!

 18‘Therefore, whoever releases his wife and takes some other [woman] has committed adultery. And whoever marries a released woman has also committed adultery.

 19‘Now, there once was a very rich man who dressed himself in purple and linen, and he enjoyed the very best things each day.

 20‘There was also a poor man named Lazarus who used to sit just outside of [the rich man’s] porch. This [poor] man was covered with sores, 21and all he wanted was to eat some of the things that fell from the rich man’s table. Also, even dogs would come and lick his sores.

 22‘Well, the poor man [eventually] died, and [God’s] messengers carried him off to the most-favored position of AbraHam.

 ‘Then the rich man also died and was buried.

 23‘But from the place of the dead he raised his eyes, and he was tormented when he saw AbraHam off in the distance with Lazarus lying before him.

 24‘So [the rich man] called out and said:

 *‘Father AbraHam, have mercy on me!*

 *‘Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool off my tongue, for I’m suffering in these flames!*

 25‘But AbraHam replied:

 *‘Child, remember that you had all the good things in life, while Lazarus [had just] the bad. So now he’s here [receiving my] comfort, while you are there suffering. 26Also, an abyss has been placed between us, so that those who are here can’t go there, and those who are there can’t come here.*

 27‘Well at that, [the rich man] said:

 *‘Then I beg you… Please father, send him to the house of my father, 28for I have five brothers… Get him to warn them what happened, so they don’t end up in this place of torment!*

 29‘But AbraHam replied:

 *‘They’ve already got the Prophets and Moses, [so your brothers] should listen to them!*

 30‘Then [the rich man] said:

 *‘No indeed, Father AbraHam; for they’d surely repent if someone were to come to them from the dead!*

 31‘But [AbraHam] said:

 *‘No! If they won’t listen to the Prophets or Moses, then they wouldn’t be persuaded even if someone rose from the dead!*’

### Luke

## Chapter 17

1Well after that, [Jesus] said this to his disciples:

 ‘It’s unavoidable that there’ll be snares.
 However, woe to those who set them!
 2For it would be better if a millstone was hung on his neck
 And he was thrown into the sea,
 Than to stumble one of these least ones.
 3So, pay attention to yourselves!

 ‘If your brother should sin [against you],
 You should go to him and discuss it.
 And if he repents, forgive him!

 4‘If he sins against you seven times in a day,
 And comes back seven times to tell you that he’s sorry,
 You should forgive him all seven times!’

5Then the Apostles said:

 ‘Lord, give us more faith!’

6And he told them:

 ‘If you had faith [the size of] a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree:

 *‘Pull out of the ground and plant yourself in the sea!’*

 ‘...and it would likely obey you.

 7‘Which of you has a slave who, after he’s been plowing or tending a flock, would say to him when he returns:

 *‘Come over here and recline at my table?’*

 8‘No, it’s more likely that you’d tell him:

 *‘Put on an apron and prepare my supper, then serve it to me. [You can wait] until I’m done eating and drinking, and thereafter you can get yourself something to eat and drink.’*

 9‘You won’t be grateful to that slave because he did what he was assigned, will you? 10So you too… After you’ve done all that you’ve been assigned, you should say:

 *‘We are just worthless slaves, and we’re just doing what we’re expected to do.’*

11Well, as [Jesus] was on his way to JeruSalem, he traveled through the midst of Samaria and then into Galilee. 12And as he entered a certain village, ten men who had leprosy ~~who stood at a distance~~ [spurious words] 13started shouting:

 ‘Jesus! Lord! Have mercy on us!’

14So when [Jesus] saw them, he said:

 ‘Go and present yourselves to the Priests.’

Then as they were leaving, each one was made clean.

15Well, one of them, when he realized that he had been healed, came back [to Jesus] glorifying God in a loud voice, 16and he fell to his face at Jesus’ feet to thank him (this one was a Samaritan).

17So Jesus asked:

 ‘Weren’t there ten that were cleansed? So, where are the other nine? 18Was this man of another race the only one who returned to glorify God?’

19Then he said to him:

 ‘Get up and go, for your faith has saved you!’

20Well [later], there was a Pharisee that asked [Jesus] when the Kingdom of God was coming. And this is the reply that he gave:

 ‘The coming of the Kingdom of God won’t be easily noticed, 21so people won’t be saying, *Look, it’s here,* or, *It’s there!* Rather, the Kingdom of God is within you!’

22Then he went on to say to his disciples:

 ‘The time is coming when you’ll wish that you could see just one of these days of the Son of Man… But you’ll no longer be able to see them. 23And although people will be saying, *Look he’s here*, or, *He’s there* don’t follow them. 24For when the Son of Man arrives, it’ll be like lightning that flashes across the whole sky.

 25‘But before that, he will have to endure many things and be rejected by this people. 26For just like it was back in the days of Noah is how it’ll be in the day of the Son of Man. 27Back then they were eating and drinking, getting married and being taken in marriage right up to the day that Noah entered the chest… And that’s when the Downpour arrived, destroying them all.

 28‘The same thing happened in Lot’s day. They were also eating and drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building 29right up until the day that Lot [fled from] Sodom. Then fire and sulfur rained down from the sky, destroying them all. 30 Yes, this is how it’ll be on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

 31‘So in that day, the man [who’s] on his roof shouldn’t go back down into his house to retrieve his things, and the person out in a field shouldn’t go back for things he’s left behind. 32Rather, remember [what happened to] Lot’s woman!

 33‘For those who try to save their lives will lose them, while those who lose them will live.

 34‘I tell you this:

 ‘In that night, there’ll be two in one bed,
 One will be taken along,
 And the other will be left behind.

 35‘Two will be grinding at [the same] mill;
 One will be taken along,
 And the other will be left behind.’

 36~~‘Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.’~~ [spurious words, probably copied from Matthew 24:40]

37So they asked him:

 ‘When [is this going to happen], Lord?’

And he replied:

 ‘When [you see] the vultures gather at the carcass.’

### Luke

## Chapter 18

1Then he gave them an illustration to show them why they should keep praying and never give up.

2He said:

 ‘There was a judge in a city who didn’t fear God
 And couldn’t be shamed by other men.
 3But a widow in that city kept coming and saying:

 *‘I want justice from the man whom I [sued].’*

 4‘Well at first, [the judge] did nothing at all,
 But then he started to reason:

 *‘Although I don’t fear God,*
 *And there aren’t men who can shame me...*
 5*Since this widow keeps coming and making more work,*
 *I’ll see that she receives justice*
 *So she doesn’t just nag me to death!’*

6Then the Lord asked:

 ‘Now, did you hear what this unrighteous judge said?

 7‘So won’t God, who is patient,
 Also give justice to His chosen ones
 That call out to Him day and night?
 8Yes, I tell you...
 He’ll bring speedy justice for you!

 ‘Yet, when the Son of Man arrives, will he really find the faith on earth?’

9Then he gave this illustration to some there that were putting more trust in themselves and thinking that they were righteous, while everyone else was just nothing.

He said:

 10‘Two men went up to the Temple to pray…
 A tax collector and a Pharisee.

 11‘Now, the Pharisee stood up and said this
 Concerning himself in his prayer:

 *‘I thank You O God, that I’m not like the rest,*
 *Who are robbers, the unrighteous, and adulterers…*
 *Or like that tax collector [over there].*
 12*For I fast two times every week,*
 *And contribute 1/10th of all I receive.’*

 13‘Yet the tax collector, who stood at some distance,
 Wouldn’t raise his eyes towards the sky.
 He just beat on himself as he said:

 *‘O God,*

 *‘Please don’t be angry with this sinner!’*

 14‘Well, I tell you that this man went back home more righteous than the other, because the self-promoters will be humbled, while the humble will be promoted.’

15Thereafter, people started bringing their young children for [Jesus] to have him just touch them. However, when the disciples saw this, they started scolding them.

16Then Jesus called [the disciples] to him and said:

 ‘Let the young children come to me… Don’t try to stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to people like this.

 17‘I tell you the truth; those who don’t welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child, won’t enter it at all.’

18Then a certain ruler asked him:

 ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit age-long life?’

19But Jesus asked him:

 ‘Why are you calling me good? Nobody’s good except One… The God!

 20‘You know the Commandments... Don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t provide false testimony, honor your father and mother… ’

21Then [the ruler] replied:

 ‘Well, I’ve guarded all these [things] since my youth!’

22And Jesus said:

 ‘But there’s still one thing that you’re lacking… Go and sell all that you have, then give to the poor, and come be my follower. That’s when you’ll have treasures in the heavens!’

23Well when he heard this, [the ruler] became very sad, because he was extremely rich.

24So Jesus looked at him and said:

 ‘It’ll be very difficult for those who are rich
 To find their way into the Kingdom!
 25It’s easier to thread a rope through a needle
 Than for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!’

26Well at that, those who heard him say this, asked:

 ‘Then, who can possibly be saved?’

27And he replied:

 ‘Things that are impossible for men are still possible with God.’

28But Peter said:

 ‘Look, we’ve left everything to follow you!’

29And [Jesus] said to him:

 ‘I tell you the truth;
 There’s no one who loses a house or a wife,
 Or brothers, parents, or children
 For the sake of the Kingdom of God,
 30Who won’t receive much more in this age,
 And life in the age that’s coming.’

31Then he took the 12 aside and said this to them:

 ‘Look! We’re on our way up to JeruSalem, where everything that the Prophets wrote about the Son of Man is now going to be fulfilled. 32He’ll be handed over to the gentiles and made fun of; he’ll be treated shamefully and spat on; 33and then after flaying him with a whip, they’ll kill him…

 ‘But on the third day, he’ll stand again.’

34However, they just didn’t grasp the meaning of any of these things, because what he said was hidden from them and they couldn’t understand it.

35Well later, as he was approaching JeriCho, there happened to be a blind man who was sitting alongside the road begging. 36Then as he heard the crowd moving past, he asked what was happening, 37and he was told:

 ‘Jesus the Nazarene is coming!’

38So he started shouting:

 ‘Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!’

39Well, those who were walking in front [of Jesus] told him to be quiet. However, he shouted even louder:

 ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’

40So Jesus stopped and gave orders to have him brought over. And when [the blind man] got to him, [Jesus] asked:

 41‘What is it that you want me to do for you?’

And he answered:

 ‘Lord, let me see again!’

42So Jesus said:

 ‘Then, see again… For your faith has saved you!’

43And instantly, his sight returned! Then he started following [Jesus], glorifying God, and the people were also praising God after they saw this.

### Luke

## Chapter 19

1Well after that, as [Jesus] was continuing on through JeriCho, 2{Look!} there was a rich man called ZacChaeUs (he was the chief tax collector) 3and he wanted to see just who this Jesus was, but he couldn’t because of the crowd, since he was too short.

4So he ran ahead and climbed a fig-sycamore tree along the street where [Jesus] was walking, so he could see him.

5Then when Jesus reached that spot, he looked up and said:

 ‘ZacChaeUs, hurry and get down from there, because I’ll be staying at your house today.’

6So the man quickly got down and started rejoicing that he could welcome him as his guest. 7But when [the crowds] saw this, they all started grumbling:

 ‘Is he going to spend the night at the home of a man who’s a sinner?’

8But then ZacChaeUs stood up and said this to [Jesus]:

 ‘Lord, I’ll give half of my belongings to the poor, and whatever I got from anyone by extortion and false accusations, I’ll repay four times over!’

9So Jesus said:

 ‘Salvation has come to this house today, for he’s also a son of AbraHam! 10This is the reason why the Son of Man came… To search for and save those who are lost.’

11Well, as they were listening to him say these things, Jesus gave them this parable (because he was getting close to JeruSalem and they all thought that the Kingdom of God was coming right away).

12So he said:

 ‘A certain man of noble birth
 Traveled to a far-away land
 To be appointed as king.

 13‘So he called for ten of his slaves,
 And he gave them each a large silver coin,
 Saying:

 *‘Do business [with this], until I return.’*

 14‘But, he was hated by some of his subjects,
 Who sent envoys ahead to say this about him:

 *‘We don’t want this man as our ruler!’*

 15‘Well, when he returned, appointed as king,
 He summoned all [ten] of those slaves
 To whom he’d entrusted his silver,
 To find out how much they’d gained.

 16‘So the first one came up and told him:

 *‘With your coins, I’ve earned ten silver coins!’*

 17‘And [the king] said this in reply:

 *‘Well-done, my good [faithful] slave!*
 *Since you’ve proved yourself faithful in small things,*
 *I’ll appoint you over ten cities.’*

 18‘Then the second [slave] came up and said:

 *‘With your coins, I’ve earned five silver coins!’*

 19‘So [the king] said:

 *‘I’ll appoint you over five cities.‘*

 20‘But the last came up and said:

 *‘Lord, here’s the coin you gave me,*
 *Which I wrapped up in a bandanna.*
 21*I did this because I’m afraid,*
 *For I know that you’re a very harsh man…*
 *One who picks up what he hasn’t put down*
 *And harvests where he hasn’t planted.’*

 22‘Then [the master] said:

 *‘O wicked slave!*
 *From the words of your mouth, I’ve judged you…*
 *So you know that I’m a very harsh man,*
 *Who picks up what he hasn’t put down,*
 *And harvests what he hasn’t planted?*
 23*Then you should have put my coin in a bank,*
 *Where it likely would have gained interest!’*

 24‘Then he said this to those who were standing nearby:

 *‘Take away the coin that I gave him,*
 *And give it to the one who has ten!’*

 25‘But when they said:

 *‘O Lord, he already has ten.’*

 26‘He said:

 *‘More will be given to those who have much,*
 *While all will be taken from those who have none.*

 27*‘Now, bring all my enemies here…*
 *Those who didn’t want me to serve as their king,*
 *And before me, slaughter them all!*’

28Then after he said all these things, he got up and started leading the way to JeruSalem.

29And when he got close to BethPhage and BethAny (near the hill called the Mount of Olives), he sent two of his disciples ahead, 30telling them:

 ‘Go into that village opposite us, and as you’re entering it, you’ll find a colt that’s tied up, which no one has ridden before. Untie it and bring it here.

 ‘31And if anyone asks why you’re untying it, just tell him that the Lord needs it.’

32Well, those who were sent ahead found things exactly as he said they’d be. 33So when the owners asked why they were untying the colt, 34they replied:

 ‘The Lord needs it.’

35So they thereafter led it to Jesus, and they threw a robe over the colt and set Jesus on [top of it]. 36Then, as he was traveling along, they were all spreading their robes over the road in front of him.

37Well, as soon as he got close to the road that leads down the Mount of Olives [into JeruSalem], huge crowds of his disciples started rejoicing and praising God, shouting about all the powerful things that they had seen, 38and saying:

 ‘Praise this one who comes as King in the Name of Jehovah!

 ‘Peace in the heavens and glory in the highest places!’

39However, some of the Pharisees among the crowd went up [to Jesus] and said:

 ‘Teacher! Scold your disciples!’

40But Jesus replied:

 ‘I tell you this: If they were to remain silent, these stones would be doing the shouting!’

41Well, as he was approaching the city, he looked at it and shed tears over it, saying:

 42‘If you just knew this today… The things that [would have led you] to peace… But now they’ve been hidden from your eyes.

 43‘For the days are coming when your enemies will come here and build a fort of pointed stakes around you. Yes, they’ll completely surround you and come at you in force from all sides! 44Then they’ll toss you and your young to the ground, and they won’t leave a stone on top of a stone here, because you failed to recognize the time of your being inspected.’

45Then from there he entered the Temple and started throwing out the vendors, 46saying to them:

 ‘Despite it being written, *My house will be a house of prayer,* you’ve made it a den of thieves!’

47So he taught in the Temple every day after that.

And although the Chief Priests, Scribes, and prominent people were looking to destroy him, 48they couldn’t come up with a just reason to do it, since all the people were gathering around and listening to him.

### Luke

## Chapter 20

1Then one day, while he was teaching the people in the Temple and preaching the Good News, the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders came up 2to him and said:

 ‘Tell us where you got the authority to do these things!

 ‘Who told you that you could this?’

3So he replied:

 ‘Let me ask you a question… Tell me:

 4‘Did John’s immersion come from heaven or from men?’

5Then they got together and reasoned among themselves, saying:

 ‘If we say, *From heaven,* he’ll ask, *Then, why didn’t you believe him?*

 6‘But if we say, *From men,* all the people will stone us, because they believe that John was a Prophet.’

7So they came back and told him that they didn’t know where it came from.

8And Jesus said:

 ‘Then I’m not telling you where I got the authority to do these things.’

9Well after that, he gave the people this parable:

 ‘A man once planted a vineyard
 And contracted it out to some farmers;
 Then he traveled abroad for a very long time.

 10‘So, when it came time for the harvest,
 He sent a slave to the farmers
 To ask for some fruit from his vineyard.
 But the farmers then had [that slave] whipped,
 And sent him away empty-handed.

 11‘Thereafter, [the man] did the same thing again,
 But sending a different slave.
 This one, they whipped and dishonored,
 And they sent him away empty-handed.

 12‘Thereafter, he sent them a 3rd slave,
 Whom they wounded and then threw him out.

 13‘So the owner asked himself what else he could do...
 Then he said:

 *‘I’ll send my dearly-loved son,*
 *For I’m sure that they’ll respect him!’*

 14‘But when those farmers saw him arriving,
 They discussed it, and then they said this:

 *‘This is the heir, so let us kill him,*
 *And then his inheritance will be ours!’*

 15‘So they threw him out of the vineyard,
 And thereafter, they put him to death.

 ‘So now, what do you think the owner will do?
 16Won’t he come and destroy those [bad] farmers,
 Then entrust his vineyard to others?’

Well when they heard this, the [Pharisees] said:

 ‘Nothing like that is ever going to happen!’

17But he looked at them and said:

 ‘Then, what’s the meaning of what was written, which says:

 *‘The stone that the builders rejected*
 *Has become the foundation cornerstone?*
 [Psalm 118:22]

 18‘I tell you; all who fall on this stone will be broken, and it’ll smash everyone it falls on.’

19Well after that, the Scribes and Chief Priests started looking for ways to arrest him, for they realized that his parable was about them. However, they were still afraid of the people, 20so they just kept on watching him closely.

Then they sent men who pretended to be righteous so they could trick him into saying something that would give them a reason to hand him over to the government and to the power of its governor.

21So they came up to him and said:

 ‘Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is right, and that you aren’t swayed by a man’s appearance… For you truthfully teach the ways of God.

 22‘So now, tell us... Should we pay the taxes to Caesar or shouldn’t we?’

23Well, recognizing what they were up to, he said:

 24‘Show me a coin… Whose image and inscription is on it?’

And they replied:

 ‘Caesar’s.’

25Then he said:

 ‘You should pay Caesar’s things to Caesar, and God’s things to God.’

26Well as a result, they weren’t able to catch him in anything that he said there in front of the people, and they were amazed by his answers. So they didn’t say anything more to him after that.

27However, some of the SadDucees (who say there’s no resurrection) went up to him and asked him this:

 28‘Teacher, Moses wrote that if a man dies leaving his woman childless, his brother should take the brother’s woman and sire offspring for him.

 29‘Now, let’s say there were seven brothers... The first took a woman, and then he died childless.

 30‘So, the second one and then 31the third took her, and the same thing happened to all seven… They all died before siring children.

 32‘Finally, the woman also died.

 33‘So... Whose woman will she be in the resurrection, since all seven had her as theirs?’

34And Jesus replied:

 ‘Although the sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35those who’ve been found worthy of that age and the resurrection from the dead won’t marry or be given in marriage, 36nor will they die anymore.

 ‘For they’ll have the power of the angels, since, as sons of the resurrection, they [will also be] sons of God.

 37‘Even Moses showed that the dead will be raised! For when [he was] at the [burning] bush, he called Jehovah the God of AbraHam, the God of IsaAc, and the God of Jacob.

 38‘So He isn’t a God of the dead, but of the living, since they’re all living to Him!’

39Then some of the Scribes came up and said:

 ‘Teacher, that was a fine answer.’

40And they didn’t have the courage to ask him anything more after that.

41So [Jesus] then asked them:

 ‘Why do they say that the Anointed One is David’s son? 42For David himself said in the scroll of the Psalms:

 *‘Jehovah said this to my lord:*
 *Sit here at My right hand,*
 43*‘Til I set your enemies as a stool for your feet.’*
 [Psalm 110]

 44‘So if David called him Lord, how could he be his son?’

45Well at the time, all the people were there listening to this. So then he turned and said this to his disciples:

 46‘Watch out for the Scribes who like to walk around in robes, to be greeted in the markets, to have the front seats in the synagogues, and to have the most prominent places at the suppers. 47For they swallow down the homes of widows and then cover up their wrong-doing by saying long prayers.

 ‘This is why they’ll receive a heavier judgment!’

### Luke

## Chapter 21

**[Editor note: This chapter division appears to be in the wrong place – perhaps placed here deliberately to change the meaning. The account below is a continuation of the one at the end of chapter 20.]**

1Well, as he looked up, he noticed the rich dropping their gifts into the [Temple] treasury chests. 2And then he saw a poor widow drop in just two small copper coins, 3and he said:

 ‘I tell you the truth, although this widow is very poor, she dropped in more than they all did, 4since they dropped in gifts from their surplus, while this needy person dropped in her whole means of living!’

5Then, as certain ones were discussing the Temple (how fine its stonework was and how nicely it was adorned), 6he said:

 ‘When it comes to these things that you see... The days are coming when there won’t be a stone left on top of a stone here that won’t be thrown down!’

7So they asked him:

 ‘Teacher, when will these things take place… What will be the signs that they’re about to happen?’

8And he replied:

 ‘Be careful that no one misleads you, for many will come in my name and say, *I’m the one,* and, *The time has arrived*…

 ‘But don’t follow them!

 9‘You’ll also hear about wars and disorders, but don’t be frightened by this, for all those things must happen first.

 ‘However, the end doesn’t come right away.’

10And he told them:

 ‘Then nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11there’ll be many great rumblings, and there’ll be famines and plagues everywhere, as well as fearful sights and signs in the skies.

 12‘However, before all these things happen, they’re going to persecute you and arrest you, then lead you up before religious courts and have you locked up. Yes, because of my name they’ll drag you before governors and kings… 13And that’ll be your sign!

 14‘[But when this happens], don’t bother to plan your defense. 15For I’ll give you a mouth and enough wisdom so that anyone who lies about you will be unable to resist or contradict you.

 16‘However, your own brothers and parents… Yes, even your own families and friends will betray you and kill some of you! 17And although everyone will dislike you because of my name, 18not a hair on your heads will be harmed.

 19‘So by your endurance, you’ll have gained your own lives!

 20‘Now, when you see armies camped around JeruSalem, know that her destruction is near. 21Then those in Judea should run to the mountains… Yes, everyone in her midst should flee, and those who are in [fields] must not come back into her! 22For those will be days of avenging and for accomplishing all that’s been written about her.

 23‘Woe to those who are pregnant and nursing babies in those days, for there’ll be great distress in the land as [God’s] wrath is brought upon these people. 24They’ll either be cut down by swords or be carried off to the nations as captives.

 ‘Then JeruSalem will be trampled by the gentiles until the times of the nations are filled.

 25‘At that time there’ll be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth, the nations will all be in distress, for they’ll be confused by the roaring and the rolling surges of the seas.

 26‘Then men’s hearts will become weak with fear in expectation of the things that will be coming upon the habitation of mankind, as [they see] the powers in the heavens being shaken. 27And that’s when they’ll see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory!

 28‘But as [you see] these things start to happen, you should stand erect and raise your heads high... For you’ll know that the time of your deliverance has drawn near!’

29Then he gave them this parable:

 ‘Consider the figs and all other trees;
 30For, when they start putting out buds,
 You know that summer is near.

 31‘Thus, when you see these things start to happen,
 You should know that the Kingdom of God has drawn near.

 32‘I tell you the truth...
 This people won’t pass away
 Until all these things are fulfilled…
 33Although the lands and the skies may all pass away,
 My words won’t pass away!

 34‘So pay attention to yourselves,
 And don’t let your hearts become overburdened…
 Don’t allow the worries of life
 To make your hearts reel, and let you get drunk,
 So that day doesn’t sneak up upon you.
 35For, it’ll arrive like a snare
 Upon all that sit on the face of the earth.

 36‘Therefore, you must keep watch in every season
 And keep praying that you’ll have the strength
 To escape all these things that will happen,
 And before the Son of Man, be able to stand.’

37Well, [Jesus] taught in the Temple during the daytime, and every night he would go and camp on the hill called The Mount of Olives.

38So, all the people would come to the Temple early each morning to listen to him.

### Luke

## Chapter 22

1Now, as the Festival of Passover was drawing near, 2the Chief Priests and Scribes were looking for ways to get rid of Jesus. However, they were still afraid of the people. 3But then the Opposer entered Judas (the one called IsCariot, who was one of the 12), 4and he went off and talked to the Chief Priests and [Temple] captains about ways that he could betray [Jesus] to them.

5Well, they were delighted by this, and they agreed to pay him in silver coins, 6which he accepted. So then he started looking for opportunities to betray [Jesus] when there were no crowds around.

7Then, [just before] the Day of No Fermentation (which is when the Passover was to be sacrificed), 8[Jesus] sent Peter and John ahead of him, saying:

 ‘Go and prepare for us to eat the Passover.’

9And when they asked him where he wanted them to prepare it, 10he told them:

 ‘{Look!} When you go into the city, you’ll be met by a man who is carrying a clay jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters.

 11‘Then tell the master of the house that the Teacher wants to know where the guest room is where he can eat the Passover with his disciples. 12And he’ll show you a large furnished upstairs room.

 ‘Prepare for it there.’

13So they left and found things just as he said; and they prepared for the Passover.

14Then when it was time, he reclined at the table with his Apostles, 15and he said to them:

 ‘I really wanted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16For I tell you that I won’t eat it again until it’s fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.’

17And at that, he took a cup, gave thanks for it, and said:

 ‘Take this and pass it among yourselves...

 18‘I tell you that from this point on, I definitely won’t be drinking the fruit of the vine again until after the Kingdom of God has arrived.’

19Then he took a loaf [of bread], gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying:

 ‘This is my body, which is being handed over for you. Continue to do this in memory of me.’

20He also did the same thing with the cup after supper. He said:

 ‘This cup is the New Sacred Agreement of my blood which is being poured out on your behalf.

 21‘But look… The hand of my betrayer is with me here at this table! 22So the Son – who indeed is from among mankind – will be going the way that has been marked out for him… Yet, woe to that man through whom he’s being betrayed!’

23Well at that, they started discussing among themselves which one would possibly do such a thing. 24But then, a friendly dispute also arose between them as to which one of them seemed to be the greatest.

25So [Jesus] said to them:

 ‘The kings of the gentiles like to dominate them, and those with power like to be called their benefactors. 26However, you shouldn’t be like that. Rather, the greatest among you should act like the youngest, and the one taking the lead should be the servant of the others.

 27‘For, which one is truly the greatest… The one who reclines at the table, or the one who does the serving? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? Yet, here among you, I’m the one who’s been serving!

 28‘Now, because you’re the ones who stuck with me during my trials, 29I’m giving this appointment to you, as my Father has given the appointment to me, for a Kingdom:

 30‘In my Kingdom, you’ll eat and drink at my table, and you’ll sit on thrones, from which you’ll judge the 12 tribes of IsraEl.

 31‘But Simon, O Simon... Look! The Opposer has demanded to have you so [he can] sift you like wheat! 32However, I’ve pleaded with [God] on your behalf so that your faith doesn’t give out… And then after you return, you can strengthen your brothers.’

33But [Peter] said to him:

 ‘Lord, I’m ready to go with you to prison and even into death!’

34However, [Jesus] said:

 ‘I tell you this Peter; a rooster won’t crow today until you’ve denied knowing me three times!’

35Then [Jesus] went on to say this to them:

 ‘When I sent you out before without a money bag, or a food pouch, or extra sandals, you didn’t really need anything else, did you?’

And they all replied:

 ‘No!’

36But then he gave them this warning… He said:

 ‘But now; if you have a money bag, you must carry it along, as well as a pouch for your food. And if you don’t have a sword, you should go sell your coat and buy one.

 37‘For I’m telling you that the thing that was written about me must now be fulfilled:

 *‘He was counted among the law breakers.’* [Isaiah 53:12]

 ‘Yes, this scripture is now going to be fulfilled in me.’

38Then [the Apostles] said:

 ‘Look, Lord… Here are two swords!’

And He said to them:

 ‘That’s enough.’

39Then he left, and as was his custom, he went to the Mount of Olives… And the disciples followed along. 40And when he got there, he told them this:

 ‘Now, pray that you won’t be tested!’

41And at that, he walked away from them about a stone’s throw, and he bent down and started to pray, saying:

 42‘Father, if it’s Your Will, please take this cup away from me… But only if it’s Your will, not mine.’

43Then a messenger from the heavens appeared to him, and this gave him strength. 44Yet, because he was still in agony, he prayed even harder, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

45Well, after he’d finished praying, he got up and returned to the disciples and found them sleeping (because they were all very grieved).

46So he asked them:

 ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you won’t be tested!’

47But while he was still talking, {Look!} a mob approached with one of the 12 (the one called Judas) in the lead, and he walked right up to Jesus and kissed him!

48Well at that, Jesus said:

 ‘Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?’

49And when those who were around [Jesus] saw what was about to happen, they asked him:

 ‘Lord, shall we fight them off with the swords?’

50Then that’s when one of them struck the High Priest’s slave, taking off his right ear. 51And after that happened, Jesus said:

 ‘It has gone far enough!’

Then he touched the [man’s] ear and healed him.

52And thereafter, Jesus asked the Chief Priests, Temple captains, and elders that had come for him:

 ‘Are you coming here with swords and clubs [as though I were] some thief?

 53‘I was with you in the Temple every day, and you didn’t try to grab me then… However, this is your hour and the power of darkness!’

54So they arrested him and led him off to the house of the High Priest, as Peter followed behind at some distance. 55There they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard, where they all sat down together, and Peter went and sat down among them.

56But then a servant girl noticed [Peter] sitting there in the light of the fire… She looked at him very hard and said:

 ‘[This man] was with him also!’

57But [Peter] denied it, saying:

 ‘I don’t know him, woman!’

58And a little while later, someone else saw him and said:

 ‘You’re also one of them!’

But Peter said:

 ‘Man, I am not!’

59Then, after standing around for another hour, someone started insisting, saying:

 ‘It’s true; this man was with him, because he’s also a Galilean!’

60But Peter said:

 ‘Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!’

And just as he was speaking, a rooster crowed.

61Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the words that the Lord had said to him:

 ‘Before the rooster crows today, you’ll deny knowing me three times.’

62And at that, [Peter] went outside and wept bitterly.

63Well, the men who had taken [Jesus] into custody then started making fun of him, and they [slapped] him 64as they were covering [his head] and shouting:

 ‘Now prophesy… Tell us who’s disciplining you!’

65They were also saying all sorts of slanderous things about him.

66Well, as the day was dawning, the people’s body of elders assembled with the Chief Priests and Scribes, and then they brought [Jesus] before the Jewish High Court, where they said to him:

 67‘If you really are the Anointed One, then say so!’

And he replied:

 ‘If I told you, you wouldn’t even start to believe it!

 68‘Also, if I asked you any questions, you wouldn’t answer at all!

 69‘But from now on, the Son of Man will be sitting at the powerful right hand of The God!’

70Well at that, they all asked:

 ‘So, are you the Son of The God?’

And he replied:

 ‘You’re the ones who are saying I am!’

71And then they said:

 ‘So, why do we need any more witnesses, for now we’ve heard it from his own mouth!’

### Luke

## Chapter 23

1Well thereafter, the whole assembly got up and took [Jesus] before Pilate. 2And there they accused him, saying:

 ‘We found this man trying to undermine the principles of our nation by forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and by saying that he’s the Anointed One… A king!’

3So Pilate asked him:

 ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’

And he replied:

 ‘You’re the one saying this.’

4Then Pilate said to the Chief Priests and the crowds:

 ‘I can’t find anything wrong with this man.’

5But they insisted, saying:

 ‘He’s been stirring up the people ~~teaching~~ throughout all of Judea… That’s why he came here from Galilee!’

6Well on hearing that, Pilate asked whether [Jesus] was in fact a Galilean.

7Then, after learning that he was from Herod’s realm, he sent him over to Herod (who also happened to be in JeruSalem at the time [for the Passover]).

8Well, when Herod saw Jesus, he was overjoyed, because he’d been wanting to see him for quite some time, since he’d heard so much about him and he hoped to see Jesus perform some sign. 9So he asked many questions, but [Jesus] wouldn’t answer him.

10[And all the while], the Chief Priests and Scribes kept standing up and accusing him.

11But then, not knowing what to make of him, Herod and his troops made fun of Jesus by dressing him in bright clothes, and thereafter they sent him back to Pilate. 12This is also why Herod and Pilate became friends that day, for they really hadn’t liked each other before that.

13So Pilate then assembled the Chief Priests, rulers, and all the people, 14and he said to them:

 ‘You brought this man to me as someone who was inciting the people to revolt. And look! I’ve examined him before you and I can’t find any basis for the charges that you’re bringing against him.

 15‘In fact, Herod didn’t either, because he returned him to us.

 ‘So, since he’s done nothing deserving of death, 16I’m just going to discipline him and then release him.’

17~~For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.~~ [spurious words]

18But with that, the entire crowd started shouting:

 ‘Impale him and release BarAbbas to us!’

19([BarAbbas] was in prison at the time because of [his involvement in] a revolt in the city, and for murder).

20Well, Pilate shouted to them once again, because he wanted to release Jesus. 21But they started yelling:

 ‘Impale him! Impale him!’

22So he asked them a third time:

 ‘Why? What crime has he committed?

 ‘I haven’t found anything that he’s done to deserve death, so I’m just going to discipline him and then set him free!’

23But they started shouting impatiently, demanding to have [Jesus] hung on a pole… And their voices started to win out. 24So Pilate gave in 25and he released [BarAbbas] (who was in prison for rebellion and murder) to meet their demands, then he did what they wanted [him to do] to Jesus.

26Well, as they were leading him away, they grabbed Simon (a Cyrenian who happened to be coming in from the fields) and laid the pole [to be used to execute Jesus] on him, so that he could carry it behind Jesus [on his behalf].

27Meanwhile, a huge crowd of people (including many women) followed behind [Jesus], beating themselves in grief and wailing over him.

28But then Jesus turned to the women and said:

 ‘Daughters of JeruSalem, stop crying for me… Cry instead for yourselves and for your children!

 29‘Because, {Look!} the days are coming when people will say:

 *‘Those without any children,*
 *And those whose wombs have not given birth,*
 *Or whose breasts haven’t nursed, are the blest!’*

 30‘For they’ll then call to the mountains and say:

 *‘Come and fall over us!*
 *And to the hills they’ll shout,*
 *[Fall down] and cover us over!*

 31*‘For if [the Romans] have been willing to do such bad things*
 *While the tree is still moist,*
 *What will they do after it’s withered?’*

32Well, two criminals were also being led out to be impaled along with [Jesus]. 33And when they got to the place that was referred to as ‘The Skull,’ they hung him and the criminals on poles there (one on his right and the other on his left).

34~~Then said Jesus:~~

 ~~‘Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.’~~ [possible spurious words]

Then [the soldiers] threw dice for [Jesus’] clothes, 35as the people just stood there watching. However, their rulers were looking on angrily and saying:

 ‘He saved others, so let him save himself if he’s truly the Anointed of God… His chosen one!’

36Even the soldiers made fun of him, coming up to him and offering him soured wine 37and saying:

 ‘If you’re the king of the Jews, save yourself!’

38There was also a sign that had been placed above him [that said]:

 *‘This is the king of the Jews.’*

39Then one of the criminals that was hanging there started speaking badly to him, saying:

 ‘If you’re the Anointed One, save yourself… And save us too!’

40But the other one scolded him, saying:

 ‘Aren’t you at all afraid of God, since you’ve received the same judgment… 41Which is only right, because we’re getting what we deserve in full measure for the bad things we’ve done.

 ‘However, he hasn’t done anything wrong at all!’

42Then the man said to Jesus:

 ‘Remember me when you come into your Kingdom.’

43And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘Truly I tell you today you’ll be with me in the Paradise.’

44Well, it was already about 12 noon… And then the whole land became covered by a darkness [that lasted] until 3pm, 45for the sunlight had failed.

Then, the Temple curtain split down the middle, 46and Jesus called out in a loud voice, saying:

 ‘Father, I leave my breath in Your hands.’

And after saying that, he died.

47Well when the centurion saw [all of this] happening, he glorified God and said:

 ‘This truly was a righteous man!’

48And all the crowds that had come to watch this spectacle (after seeing all these things) started beating themselves [in grief] once again.

49Meanwhile, those who knew him (such as the women who had followed him from Galilee) were standing at some distance and paying attention to all that was going on.

50Then {Look!} JoSeph (a man from HariMathea, a city in Judea), who was a good and righteous man and one of the Council members 51(one who didn’t go along with what the [others] said or did, and who was also expecting God’s Kingdom) 52went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.

53So he took it down, then he wrapped it in fine linen and laid it in a tomb that had been cut into the rock where no one had ever been placed before.

54Well, since it was [the day of] Preparation and the Sabbath was about to arrive, 55the women who’d come with him from Galilee and who followed along to look at the tomb to see how his body was laid out, 56went back to prepare spices and perfumed ointments [for his body] (but they followed the Commandments by resting on the Sabbath).

### Luke

## Chapter 24

1It was on [Sunday,] the first day of the week, at early dawn, that [the women] went back to the tomb carrying the spices that they’d prepared. 2But when they got there, they found that the stone [that covered the tomb’s entrance] had been rolled away; 3and when they went inside, they couldn’t find the Lord Jesus’ body.

4Well, as they were standing there confused, {Look!} two men in glowing clothes appeared beside them, 5which frightened them, and they hung their heads to the ground.

Then [the men] asked:

 ‘Why are you looking for the living among the dead?

 6‘[Jesus] isn’t here, he has risen!

 ‘Don’t you remember? When he spoke to you in Galilee, 7he said that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, then he would be hung on a pole, and [he would be] resurrected on the third day!’

8Well, that’s when they remembered what he had told them, 9and they left the tomb to report these things to the 11 [disciples] and all the others.

10It was Mary of Magdala, Joanna, Mary (the [mother] of James) and the rest of the women who reported these things to the Apostles. 11However, what they said sounded like nonsense, so nobody believed them.

12But then Peter got up and ran to the tomb... And when he leaned in, all he found was the wrappings. So he left, wondering what had happened.

13{Look!} Meanwhile, on that very same day, two of [Jesus’ disciples] had been traveling to a village named EmMaus (which is about 7 miles / 11km from JeruSalem), 14and as they [were walking along], they were discussing everything that had happened.

15Then, as they were talking and reasoning, Jesus himself came up and started walking along with them… 16However, their eyes refused to recognize him.

17So he asked them:

 ‘What’s this subject that you’re debating while you’ve been walking along?’

And at that, they stopped and looked very sad.

18Then the one named CleoPas said:

 ‘Have you been living as a hermit in JeruSalem so you don’t know what’s happened over the past few days?’

19And [Jesus] asked:

 ‘What things?’

Then they said:

 ‘The things [that happened to] Jesus the Nazarene… A Prophet that came before all the people with powerful words and deeds!

 20‘But our Chief Priests and rulers then handed him over to be sentenced to death and hung on a pole.

 21‘Yet, we were hoping that he’d be the one who’d set IsraEl free… It’s only been three days since these things happened!

 22‘Then some women among us really shocked us; they went to the tomb early [this morning] 23and said that they couldn’t find his body. And when they came back, they told us that they had a vision of messengers [from God] who told them that he’s still alive!

 24‘So, some of us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said… They didn’t see him.’

25Well at that, [Jesus] said to them:

 ‘O senseless ones, whose hearts are slow when it comes to believing all the things that the Prophets said!

 26‘Wasn’t it necessary for the Anointed One to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’

27So, starting from Moses and the Prophets, he explained all the scriptures that talked about him. 28Well when they reached the village where they were headed, he acted as though he was going to travel on.

29But they pressured him, saying:

 ‘Stay with us, because it’s getting late and most of the day is already gone!’

So he stayed with them.

30Then, as he was reclining with them for a meal, he took a loaf, spoke a blessing over it, broke it, and started handing it to them… 31And that’s when their eyes were fully opened and they recognized him… But then he vanished!

32And they said to each other:

 ‘Weren’t our hearts burning as he talked to us along the road, completely explaining the Scriptures to us?’

33So they got up right away and went back to JeruSalem.

And there they found the 11 gathered with the rest, 34who told them:

 ‘The Lord was in fact raised, because he appeared to Simon!’

35Then these [two men] also told [the group] what had happened [to them] on the road and of how he became recognizable when he broke the loaf.

36Well, while they were still talking about these things, [they suddenly saw] Jesus standing there in their midst!

And he said:

 ‘May you have peace.’

37However, this frightened and terrified them, because they thought they were seeing a spirit.

38So he asked them:

 ‘Why are you so worried, and what sort of conclusions are you reaching in your hearts?

 39‘Look… My hands and my feet… It’s me! Touch me and see, because a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones as you see that I have!’

40And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41But because they still didn’t believe (due to both joy and confusion), he asked them:

 ‘Do you have something to eat?’

42So they handed him a piece of broiled fish; 43and he took it and ate it in front of them.

44Then he said to them:

 ‘These are the things I talked to you about while I was still with you; for everything that was written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, had to be fulfilled.’

45Then he opened their minds to fully understand the meanings of the Scriptures.

46Thereafter, he said to them:

 ‘It was written that the Anointed One would suffer this way and then rise from the dead on the third day. 47Then in his name, [the message of] repentance for the forgiveness of sins is to be preached among all the ethnics, starting from JeruSalem… 48And you [are the ones] that are to serve as the witnesses to these things!

 49‘So look! I’ll [soon] be sending you [something] that was promised by my Father. Therefore, you must stay in this city until after you’ve become clothed with the power from above.’

50And with that, he led them out along the road to BethAny… Then he raised his hands and blest them. 51And as he was blessing them, he was taken away from them into the sky.

52Then, after bowing to their faces before him, they all returned to JeruSalem filled with joy. 53And after that, they were found in the Temple praising God every day.