# Mark

Mark is an historical account of Jesus’s life.

It was probably written in Greek by the Disciple Mark about 55 CE. It seems to be loosely based on the Gospel of Matthew, because (according to Origen) there was no Greek translation of Matthew’s Gospel available to Greek-speaking gentile converts during the 1st Century before Mark was written.

However, modern scholars argue that Origen was wrong, and that it was the other way around: that Mark was actually the first Gospel written, upon which Matthew was based.

**Missing ending**

The ending to Mark is missing. While two endings were added later, both are unoriginal. Some speculate that Mark was written in a codex, and that the last leaf was lost before it could be copied. Others say that the apostle himself was executed before he could complete the writing.

Nobody knows what really happened.

**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.

### Mark

## Chapter 1

1**This is the beginning of the good news about Jesus the Anointed.**

2This was written by the Prophet IsaiAh:

 *‘Look!*
 *I’m sending My messenger ahead*
 *To prepare the road that’s before you.*

 3*‘Listen!*
 *Someone calls out in the desert,*
 *Prepare the way for the Lord;*
 *Straighten out all of his roads!’*
 [Isaiah 40:3]

4So, this is why John came… To do immersing in the desert and to preach an immersion of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And throughout Judea and JeruSalem, people were going there to be immersed by him in the JorDan River, as they openly confessed their sins.

6John wore clothes that were made of camel’s hair and he wore a wide leather belt around his waist. His diet consisted of locusts and wild honey, 7and this is what he preached:

 ‘Someone greater is coming behind me
 Whose sandals, I’m unworthy to bend and untie.
 8And while I immerse in water,
 He will immerse you in Holy Breath.’

9Well back then, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee to be immersed in the JorDan by John also. 10And immediately after coming up out of the water, [John] saw the sky split open and the Breath [of God] descending upon [Jesus in the form of] a dove.

11Then a voice came from the sky that said:

 ‘You’re My Son whom I love, and with whom I’m well pleased.’

12Then [God’s] Breath immediately forced [Jesus] into the desert, 13where he spent 40 days among the wild animals, as he was being tempted by the Opposer. However, the messengers [of God] [thereafter came and] served him.

14Well, it was after John had been arrested that Jesus went into Galilee and started preaching the good news of God.

15For he was saying:

 ‘This period has reached its fulfillment,
 And the Kingdom of God is at hand.
 So, believe the good news and repent!’

16Then, as he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] noticed Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets on the sea (because they were fishermen).

17So Jesus said to them:

 ‘Come follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men.’

18And right away, they released their nets and started following him.

19Then as he traveled on a little farther, he saw James son of ZebediOu and his brother John sitting in their boat mending their nets. 20So he called to them, and they immediately left their father ZebediOu and his crew in the boat, and they started following [Jesus].

21From there, they all traveled on to CapharNaum, where on the Sabbath, [Jesus] entered their synagogue and started teaching… 22Which amazed everyone, because (unlike the Scribes) he taught with great authority.

23Well at the time, there was a man in the synagogue that was under the influence of an unclean spirit, which caused him to shout:

 24‘What dealings do I have with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come here to destroy me? I know who you are! You’re The Holy One of God!’

25But Jesus scolded [the spirit], saying:

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

26So the unclean spirit (after throwing the man into convulsions and causing him to yell loudly) came out. 27This shocked the people, and they started asking each other:

 ‘What’s this, some new teaching? For he has the power to give orders to unclean spirits and they obey him!’

28So after that, the story about him was spread throughout all the country around Galilee.

29Well from there, [Jesus] left the synagogue along with James and John, and they went directly to the home of Simon and Andrew, 30where they found Simon’s (Peter’s) mother-in-law lying down and burning up with a fever, which they immediately pointed out to [Jesus].

31So he took her by the hand to help her up, then the fever left her and she started serving them.

32Well that evening, after sunset, people started bringing all those who were ill and the demon-possessed to him… 33Virtually the whole city had gathered at their door! 34So he cured their various illnesses and expelled many demons. However, he wouldn’t allow the demons to speak, because they knew that he was the Anointed One.

35Then early the next morning, while it was still dark, he got up and went outside to a remote place where he started praying. 36However, Simon (and those who were with him) searched 37for him, and when they found him they said:

 ‘Everyone has been looking for you!’

38But he said to them:

 ‘Let’s go into the nearby villages, so I can preach there too. For, that’s why I came outside.’

39And [after that], he traveled throughout all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

40It was while he was there that a leper came to him, who got down on his knees and said:

 ‘If you just want to, you can make me clean!’

41And moved with pity, [Jesus] stuck out his hand and touched him, saying:

 ‘I want to… Be clean.’

42Then the leprosy immediately left him and he became clean!

43But [Jesus] sent him away and gave him strict orders 44not to tell anyone what he’d done. He only told him to go and show himself to the Priests and to bring along the offering of cleansing that was specified by Moses, as a witness to them.

45However, after the man left, he started telling everyone and spreading the word around, so that Jesus wasn’t able to enter the cities openly, and he had to camp out in lonely places…

Yet [the people] still kept coming to him from all directions.

### Mark

## Chapter 2

1Well after several days, [Jesus] returned to CapharNaum, and when word got out that he was back home, 2so many people came to him that there wasn’t any room around the door. Then he started preaching the word to them.

3Thereafter, four people came to him carrying a man who was paralyzed. 4But because the crowd was so large, they couldn’t get him to [Jesus]. So, they dug an opening through the part of the roof where [Jesus] was standing, and lowered down the cot on which the [man] was lying.

5Then when Jesus saw how much faith they’d shown, he said to the paralyzed man:

 ‘Child, your sins are forgiven.’

6Well, when they heard him say that, some of the Scribes that were sitting there started reasoning in their hearts:

 7‘Why is he talking in such a way, for this is blasphemy!

 ‘Who is able to forgive sins other than the one God?’

8And through the spirit, Jesus immediately realized that they were reasoning in this way inside themselves, so he asked them:

 ‘Why are [such bad] thoughts entering your hearts? 9Which is easier, to tell the paralyzed man, *Your sins are forgiven*, or, *Get up, pick up your cot, and walk*?

 10‘Well, so that you men will know that the Son of Man has been authorized to forgive sins on the earth...’

11[He said to the man]:

 ‘Get up, pick up your cot, and go home.’

12And immediately, the man got right up, picked up his cot, and walked out in front of everyone!

Well, all those who were there were beside themselves and they started glorifying God, saying:

 ‘We’ve never seen anything like this!’

13Then later, he went outside to the seashore, where huge crowds came to him and he taught them.

14It was as he was passing the tax office that he noticed Levi (son of AlphaEus), sitting there.

So [he] said to him:

 ‘Follow me.’

And [Levi] got right up and went with him.

15Then later, as Jesus was reclining at the table in [Levi’s] home, several tax collectors and sinners started coming and reclining with him and his disciples (many of whom became Jesus’ followers). 16But when the Scribes and Pharisees saw that he was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples:

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

17And because Jesus overheard this, he said:

 ‘Those who are well don’t need a doctor, only the ill do.

 ‘So I didn’t come to call the righteous, just the sinners.’

18Well, back then, John’s disciples (who practiced fasting, as did the Pharisees) came to [Jesus] and asked:

 ‘Why is it that while the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, your disciples don’t fast?’

19And Jesus replied:

 ‘The sons of the bride chamber can’t fast while the bridegroom is among them, because as long as he’s with them, there’s [no reason to] fast.

 20‘But the days are coming when the groom will be taken away… And *then* they’ll fast.

 21‘Understand that no one sews patches of new cloth onto old clothes, for if they do, the new [cloth] will shrink and stretch the old cloth, which will make the tear worse.

 22‘Also, if you put young wine into old wineskins, the [new] wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins will be lost. So it’s best for people to use new wineskins for new wine.’

23Then on another day, as [Jesus] was walking through the grain fields on the Sabbath, his disciples started plucking heads of grain [to eat] as they were traveling along.

24And the Pharisees asked him:

 ‘{Look!} Why are they doing something that’s illegal on the Sabbath?’

25But he replied:

 ‘Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was in need, and he and the men who were with him got hungry (in the account about AbiAthar, the High Priest)… 26How he entered the House of God and ate the Presentation Bread, which isn’t legal for anyone to eat other than the Priests, and how he also gave some of it to the men who were with him?’

27Then [Jesus] said this:

 ‘The Sabbath came into existence for the sake of mankind, not mankind for the Sabbath.

 28‘But you should also know that the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath.’

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## Chapter 3

1On another occasion, he entered a synagogue where there happened to be a man with a withered hand 2Well, [the Pharisees] were watching [Jesus] closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath, because they were trying to find something that they could accuse him of doing wrong.

3However, [Jesus] said to the man with the withered hand:

 ‘Get up and come into the center [of the room].’

4Then he asked everyone there:

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

But no one would answer.

5Then, after looking around at them angrily (because he was saddened by the dullness of their hearts), he said to the man:

 ‘Now, stretch out your hand.’

So he stretched it out... And his hand was restored!

6Well, right away the Pharisees went outside and met with the followers of Herod, and they started talking about ways to destroy him.

7Meanwhile, Jesus and his disciples got up and walked out to the sea, followed by a huge crowd that had come from all around Galilee and Judea. 8For people were coming to him from as far away as JeruSalem, Idumea, the other side of the JorDan, and the area around Tyre and Sidon. Huge numbers came to him when they heard of the things that he was doing.

9Well, to keep the crowds at bay, [Jesus] had instructed his disciples to always have a little boat available for him. 10For because he cured so many that had terrible diseases, people were literally falling on him just to touch him!

11And when unclean spirits saw him, they’d bow low before him and shout:

 ‘You’re the Son of The God!’

12However, he scolded them and warned them not to expose him.

13Then [Jesus] walked up a mountain, where he called for those whom he’d chosen, 14and he formed a [special] group from these 12 that he started calling *Apostles* (Sent Ones), that were to stay with him. Thereafter, he also sent them out to preach, 15and he gave them the power to cast out demons.

16The names of those in the group of 12 that he formed were:

 • Simon (Peter),
 • 17James (son of ZebediOu), and
 • his brother John (he called them BoanErges, which means *Sons of Thunder*),
 • 18Andrew,
 • Philip,
 • BarTholomew ([NathaniEl]),
 • Matthew,
 • Thomas,
 • James (son of AlphaEus),
 • ThadDaeus (Judas),
 • Simon the CanaNaean, and
 • 19Judas IsCariot (who later betrayed him).

Well, whenever he went into a house after that, 20so many people would show up, that they couldn’t even eat a meal! 21And when [Jesus’] relatives heard what was happening, they tried to take him away, because they said that he’d lost his mind!

22There were also some scribes that had come down from JeruSalem who were telling people he was [under the influence of] BeElZebub, and that he was using ‘the ruler of the demons to cast out the demons.’

23So he called [the scribes] to him and he reasoned with them using [these] parables:

 ‘How can the Opposer throw out the Opposer?
 24For a kingdom divided cannot stand.
 25Nor can a house that’s divided.
 26So, if the Opposer is divided,
 He cannot stand and he’s reaching his end.

 27‘Also, no one can enter a mighty man’s house
 And rob him of all his things
 Unless he first ties him up…
 Only then can he loot his house.

 28‘So I tell you this as the truth:

 ‘Sons of men can be forgiven for all,
 No matter what sins that they might commit
 Or whatever blasphemies they speak.
 29But whoever blasphemes [God’s] Holy Breath
 Won’t be forgiven throughout the age,
 And it remains a sin throughout the ages.’

30Of course, [Jesus] was saying this to them because they’d accused him of having an unclean spirit.

31Meanwhile, [Jesus’] mother and brothers had arrived and were standing outside, so they asked [someone] to call for him, 32because there was a crowd sitting around him at the time.

Therefore, someone went up to him and said:

 ‘Look! Your mother and brothers are outside and they’re looking for you!’

33But he said to them all:

 ‘Just who are my mother and brothers?’

34Then he looked at those who were sitting around him in a circle and said:

 ‘Look… My mother and brothers!
 35For, all that do the will of our God
 Are truly my brothers, sisters, and mother.’

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## Chapter 4

1Well on another occasion, as he was teaching by the seashore, such a huge crowd came to him there that he had to step into a boat and sit out on the sea, as the crowd stood on the shore.

2Then he taught them many things through parables, saying:

 3‘Now, pay close attention!

 ‘{Look!} A farmer went out to do planting.
 4And as he was scattering seeds,
 A few fell alongside the road,
 Which were thereafter eaten by birds.

 5‘Other seeds fell among rocks,
 And they sprouted where there wasn’t much ground.
 But because there was too little soil,
 6When the sun arose, they were scorched…
 They withered, because they didn’t have roots.

 7‘Other seeds fell among briers,
 Which grew and choked out those seeds,
 So they couldn’t produce any fruit.

 8‘But others fell upon good soil,
 Where they flourished and grew, producing much fruit,
 Some 30, some 60, or 100 times more.’

9Then he added:

 ‘Let those who have ears pay attention!’

10Well later, the 12 (as well as the rest that were around him) asked [Jesus] what the parable meant.

11And he told them this:

 ‘The mystery of the Kingdom of God has just been given to you. For those on the outside only hear the stories 12so when they can look, they can’t see, and when they hear, they don’t really listen and understand, so they can ever turn back and be forgiven.

 13‘However, if you don’t understand the meanings of these parables, how will you be able to understand all the rest?

 14‘The one who is scattering the seeds is planting the word, 15and where it falls beside the road, the Opposer immediately comes and snatches away all that was dropped there.

 16‘The same is true of those that fall among the rocks. These are the ones who joyfully accept the word as soon as they hear it, 17but because they don’t have roots, they only last a little while. For when some difficulty or persecution comes along over the word, they’re stumbled.

 18‘Likewise, those who are planted among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, 19but let it get choked out by the concerns of this life, the allure of wealth, and desires for other things, so they become unfruitful.

 20‘However, those that are planted on the fine soil are the ones who listen to the word and accept it…

 ‘Then they bear fruit 30, 60, and 100 times more.’

21So Jesus went on to tell them this:

 ‘You don’t put a lamp under a basket,
 Nor do you put it under a bed…
 You it put on a table, instead.
 22So there’s no secret that won’t be made known,
 Or anything hidden that won’t be shown…
 23Let those who have ears pay attention!’

24He continued:

 ‘Pay attention to the things that I’m saying!
 Whatever amount that you measure for others
 Is the amount that you’ll receive…
 And more will be added to that.
 25For those who have will be given more,
 While all will be taken from those who don’t have.’

26Then he went on to say:

 ‘The Kingdom of God is much like a man
 Who scatters his seeds on the ground,
 27And goes to sleep through the night.
 Then, when he wakes up the next morning,
 He finds that the seeds have sprouted and grown,
 And he doesn’t really know how it happened!

 28‘For the ground produces fruit by itself…
 First the blades, then the stalks,
 And finally, the full heads of grain.
 29Then as soon as it has all ripened,
 The man arrives with his sickle…
 For the time to harvest has arrived.’

30And he asked:

 ‘To what [else] can the Kingdom of God be compared…
 What parables can we use to describe it?

 31‘It’s much like the small mustard seed,
 Which, before it’s planted under the ground
 Is one of the smallest seeds on the earth.
 32Yet, after it’s planted, it grows
 To be larger than all vegetation…
 It grows branches that can be so great
 That birds in the skies can dwell in its shadow.’

33Yes, this is the way he taught the word to them, speaking in parables for as long as they were able to pay attention. 34It’s a fact that if he wasn’t speaking in parables, he wasn’t talking to them. However, when they were all alone, he thereafter explained everything to his disciples.

35Well, later that evening, he said to them:

 ‘Now, let’s cross over to the other shore.’

36So after they dismissed the crowd, they left in the same boat that he had been teaching from (along with some other boats that came with them). 37However, a gale-force wind then arose and waves were pouring into the boats... ~~until it was nearly full~~ [spurious words] 38But meanwhile, [Jesus] was peacefully sleeping on a pillow in the stern.

So they woke him up and said:

 ‘Teacher, aren’t you worried that we’re about to die?’

39So he got up and scolded the wind, then he said to the sea:

 ‘Be quiet! Hush!’

And at that, the wind died down and a great calm set in.

40And he asked them:

 ‘Why are you so cowardly? Don’t you have any faith?’

41Well, this really frightened them and they started asking each other:

 ‘Who really is this? For even the wind and the sea obeys him!’

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## Chapter 5

1Then when they got to the other side of the sea to the country of the Garasenes, 2[Jesus] got out of the boat and was immediately confronted by a man with an unclean spirit, who had come from the tombs.

3For he lived among the tombs and no one had been able to restrain him, even with chains. 4In fact, he’d often been bound using leg irons and chains, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. Nothing was strong enough to hold him! 5So all day and night long, he’d go around the tombs and the mountains yelling crazily, while hitting himself with rocks.

6Then, when he saw Jesus coming in the distance, he ran up to him and bowed low, 7screaming:

 ‘What dealings do I have with you, Jesus, the Son of the Most High God?

 ‘I put you under oath by God not to torment me!’

8[He said this] because [Jesus] had told the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

9Then [Jesus] asked [the spirit]:

 ‘What’s your name?’

And it replied:

 ‘My name is Legion, because there are many of us!’

10And [the spirits] repeatedly begged [Jesus] not to drive them out of those fields. 11Well at the time, there was a large group of pigs feeding on the mountain. 12So [the demons] begged Jesus to send them into the pigs, 13and he gave them permission.

So the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs, then they all ran down a steep drop-off and fell into the sea, drowning about 2,000 of them.

14Well thereafter, the herdsmen ran off and reported this to the people in the cities and the fields roundabout, and then all the people went there to see [what had happened]. 15And when they got to Jesus, they could see that the man who’d once been possessed by the legion [of demons] was just sitting there, wearing clothes, and in his right mind… And this frightened them.

16Then after [the herdsmen] who had been there explained everything that had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs, 17the people begged [Jesus] to leave their district!

18Well, as [Jesus] got back into the boat, the man who was once demonized started begging to let him come with them. 19However, [Jesus] wouldn’t allow this, for he said:

 ‘Go back to your home and family and tell them all the things that Jehovah has done for you, and about the great mercy He has shown to you.’

20So [the man] went back to the DecaPolis and started telling everyone about what Jesus had done for him, and it amazed everyone.

21Well, after they had crossed back to the other side [of the sea] in the boat, a huge crowd started to gather as Jesus arrived. 22Then, one of the [local] synagogue’s head people (a man named JaiRus) came and fell at his feet.

23And he kept begging [Jesus], saying:

 ‘My little daughter is [about to breathe her] last. Please come and lay your hands on her so she can recover and live!’

24So [Jesus] went off with him, and a huge number followed along, all crowded against him...

25Well, among [these people] was a woman who had [endured] a blood flow for about 12 years… 26She’d suffered a lot at the hands of the healers, and she’d spent everything she had to no avail (she only got worse). 27So when she heard about Jesus, she came up behind [him] in the crowd and touched his clothes; 28for she kept saying:

 ‘If I can just touch his clothes I’ll be saved [from this condition].’

29And right away, her fountain of blood dried up, and she knew in her body that she had been healed of this plague!

30However Jesus also recognized in himself that some power had left him when this happened. So he turned around in the crowd and asked:

 ‘Who touched my clothes?’

31And his disciples replied:

 ‘You see all these people crowded around you, and you ask, *Who touched me*?’

32But he kept on looking around to see who did this.

33Then the woman (who was frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her) came and fell down before him and told him the truth.

34And he said to her:

 ‘Daughter, your faith has saved you! Go in peace… And may this be the last of the plague.’

35Meanwhile, as he was still speaking, a messenger came from the home of the synagogue chief, who told him:

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

36But when Jesus overheard this, he told the chief of the synagogue:

 ‘Don’t be afraid, just have faith.’

37Well, [when he reached the home], he didn’t allow anyone to go with him other than Peter, James, and John (James’ brother). 38And when he got inside the synagogue-chief’s house and saw all the confusion, crying, and wailing, 39he asked:

 ‘Why are you creating such an uproar and crying? The little girl isn’t dead, she’s just sleeping!’

40Well at that, they all started laughing at him. But after he ushered them outside, he took the father, mother, and those who were with him into [the room] where the child was.

41Then he took [the little girl] by the hand and said:

 ‘*Talitha, cumi!’* (which translates as, ‘Little girl, wake up!’).

42And the 12-year-old girl got up right away and started walking around!

Well, [the parents] were beside themselves [with joy].

43Then he told them to give her something to eat, and he repeatedly ordered them not to tell anyone what had really happened.

### Mark

## Chapter 6

1Thereafter, he left that place and went with his disciples to the town where he’d grown up. 2And when the Sabbath arrived, he entered their synagogue and started teaching.

Well, most of those who heard him were shocked, and asked:

 ‘Where did he get all these things? Why has such wisdom been given to this man, and why are such powerful deeds being performed through his hands?

 3‘For isn’t this the carpenter, Mary’s son, and the brother of James, JoSeph, Judas, and Simon? And aren’t his sisters here among us?’

So they were stumbled over him.

4And Jesus told them:

 ‘A Prophet doesn’t go without honor anywhere – other than in his own home, among his relatives, and in the area where he grew up.’

5So because of this, he wasn’t able to preform any powerful deeds there, apart from laying his hands on a few [sick ones], whom he cured. 6For he was amazed by their lack of faith.

Well from there, he traveled around to the local villages in a circuit, teaching.

7Then he called the 12 and started sending them out by twos, and he gave them power over the unclean spirits. 8He ordered them not to carry anything with them other than a walking stick… [yes,] no bread, no food pouch, nor copper money in their sashes. 9And he told them not to tie on their sandals or to [carry extra] underclothes.

10For he said:

 ‘Wherever you enter a house, stay in that place until you get ready to leave. 11But in those places where they don’t invite you in or listen to you, shake the dirt off your feet as you leave, as a witness against them.’

 ~~‘Truly I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgement, than for that city.’~~ [spurious words, copied from Matthew 10:15]

12So they all went out and preached, calling for people to repent, 13as they were casting out many demons and greasing sick people with oil to cure them.

14Meanwhile, King Herod had heard about how famous [Jesus] was becoming.

For some people were saying:

 ‘John, the man who did the immersing [in water], has been raised from the dead! And now there are great powers working through him.’

15However, others were saying that he was EliJah, and some were saying that he was a Prophet like one of the Prophets [of old].

16But after he’d listened to all of this, Herod concluded:

 ‘The John whom I beheaded has been raised!’

17For it was Herod himself that had [ordered] John arrested and locked in prison over the matter of his taking Herodias (his brother’s woman), 18since John kept telling Herod that he’d broken the Law by taking her. 19That’s why Herodias hated him and wanted him killed… However [until then], she’d been unable to do so.

20Herod was actually afraid of John, because he knew that he was a righteous and holy man. As a result, he kept him safely [locked away]. For after he’d listened to him for a while, Herod had no idea what to do with him. So, he gladly just kept on listening to him.

21However, there came a day that turned out to be convenient for Herod… It was when he was holding a banquet to celebrate his [own] birthday. He had invited several high-ranking men, military commanders, and the foremost people of Galilee.

22There, Herod and Herodias’ daughter entered and danced before them. This pleased Herod and those at the table so much, that the king said to the little girl:

 ‘Ask for whatever you wish and, I’ll give it to you!’

23Yes, he swore to her:

 ‘Whatever you ask of me I’ll give you, up to half of my kingdom!’

24So she went out and asked her mother:

 ‘What should I ask for?’

And [her mother] replied:

 ‘Ask for the head of John, the one who does the immersing!’

25So she ran back to the king and said:

 ‘I want you to give me the head of John the Immerser on a platter… Right now.’

26And although this deeply disturbed the king, he didn’t want to ignore her because of the oaths, and because of those who were reclining at the table.

27So the king immediately sent his bodyguard and commanded him to bring back [John’s] head. And that’s when [the guard] went off and beheaded John in prison, 28after which he brought in his head on a platter and gave it to the young girl, who gave it to her mother.

29Well when [John’s] disciples heard about this, they came and took his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

30Meanwhile, all of the Apostles had assembled with Jesus, and they were reporting to him about everything that they’d been teaching and doing.

31So he told them:

 ‘I want you to come with me to a private place where you can rest up for a while.’

Of course, he said this because there were always so many people coming and going that they didn’t have enough free time to even eat a meal. 32So they all traveled by boat to a remote place where they thought they could be by themselves.

33However, some people noticed them leaving, and they started telling many others, who all ran from the cities on foot and got ahead of them. 34So when [Jesus and his Apostles] got out of the boat, they saw an enormous crowd!

Yet, he felt sorry for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and so he started teaching them many things.

35Well, it was getting quite late, so the disciples came up to Jesus and said:

 ‘This is the middle of nowhere, and it’s getting late. 36We should send the people off into the countryside and villages around here so that they can buy themselves some food.’

37But [Jesus] said to them:

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

And they said:

 ‘Should we really go and buy 200 silver coin’s worth of bread just to feed them?’

38Then [Jesus] asked them:

 ‘How many loaves do you have? Go see!’

And after checking, they said:

 ‘Five [loaves], plus two fish.’

39So he told all the people to lie down on the green grass in rows, 40and they reclined in rows of 50s and 100s.

41Then [Jesus] took the five loaves [of bread] and two fish, and he looked up towards the heavens and spoke a blessing, then he broke up the bread and divided the two fish and started giving it to the disciples so they could set it in front of the people…

42And thereafter, everyone ate until they were full!

43Well, when they went to pick up the scraps, they found they had 12 baskets full, which didn’t even include the fish!

44Yet, there were about 5,000 men who had eaten the bread.

45Then right after that, [Jesus] instructed his disciples to get into their boat and travel ahead of him towards BethSaida, which was across [the lake] on the opposite shore, and he also dismissed the crowd. 46And after excusing himself, he went up the mountain to pray.

47But then, later that evening (as the boat was well out to sea and [Jesus] was there by himself on the land), 48Jesus could see [from a distance] that they were still out there rowing with all their might, since they had a strong headwind blowing against them.

So the next morning (while it was still dark), he walked out towards them on top of the sea… In fact, he started to walk right past them!

49Well, when they saw him walking on top of the sea, they thought they were seeing a vision, and they started screaming in fright! 50For they all saw him and everyone was deeply disturbed.

But right away, he spoke to them and said:

 ‘Be brave… It’s me! Don’t be afraid.’

51Then he got into the boat with them and the wind died down.

However, all of these events left them stunned, 52because they didn’t really understand the meaning of the bread, since their hearts had been dulled.

53Well, soon thereafter, they reached land, arriving at GenNesaret, where they docked.

54However, as soon as they got out of the boat, some people recognized [Jesus], 55and they ran [to tell others] throughout all that area. So, many people came to the place where they’d heard Jesus was, carrying their ill to him on cots.

56And thereafter, wherever he entered any village or city (or fields or markets), they’d all bring their sick people, and beg him just to let them touch the fringes of his clothes.

And everyone who touched them were healed.

### Mark

## Chapter 7

1Now, some Pharisees and Scribes had come from JeruSalem and surrounded him, 2because they’d noticed some of his disciples eating bread with unwashed hands. 3For none of the Pharisees (or any of the Judeans for that matter) would eat [anything] unless they vigorously washed their hands first, since they followed the traditions of the elders… 4Nor did they eat anything that they brought [home] from the market until after they had carefully rinsed it. They observed many other traditions like this that had been passed down, such as soaking their cups, pitchers, and copper pots in water.

5So these Pharisees and Scribes asked him:

 ‘Why don’t your disciples follow the traditions of the elders?

 ‘Look, they eat bread without washing their hands first!’

6But [Jesus] replied:

 ‘IsaiAh prophesied well about you hypocrites when he wrote:

 *‘With their mouths, these people approach Me,*
 *And with their lips, they offer Me praise.*
 *But because they’re far from Me in their hearts,*
 7*They bow before Me in vain,*
 *Since they teach the ideas and instructions of men!’* [Isaiah 29:13]

 8‘You’re really ignoring the commandments of God with all these traditions of men… 9Yes you zealously push aside the commandments of God so you can observe your own traditions!

 10‘[For example], although Moses told you to honor your father and mother, and that anyone who says bad things to his father or mother should be put to death... 11You say that a man should tell his father and mother that everything he owns –that he could use to help them– has already been reserved to be a holy gift! 12So you don’t allow [people] to do anything at all [to help] their parents!

 13‘And by these traditions that you’re passing on, you’re nullifying the Word of God… Yes, you’re doing lots of things like that!’

14Then he called the crowd to him again and said to them:

 ‘I want all of you to pay close attention and be sure that you understand:

 15‘There’s nothing on the outside that goes into a man, which can make him unclean. Rather, it’s the things that come out of a man that dirty him!’

 16~~‘If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.’~~ [spurious words, probably copied from Mark 4:9 and 4:23]

17Then, after he left the crowd and went back inside the house, his disciples asked him what he meant by these things that he said.

18And he said:

 ‘Don’t you understand either?

 ‘Nothing from the outside that enters a man can make him unclean, 19for [such things] don’t go into his heart, but into his belly and then into the sewer.

 ‘Therefore, everything that you eat is really clean.

 20‘Rather, it’s the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. 21It’s things that come from the inside – from the heart – that bad thoughts come… Things such as sexual immorality, thievery, murder, 22adulteries, selfish desires, wicked actions, deceitfulness, lack of restraint, eyes that are wicked, blasphemy, arrogance, and unreasonableness.

 23‘It’s all these wicked things that come from inside of a man that make him unclean.’

24And at that, he got up and left.

Well from there, he traveled [north] into the area of Tyre and Sidon, where he entered a house. And although he didn’t want anyone to know where he was, he couldn’t escape being noticed.

25So when a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard where he was, she came to him and bowed low at his feet 26(she was a Greek woman of Syrian-Phoenician descent). And she kept asking [Jesus] to cast the demon out of her daughter.

27But he told her:

 ‘The children should be satisfied first… It isn’t right to take bread from the children and throw it to the puppies.’

28But she replied:

 ‘Yes Lord, but don’t the puppies under the table eat the crumbs [that fall from] the little children?’

29So he said to her:

 ‘Because you said this, go! The demon has left your daughter.’

30Then when she got back home, she found the child lying on her bed, and the demon was gone!

31Thereafter, he left the area of Tyre and traveled on through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, and then through the middle of the region called *the Ten Cities*.

32There, they brought him a man who was deaf and dumb, and they begged [Jesus] to lay his hands on him. 33So [Jesus] led him away from the crowd to a private spot, and he put his fingers in the man’s ears. And after that, he spit and touched the man’s tongue.

34Then he looked up into the sky and groaned and said:

 ‘*Eph phatha!*’ (which means, ‘Be opened!’)

35Well, the man was thereafter able to hear, and the thing that held his tongue was loosened, so he started speaking normally! 36However, Jesus commanded everyone present not to tell anyone about this… But the more he commanded them, the more they talked about it!

37For everyone was amazed beyond belief, and they were saying:

 ‘He does everything well… He even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak!’

### Mark

## Chapter 8

1Back in those days, there was another huge crowd [listening to him] that had nothing to eat. So [Jesus] called his disciples and said to them:

 2‘I feel sorry for the crowd, because they’ve stayed here with me for the past three days, and now they”ve got nothing to eat.

 3‘If I just send them home hungry, they may faint on the road! For some of them have actually come a long way.’

4But his disciples asked:

 ‘Where could anyone find enough loaves [of bread] here in this isolated place to satisfy that many people?’

5So he asked them:

 ‘How many loaves do you have?’

And they replied:

 ‘Seven.’

6Then he told the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and handed them to his disciples to serve… And they passed them out to the crowd. 7They also had a few little fish. And after offering a blessing over them, Jesus told [the disciples] to serve these also.

8Well, everyone ate until they were satisfied, and when the disciples picked up the leftovers, [they filled] seven provision baskets with them, 9although [there were] about 4,000 who were fed!

Then after that, he sent the crowd away, 10and he immediately got into the boat with his disciples and traveled into parts of DalmaNutha.

11It was there that the Pharisees came up and started arguing with him, demanding that he give them a sign from heaven (so as to test him). 12But he breathed a deep sigh and asked them:

 ‘Why is this people always looking for signs?

 ‘I tell you the truth: this people won’t be given a sign!’

13And with that, he walked over and got back into the boat, and traveled on to the opposite shore!

14Meanwhile, it so happened that [the Apostles] had forgotten to bring along any [bread] for the trip. So, except for one small loaf, they had nothing to eat in the boat.

15As a result, when [Jesus] started warning them saying, ‘Keep your eyes open and watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees and the fermentation of Herod,’ 16they started quarreling with each other over the fact that they didn’t have any bread.

17When [Jesus] recognized this, he asked them:

 ‘Why are you arguing about not having any bread? Don’t you understand yet, and don’t you get the meaning? Are your hearts so dull when it comes to understanding?

 18‘You have eyes; can’t you see?

 ‘You have ears, can’t you hear?

 ‘Do you remember when 19I broke five loaves [to feed] 5,000, and how many baskets full of leftovers were you able to pick up?’

And they replied:

 ‘Yes, twelve.’

 20‘And when I broke the seven loaves [to serve] 4,000 men... [do you remember] how many provision baskets full of leftovers you picked up then?’

And they said:

 ‘Seven.’

21So he asked them:

 ‘Don’t you understand all of this yet?’

22Well from there, they traveled on to BethSaida, where the people brought him a man who was blind, and they begged [Jesus] to just touch him. 23So he took the blind man by the hand and led him outside of the village, then he spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him and asked:

 ‘Do you see anything yet?’

24And the man looked up and said:

 ‘Yes, I see men… They look a little like trees, but they’re walking around.’

25So [Jesus] laid his hands on the man’s eyes a second time, and after that, the man started seeing better. And before long, [his eyesight] was completely restored and he was able to see everything clearly!

26So [Jesus] sent him home with the warning:

 ‘Don’t go back into that village.’

27Well from there, Jesus and his disciples traveled on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.

And as they were on the way, he asked his disciples:

 ‘Who are the people saying that I am?’

28And they replied:

 ‘[Some say you’re] John the Immerser, others say you’re EliJah, and yet others say you’re one of the Prophets.’

29Then he asked:

 ‘But whom are you saying that I am?’

And Peter answered:

 ‘You’re the Anointed One.’

30Then he ordered them not to say this to anyone.

31And that’s when he started teaching them that the Son of Man would have to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, Chief Priests, and Scribes, and then be killed… But after three days, he would arise. 32Yes, he told them plainly [what was about to happen to him].

But at that, Peter took him aside and started scolding him. 33Then [Jesus] turned and looked at his disciples, and he started scolding Peter, saying:

 ‘Get behind me opposer, because you aren’t thinking God’s thoughts, but those of men!’

34Well after that, he called the crowd and his disciples to him and he said this:

 ‘If any of you wish to be my disciples, [you’ll have to] deny your own desires, then pick up your impaling poles and keep on following me!

 35‘For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever is willing to lose his life for my sake –and for the [sake of the] good news– will save it.

 36‘What good would it do for a man to gain the whole world and still lose his life… 37And what would a man give in exchange for his life?

 38‘Well, if anyone is ashamed of me and my words before this adulterous and sinful people, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he arrives in the glory of his Father with his holy messengers.’

### Mark

## Chapter 9

1Then he went on to say this to them:

 ‘I tell you the truth; some of you who are standing here won’t taste death before you see the Kingdom of God coming in power.’

2And just six days later, Jesus took just Peter, James, and John along to a private spot on a high mountain, where he changed form in front of them! 3His clothes started to glow much whiter than anyone on earth who washes and bleaches clothes could whiten them… 4And then EliJah and Moses appeared, and started talking to Jesus!

5Well in reaction, Peter said to Jesus:

 ‘Rabbi, 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.’

6However, he really didn’t know what he was saying, because they were all so frightened.

7Then right away, a cloud formed that covered them all, and a voice came from the cloud that said:

 ‘This is My Beloved Son; listen to him!’

8And when they looked around, they suddenly saw just Jesus standing by himself.

9Well, as they were coming back down the mountain, [Jesus] ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man has been resurrected from the dead.

10So, they took these words to heart.

However, shortly afterwards, they started talking among themselves about what [Jesus meant] when he spoke of being resurrected from the dead.

11Then later, they asked him:

 ‘Why do the Scribes say that EliJah must come first?’

12And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘EliJah does indeed come first and he restores everything.

 ‘But, why do you suppose it was written about the Son of Man that he will be tried, suffer greatly, and be treated as a no-account?

 13‘I tell you this: EliJah has in fact already come and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as it was written about him.’

14Then when they got back to the rest of the disciples, they found that a large crowd had gathered around them, and there were some Scribes that were arguing with them. 15But when the crowd saw [Jesus], they were all stunned and everyone ran up to him and started greeting him.

16So he asked [the disciples]:

 ‘What have you been arguing about?’

17And someone in the crowd replied:

 ‘Teacher, I was bringing my son to you, because he has a spirit that won’t allow him talk.

 18‘Whenever it takes control of him, it throws him on the ground, he foams [at the mouth] and grinds his teeth, and then he just goes limp!

 ‘I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they couldn’t do it.’

19And Jesus said:

 ‘O you faithless people! How much longer do I have to be with you? How much longer must I put up with you?

 ‘Bring him to me!’

20So they brought [the boy] to him, and at the sight [of Jesus], the spirit immediately threw [the child] into convulsions… He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming [at the mouth].

21Then [Jesus] asked the father:

 ‘How long has this been happening to him?’

And he replied:

 ‘Ever since he was a child, 22it has thrown him into the fire and into the water repeatedly, trying to destroy him.

 ‘So if you can do anything, [please] feel pity and help him!’

23And Jesus replied:

 ‘You said, *If you can!* Don’t you know that everything is possible for those who have faith?’

24Then the father of the young boy immediately shouted:

 ‘I do have faith… But help me to have more faith!’

25Well at the time, Jesus could see that more people were running towards [them]; so he scolded the unclean spirit and said:

 ‘I order you to come out of him, you spirit of speechlessness and deafness, and don’t go back into him anymore!’

26Then, after shouting and going through several convulsions, [the spirit] came out. However, [the boy] then looked like he was dead. So most of the crowd started shouting:

 ‘He’s dead!’

27But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.

28Well after that, [Jesus] went back into the house, and his disciples went in with him. But they asked him in private why they couldn’t cast it out. 29And [Jesus] told them:

 ‘This is the kind that will only come out through prayer.’

30Then from there, they traveled on through Galilee, but [Jesus] didn’t want anyone to know [where they were going], 31because he wanted to spend what little time he had left teaching his disciples.

And that’s when he went on to explain to them that he (the Son of Man) was going to be betrayed into the hands of men who would kill him… But after being dead for three days, he would stand again.

32Nevertheless, they still couldn’t grasp the meaning of what he was saying, and they were all afraid to ask him any more questions.

33Well, they finally got back to CapharNaum (which is where [Jesus was staying]).

And when they got there, he asked them:

 ‘What were you arguing about along the road?’

34However, none of them wanted to answer, because they’d been arguing about which of them was the greatest. 35So he sat down and called the 12 over.

Then he said this to them:

 ‘Whoever wants to be first must be the last and the servant of the rest.’

36Then he took a little boy and stood him in their midst, and he put his arms around him and said:

 37‘Whoever welcomes anyone like this little boy in my name, also welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me, is welcoming the One who sent me.’

38[Then later], John said to him:

 ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he isn’t following us!’

39But Jesus told him:

 ‘Don’t try to stop him, because those who do powerful deeds in my name won’t be too quick to say bad things about me… 40For those who aren’t against us are for us.

 41‘I tell you the truth: Anyone who gives you so much as a cup of water to drink because you’re walking in the name of the Anointed One… That person won’t lose his reward.

 42‘But as for anyone who becomes a snare to one of these little believers… It would be better if the type of millstone that’s turned by a burro was hung around his neck and he was cast into the open sea!

 43‘Therefore, if your hand traps you, cut it off! For it is better to enter life physically handicapped than to have both hands and go into the garbage dump… Into the fire that can’t be put out. 44~~Where the worm doesn’t die, and the fire isn’t quenched.~~ [spurious, copied from verse 48]

 45‘And if your foot is a trap to you, cut it off; for it’s better to enter life lame than to have both feet and end up in the garbage dump. 46~~Where the worm doesn’t die, and the fire isn’t quenched.~~ [spurious, copied from verse 48]

 47‘Also, if your eye is a trap to you, pluck it out and throw it away; for it is better to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have both eyes and be thrown into the garbage dump...

 48*‘Where the worms won’t come to an end,*
 *And the fire is never extinguished.’*
 [Isaiah 66:24]

 49‘For you’ll all be salted with fire in the same way that a sacrifice is [offered with] salt. 50And although salt is good, if it loses its salty flavor, how can it be used for seasoning? So, you should each keep salt in yourselves by staying at peace with each other.’

### Mark

## Chapter 10

1Well from there, he traveled on to the border of Judea and he crossed the JorDan, where great crowds came [to see] him. So, as was his custom, he started teaching them.

2However, the Pharisees also came there, and to test him they asked him whether it was legal for a man to divorce his wife.

3So [Jesus] asked them:

 ‘What Commandment did Moses give you?’

4And they replied:

 ‘Moses allowed [us to] write out a certificate of dismissal and let her go.’

5Then Jesus said:

 ‘He wrote this commandment for you because you’re so hardhearted!

 6‘However, back in the earliest [days] of their creation, [God] made them male and female. [For it’s written:]

 7*‘This is why a man will leave his father and mother,* 8*and the two will become one flesh.’* [Genesis 2:24]

 ‘So they’re no longer two, but one flesh.

 9‘Therefore, what God has put together under the same yoke shouldn’t be separated by any man.’

10Well when they got back home again, the disciples asked him about this.

11And he told them:

 ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another is committing adultery against her.

 12‘And if a woman leaves her husband and marries another, she’s committing adultery.’

13Then after that, people started bringing their young children to [Jesus] so that he could just touch them… But the disciples started scolding them! 14And when Jesus saw this, he was irritated and said to them:

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

 15‘I tell you the truth; anyone who doesn’t welcome the Kingdom of God like a young child won’t ever get into it.’

16Then he took the children in his arms and started blessing them, laying his hands on them.

17Well, as Jesus was leaving, someone ran up and fell to his knees before him and asked:

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

18And he said to him:

 ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God.

 19‘You know the Commandments: *Don’t murder; don’t commit adultery; don’t steal; don’t give false testimony; don’t defraud; honor your father and mother.*’

20But the man said:

 ‘Teacher, I’ve kept all of these things since my youth.’

21Well, because Jesus saw what the man was on the inside, he felt love for him and he said:

 ‘Then there’s just one thing that’s missing:

 ‘Go and sell everything you have, and give [the money] to the poor, and you”ll have treasures in the heavens… Then, come and be my follower.’

22But at that, [the young man] grew very sad and went off grieving, because he owned so many things.

23Then Jesus looked around and said this to his disciples:

 ‘It is a difficult thing for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God!’

24And because the disciples were surprised at those words, he added:

 ‘Children, it will be difficult to enter the Kingdom of God. 25In fact, it would be easier [to thread a rope] through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of God.’

26Well when they heard this, they were even more shocked and they asked:

 ‘Then, who can actually be saved?’

27And looking straight at them, Jesus said:

 ‘With men, this is impossible… But that isn’t true of God, for all things are possible with [Him].’

28Then Peter said to him:

 ‘Look! We’ve left everything to follow you!’

29And Jesus told him:

 ‘I tell you the truth: All who are willing to leave their homes, or their fields, or their brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, or children for my sake, and for the sake of the good news, 30will get 100 times more ~~houses and brethren and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions~~ [spurious words] along with age-long life in the era that’s coming.

 31‘However, many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

32Well, as they were traveling up to JeruSalem, Jesus started walking out in front of them, which amazed everyone (and it worried his followers). So he took the 12 aside and told them everything that was about to happen to him, saying:

 33‘{Look!} We’re heading towards JeruSalem, where the Son of Man will be handed over to the Chief Priests and Scribes, who’ll then condemn him to death and hand him over to the gentiles.

 34‘They in turn will make fun of him, spit on him, whip him, and finally kill him… But after three days, he will stand again.’

35Then [sometime later], James and John (the two sons of ZebediOu) came up to him and said:

 ‘Teacher, we want to ask you to do something for us.’

36And he asked:

 ‘What do you want?’

37So they said:

 ‘Allow us to sit, one at your right hand and the other on your left, in your glory.’

38But Jesus replied:

 ‘You don’t know what you’re asking. Can you drink from the same cup that I’ll be drinking? And can you be immersed in the same type of immersion that I’ll be immersed in?’

39And they replied:

 ‘We can.’

Then Jesus told them:

 ‘You’ll indeed drink from the same cup that I’ll be drinking, and be immersed in the immersion that I’ll be immersed in.

 40‘However, sitting at my right or left isn’t mine to give. That belongs to those for whom it’s been prepared.’

41Well, when the 10 others heard what the [two men] had asked, they became very irritated with James and John. 42But Jesus called [them all over] to him and said:

 ‘You know that those who appear to be ruling the nations act like masters over [their subjects]… And [you know] how the greatest among them like to use their power.

 43‘This isn’t the way it should be among you. For whoever wants to become great among you must become your servant, 44and whoever wants to be first among you must become everyone’s slave.

 45‘[Remember that] the Son of Man didn’t come here to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

46Well, before long, they finally arrived at JeriCho.

Then as [Jesus] was leaving JeriCho (along with his disciples and quite a crowd), there happened to be a man called BarTimaeus (a blind beggar) who was sitting alongside the road. 47And when he heard that Jesus the Nazarene [was passing], he started shouting:

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

48Then when many [in the crowd] told him to be quiet, he started shouting even louder:

 ‘Son of David… Have mercy on me!’

49So Jesus stopped and said:

 ‘Call him over.’

And they called the blind man over and told him:

 ‘Cheer up and come here, because he’s calling for you!’

50Well at that, the man threw off his robe, jumped to his feet, and went over to Jesus.

51And Jesus asked him:

 ‘What do you want me to do for you?’

And the blind man replied:

 ‘My Teacher; let me see again!’

52Then Jesus said to him:

 ‘Go on, for your faith has made you well.’

And immediately, he was able to see! So he too started following Jesus.

### Mark

## Chapter 11

1Now, as they were getting close to JeruSalem (they were near BethPhage and BethAny on the Mount of Olives), he sent two of his disciples ahead 2and told them:

 ‘Go into the village across from us, and as soon as you enter you’ll find a colt that’s tied, which no man has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3And if anyone asks why you’re doing this, just tell him that the Lord needs it, and he will immediately let you take it.’

4So they went and found the colt tied outside of a door on a side street, and they untied it. 5Then when some of those who were standing there asked why they were untying the colt, 6[the disciples] told them what Jesus had said, and they let them take it.

7Thereafter, they brought the colt to Jesus, so they put a robe over it and he mounted it.

8Then many [of his disciples] started spreading their robes out over the road, while others were laying down palm fronds that they’d cut from trees in the fields. 9And those who walked in front of him and behind him started shouting:

 ‘May [God] save him! Praise the one who comes in the Name of Jehovah!
 10Praise the Kingdom of our Father David that’s about to arrive!
 Save him, we pray, from the heights!’

11Well from there, [Jesus] rode into JeruSalem. [And when he got there], he went into the Temple and looked around. But because it was late, he just [went back] to BethAny with the 12.

12Then the next morning (as he was leaving BethAny), because he noticed some leaves on a fig tree, 13and because he was hungry, he went over to see if he could find some [fruit]. But when he got there, he found nothing but leaves, because it was [a little early in the year] for figs.

14So [Jesus] said to [the tree] (and his disciples heard [him say] this):

 ‘May nobody eat fruit from you for the rest of the age!’

15Well, from there, they traveled on into JeruSalem.

Then [Jesus] entered the Temple... And started throwing out those who were buying and selling! He also pushed over the money-changer’s tables and the seats of those who sold doves… 16And he wouldn’t allow anyone to carry things through the Temple!

17He kept instructing them and saying:

 ‘Although it is written:

 *‘My house will be called a House of Prayer for all nations...’*

 ‘...you’ve turned it into a den of thieves!’

18And when the Chief Priests and Scribes heard about this, they started looking for ways to destroy him. However, they were afraid of him, because his teaching always amazed the crowds.

19Then (since it was late), they left the city.

20And as they were returning early the [next] morning, [the disciples] noticed that the fig tree had become all withered up from its roots. 21So, because he remembered what Jesus had said to it, Peter pointed this out and said to him:

 ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered!’

22And Jesus said:

 ‘You must have faith in God. 23For I tell you the truth: If you’d say to this mountain, *Rise and be thrown into the sea*… And if you did it without any doubts in your heart but had total faith, whatever you say will happen, will in fact happen!

 24‘This is why I’ve told you that if you believe that you’ll receive anything you ask for in prayer, you’ll receive it.

 25‘However, as you stand there praying, you must [also remember to] forgive anything that others may have done to you, so that your Father in the heavens will forgive your errors.’ 26~~But if you don’t forgive others, your Father in heaven won’t forgive your sins.~~ [spurious, copied from Matthew 6:15]

27Well, after they got back to JeruSalem, and as Jesus was walking around in the Temple, the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders all came up to him 28and asked:

 ‘Who told you that you could do these things… Who gave you the authority?’

29And Jesus replied:

 ‘I’m going to ask you a question, and if you answer me, I’ll tell you where I got the authority to do these things!

 30‘Did John’s immersion come from heaven or from men? Tell me!’

31So they started reasoning among themselves and saying:

 ‘If we say it was from heaven, he’ll ask: *Then why didn’t you believe him?* 32But if we say it was from men…!’

[You see,] they were afraid of the crowd, since everyone [around] really believed that John was a Prophet.

33So they told Jesus:

 ‘We don’t know.’

And Jesus said:

 ‘Then I won’t tell you where I got the authority to do these things.’

### Mark

## Chapter 12

1Well after that, Jesus used this parable to teach them.

He said:

 ‘There was once a man who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a vat for a wine press, built a lookout tower [to protect it], and then he rented it out to some tenant farmers before he traveled abroad.

 2‘Then, when the [harvest] season arrived, he sent a slave to the farmers to get some of the vineyard’s fruit.

 3‘However, they grabbed [the slave], beat him up, and sent him away with nothing.

 4‘So then he sent another slave to them. This one they hit on the head and treated dishonorably.

 5‘Then he sent another, whom they killed… And [he sent] many others, some of whom they flayed with whips and others whom they murdered!

 6‘Well, [the master] had one last [person whom he could send]: a dearly-loved son! So he sent his son to them, saying:

 *‘Surely they’ll respect him!’*

 7‘But those farmers said to each other:

 *‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him, and then his [land] will be ours!’*

 8‘So they grabbed him and killed him, then they threw [his body] outside of the vineyard.

 9‘Now, what do you think the owner of the vineyard will do? Surely he would go there and destroy those tenant farmers, and then entrust the vineyard to others, wouldn’t he?

 10‘Have you ever read the scripture that says:

 *‘The stone that the builders rejected*
 *Has become the foundation cornerstone…*
 11*It’s by Jehovah that this came to pass,*
 *And it’s a wonderful thing in our eyes.?’*
 [Psalm 118:22]

12Well [when he said] this, they started to realize that he was applying the parable to them. So after that, they started looking for ways to arrest him. However, because they were afraid of the crowds, they just released him and left.

13Thereafter, they sent some of the Pharisees and some of the followers of Herod to him to try to get [Jesus] to say something [that they could use against him].

14So these people came up to him and said:

 ‘Teacher, we know that you tell the truth and that you aren’t impressed by anyone, for you don’t look at what men are on the outside, but you truly teach the ways of God.

 ‘So tell us: Does the Law require us to pay the head tax to Caesar or not… 15Should we pay, or shouldn’t we pay?’

But noting their hypocrisy, he said:

 ‘Why are you testing me? Bring me a silver coin.’

16So they brought him [a coin].

Then he asked:

 ‘Whose image and inscription is on this?’

And they replied:

 ‘Caesar’s.’

17Then Jesus said:

 ‘Pay Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God.’

And that left them bewildered.

18Now, the SadDucees (who say there’s no such thing as a resurrection) then came to [Jesus] and said:

 19‘Teacher, Moses wrote that a brother of any man who dies and leaves his woman without a child should take his woman and sire offspring for him.

 20‘So, let’s say that there were seven brothers. The first one took a woman [as his wife], but he died without offspring. 21Then the second took her, but he also died without offspring, as did the third, and so on… 22Therefore, none of the seven left her with any offspring.

 ‘And finally, she also died.

 23‘So... Whose wife will she be in the resurrection, since all seven of them had her as theirs?’

24Then Jesus replied:

 ‘This is why you’re so misled, because you don’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God!

 25‘When the dead are resurrected, they won’t marry or be married, because they’ll be like [God’s] messengers in the heavens.

 26‘And when it comes to the dead that will be raised – haven’t you read in the book about Moses (in the story about the thorn bush) that God said to him:

 *‘I am the God of AbraHam, the God of IsaAc, and the God of Jacob*?’

 27‘Notice that He isn’t the God of the dead, but of the living!

 ‘Yes, you’re very misled!’

28Well, one of the scribes that had just arrived and overheard the things that were being said knew that [Jesus] had given a good answer.

So he asked:

 ‘Then, which is the primary Commandment?’

29And Jesus answered:

 ‘The primary one is this:

 *‘Hear, O IsraEl: Jehovah your God is your only Lord.*

 30*‘So, you must love your God Jehovah with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.’* [Deuteronomy 6:4]

 31‘The second one is this:

 *‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’* [Leviticus 19:18]

 ‘No Commandments are greater than these.’

32Then the scribe said:

 ‘That’s good… You’re speaking the truth, teacher, when you say that He is One and that there’s no other, 33and that loving Him with our whole heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves is worth much more than all of our whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’

34And when Jesus recognized that [the scribe] had responded intelligently, he said to him:

 ‘You aren’t far from the Kingdom of God.’

Well, from then on, no one else had enough courage to ask him any more questions.

35So in reply to a question that had been raised while Jesus was teaching in the Temple, Jesus went on to ask [the Scribes] this:

 ‘Why do you say that the Anointed One is to be a son of David? 36For through the Holy Breath [of God], David said:

 *‘Jehovah said to* ***my Lord****;*
 *Sit here at my right hand*
 *‘Til I put your enemies under your feet.’*

 37‘So if David called him Lord; how could he be his son?’

[Well, all the while], the huge crowd was listening to him with a lot of pleasure. 38So as he was teaching, he gave them this warning:

 ‘Watch out for the Scribes who like to walk around in robes, who wish to be greeted in the markets, 39and who want the front seats in the synagogues and the first positions at the meals. 40For despite the fact that they devour the homes of widows, they like to put on great pretenses and deliver very long prayers.

 ‘So, this is why they’re going to receive a heavier judgment.’

41Then, as he was sitting across from the [Temple] Treasury, he noticed the crowd dropping money into the box, and he could see that the rich people were dropping in many coins.

42But then he also noticed a poor widow that went up and dropped in just two small copper coins (they weren’t worth very much).

43So, [Jesus] called his disciples over and said to them:

 ‘I tell you the truth: this poor widow put in more than all the rest that were dropping their money into the Treasury chest, 44because they’re throwing in something of which they have plenty.

 ‘However, this needy woman dropped in everything that she had… Her whole [means of] living!’

### Mark

## Chapter 13

1Then as he was leaving the Temple, one of his disciples said:

 ‘Teacher, just look at these stones and these buildings!’

2And Jesus said to him:

 ‘Do you see these great buildings?

 ‘There won’t be a stone left on top of a stone here that won’t be thrown down!’

3Then, as he was sitting in a quiet spot on the Mount of Olives (across from the Temple), Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him and asked:

 4‘When will these things happen… What will be the sign that all these things are about to end?’

5So Jesus said to them:

 ‘Be careful so that no one misleads you. 6For many will come in my name, saying, *‘I am [the one]’*, and they’ll mislead many.

 7‘And when you hear of wars and reports of wars, don’t worry, because [these things] must happen… That isn’t the end.

 8‘For there’ll be wars between nations and nations, and kingdoms and kingdoms, and there’ll also be famines and rumblings in one place after another.

 ‘Yet, these things will be just the beginning of the birth pangs.

 9‘At that time, watch out for yourselves, because you’ll be led before religious courts, you’ll be whipped in the synagogues, and you’ll have to stand before governors and kings for my sake, as a witness to them…

 10‘But before that, the good news must be preached to all the gentiles.

 11‘Now... When these things happen to you, and they’re leading you off to face your accusers, don’t worry about what you should say! Just say whatever will be given to you right then, since [God’s] Holy Breath will be doing the speaking, not you.

 12‘At that time, brothers will hand over their brothers for death, fathers [will hand over] their children, and children will oppose their parents and have them put to death! 13For everyone will hate you because of my name.

 ‘However, those who endure to the end will be saved.

 14‘Now, when you see the disgusting destroyer standing where it shouldn’t (the readers should pay attention to this), those in Judea should flee to the mountains!

 15‘The man who’s standing on his rooftop shouldn’t go down to take anything out of his house, 16and the person who’s out in a field shouldn’t go back home to pick up his clothes.

 17‘Also, woe to those who are pregnant and those who are nursing babies in those days… 18Keep praying that this doesn’t happen during the winter!

 19‘For a difficult time will arrive in those days that won’t be like anything that has happened since the earliest creation by God until now – nor should ever happen again!

 20‘And if Jehovah hadn’t shortened those days, it’s likely that no flesh would be saved… But for the sake of the elected ones whom He’s chosen, He shortened those days.

 21‘Then if anyone says to you:

 *‘Look! Here’s the Anointed One!’*

 ‘Or:

 *‘Look! There he is!’*

 ‘Don’t believe it!

 22‘For false anointed and false prophets will arise bringing signs and omens that could possibly mislead even the elected!

 23‘Now, you must be careful, because I’ve warned you!

 24‘Then in the days that follow this difficult time:

 ‘The sun will grow dark and the moon won’t shine [Joel 2:31],
 25The stars will be falling out of the skies,
 And the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

 26‘For they’ll see the Son of Man arriving in the clouds
 With great power and glory.
 27Then he’ll send his messengers to collect his elected
 From the four winds [of the earth]…
 From the ends of the lands to the ends of the skies!

 28‘Now, you should learn this from the parable of the fig tree:

 ‘When its branches grow tender
 And it starts putting out leaves,
 You know that summer is near.
 29So, when you see these things start to happen,
 Know that he’s near… At the doors.

 30‘I tell you the truth: this people won’t pass away until all of these things have happened! 31For even if the lands and skies should pass away, my words won’t pass away!

 32‘However, no one knows that date or time – not the messengers in the heavens nor the Son, just the Father.

 33‘Therefore, you should stay awake and keep watching, because you don’t know when he will arrive!

 34‘It’s like a man, who before leaving his house and traveling abroad, instructed each of his slaves to just go on doing their jobs… But he commanded his doorkeeper to stay awake.

 35‘This is why you must stay awake, because you don’t know when the Master of the house will return… Whether it’s in the evening, at midnight, at rooster crowing, or early in the morning.

 36‘Just be sure that when he suddenly arrives, he doesn’t find you sleeping!

 37‘So, what I’m saying to you, I’m saying to everyone:

 ‘Stay awake!’

### Mark

## Chapter 14

1Now, it was just two days before Passover and the Festival of No Fermentation, and the Chief Priests and the Scribes were trying to come up with devious ways to grab [Jesus] and kill him.

2But they said:

 ‘Not at the festival… Not whenever it’ll create a commotion!’

3Well, as [Jesus] was reclining at a meal in the house of Simon the leper (in BethAny), a woman arrived that was carrying a very expensive alabaster jar of perfumed oil (genuine nard). And after breaking open the alabaster, she poured it over Jesus’ head.

4But when she did that, some [of his Apostles] started grumbling among themselves and asking each other:

 ‘Why [is she] wasting this perfume? 5We could have sold the ointment for as much as 300 silver coins and given it to the poor!’

So they were very displeased with her.

6But Jesus told them:

 ‘Leave her alone… Why are you making trouble for her? She just did a good thing for me!

 7‘You’ll always have the poor with you, and you can do good things for them whenever you wish; however, you won’t always have me! 8For when she poured the perfumed ointment over me, she was doing everything that she could to prepare my body for its burial.

 9‘And I tell you the truth:

 ‘Wherever the Good News is preached anywhere in the world, what this woman did for me will be told in memory of her!’

10[Well, after that happened], Judas IsCariot (one of the 12) went to see the Chief Priests so as to betray him. 11And when they heard [his offer], they were delighted and they promised to pay him in silver.

So, that’s when he started looking for an opportunity to betray [Jesus].

12Well, it was just before the 1st day of No Fermentation (the day when the Passover sacrifices are offered) that [Jesus’] disciples asked him:

 ‘Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?’

13So he sent two of his disciples off, giving them these instructions:

 ‘Go into the city, and there you’ll meet a man who’s carrying a large clay jar of water… Follow him, 14and wherever he goes inside, tell the master of the house that the Teacher wants to know where the guest room is that he can use to eat the Passover with his disciples.

 15‘He’ll then show you a large upper room that’s already furnished… Make your preparations there.’

16Therefore, the disciples left and went into the city, where they found everything just as he said, so they prepared for the Passover.

17Then that evening, [Jesus] went there with the 12, 18and as they were reclining and eating at the table, Jesus said:

 ‘I tell you the truth: One of you who’s eating with me here will betray me!’

19Of course, they were all deeply saddened by this, and each one asked whether he was the one.

20But he told them:

 ‘It’s one of the 12 that’s dipping into the common bowl with me.

 21‘It’s a fact that the Son of Man is going to be taken away, just as it was written about him… But woe to the one who betrays the Son of Man, for it’d be better if he’d never been born!’

22Well, as they were eating, [Jesus] then took a loaf, and before breaking it, he offered a blessing over it.

Then he passed it among [his Apostles] saying:

 ‘Take it, for this is my body.’

23And after that, he took a cup, and after offering thanks for it, he handed it to them and they all drank from it.

24Then he said to them:

 ‘This is my blood of the Sacred Agreement that’s being poured out [on behalf of] many.

 25‘I tell you the truth: I definitely won’t drink from the fruit of the vine again until the Day that I drink it new in the Kingdom of The God.’

26And finally, after singing songs of praise, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27It was there that Jesus said to them:

 ‘All of you’ll be stumbled over me tonight, because it is written:

 *‘I will strike down the shepherd,*
 *And all the sheep will be scattered.’*

 28‘But after I wake up, I’ll go ahead of you into Galilee.’

29Well at that, Peter said to him:

 ‘Even if all the others are stumbled, I won’t be!’

30And Jesus said to him:

 ‘I tell you the truth: today… Tonight… Before a rooster crows twice, you’ll deny knowing me three times!’

31Yet [Peter] kept insisting, saying:

 ‘Even if I have to die with you, I definitely won’t deny you.’

And all the others were saying the same thing.

32Then later, when they got to a place called GethSemane (the Olive Press), he said to his disciples:

 ‘Now sit here, while I [go over there] to pray.’

33So he took Peter, James, and John along with him, and then he became deeply upset and bothered. 34For he said to them:

 ‘My soul is grieved to the point of death… So wait here and stay awake!’

35Then he went a little way forward and fell to the ground, praying that if it was possible, he could be freed from that hour.

36And he said:

 ‘Papa! Father! Everything is possible for You, so remove this cup from me!

 ‘Yet, not as I wish, but as You wish.’

37Well, when he returned, he found them all sleeping. And he said to Peter:

 ‘Simon, are you sleeping? Didn’t you have enough strength to stay awake for just an hour?

 38‘Now, stay awake and keep praying that you won’t be put to the test!

 ‘But indeed; although the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.’

39Then he went off and prayed once more, saying the same things. 40However when he came back, he found them all sleeping again, because their eyes were heavy… And they just didn’t know what to say to him.

41[And finally], after he returned a third time, and said to them:

 ‘Here you are, resting and sleeping. That’s enough! The time has arrived!

 ‘Look! The Son of Man has now been betrayed into the hands of sinners!

 42‘Get up, let’s go!

 ‘Look… My betrayer is nearby!’

43Well immediately (while he was still talking), Judas (one of the 12) arrived with a mob, which included the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders, all of whom were carrying swords and clubs.

44Then the betrayer gave the sign that they’d agreed on, for he’d said:

 ‘The one whom I kiss is him… Grab him and arrest him!’

45Therefore, he went straight up [to Jesus] and said:

 ‘Rabbi!’

And then he kissed him tenderly.

46Well at that, the men grabbed [Jesus] and bound him!

47However, one of those who was standing nearby drew his sword and struck the Chief Priest’s slave, cutting off his ear.

48But then Jesus said to [the mob]:

 ‘Did you come here with swords and clubs to arrest me like some robber? 49I was with you in the Temple where I taught for days, but you didn’t grab me then!

 ‘However, this has happened so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.’

50Then [the Apostles] all abandoned [Jesus] and ran away.

51However, a certain young man (who had slipped a linen nightgown over his naked body) started following close behind them… And [the mob] tried to grab him too, 52so he ran away naked, leaving behind his covering.

53Well from there, they led Jesus to the [house of the] High Priest, where all the Chief Priests, elders, and Scribes had already assembled. 54Then Peter (who’d been following at some distance) went into the courtyard of the High Priest, and sat there among the building supervisors who were warming themselves in front of the fire.

55Meanwhile, the Chief Priests and those of the Jewish religious court were trying to find witnesses against Jesus so that they could hand him over for execution. However, they couldn’t find any.

56Many did come forward to give false testimony against him, but their stories just didn’t agree. 57Then some stood up and perjured themselves with the words:

 58‘We heard him say that he will tear down this Most Holy Place that was made with hands and build another that isn’t made with hands in just three days.’

59Yet, even these witnesses couldn’t agree.

60So finally, the High Priest stood up in their midst and questioned Jesus, asking:

 ‘Don’t you have an answer… What is it that they’re accusing you of?’

61But [Jesus] remained silent and he didn’t reply to anything that he asked.

Then the High Priest questioned him again, and when he asked:

 ‘Are you the Anointed One, the Son of the Praised One?’

62Jesus spoke up and said:

 ‘I am… And you’ll see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of the skies!’

63Well at that, the High Priest ripped his clothes and said:

 ‘Why do we need any more witnesses?

 64‘You’ve heard the blasphemy! What’s your opinion?’

So they all [voted to] condemn him and hold him for execution.

65Then some started spitting on him, and they covered his face and started hitting him with their fists, shouting:

 ‘Prophesy!’

[And finally], the building supervisors (after slapping him in the face) took him into their custody.

66Meanwhile, Peter was still in the courtyard below, and there, one of the High Priest’s servant girls 67noticed him [standing there and] warming himself. She looked at him very hard, and then she said:

 ‘You were also with the Nazarene… This Jesus!’

68But he denied it, saying:

 ‘I don’t know him and I don’t know what you’re talking about!’

Then when he went outside to the courtyard entrance, 69the servant girl saw him again and said to those who were around her:

 ‘He’s one of them!’

70But once more, he denied it.

However, some that were standing around him said to Peter:

 ‘Sure you’re one of them, because you’re also a Galilean!’

71But Peter started cursing and swore:

 ‘I don’t know the man you’re talking about!’

72Well right away, a rooster crowed a second time, and that’s when Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him:

 ‘Before a rooster crows twice you’ll have disowned me three times.’

And at that, he broke down and cried.

### Mark

## Chapter 15

1First thing in the morning, the Chief Priests, elders, Scribes, and the complete Jewish religious court was appointed as a council. They bound Jesus and handed him over to Pilate.

2So Pilate asked him:

 ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’

And he replied:

 ‘You’re saying it yourself!’

3Then the Chief Priests started accusing him of many other things.

4So Pilate questioned him again and asked:

 ‘Don’t you have any reply? Look at all the charges they’re bringing against you!’

5But Jesus wouldn’t say anything more, which amazed Pilate.

6Well, it was [Pilate’s] custom to release any prisoner that they asked for at the festivals. 7And at the time, there was one man in jail called BarAbbas that was with a group of rebels who had committed murder during a rebellion.

8So when the crowd came [to Pilate] to petition him to release a prisoner (as it was their custom), 9Pilate asked:

 ‘Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?’

10([This was] because he knew that the Chief Priests had only handed him over because they were jealous of him).

11But the Chief Priests stirred up the crowd and had them call for the release of BarAbbas instead.

12So Pilate asked:

 ‘Then, what shall I do with this one whom you call, *the King of the Jews?*’

13And once again, they shouted:

 ‘Impale him!’

14But Pilate asked:

 ‘Why? What crime did he commit?’

However, they just kept shouting louder and louder:

 ‘Impale him!’

15So, to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released BarAbbas to them. Then, after having Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be impaled.

16Well from there, the soldiers took him out into the courtyard of the Governor’s Palace and assembled all the troops. 17There, they covered him with purple [cloth] and braided a crown of thorns, which they slipped over [his head], 18and they started greeting him, saying:

 ‘Rejoice, O you King of the Jews!’

19[Saying this] as they were hitting him on the head with a measuring rod and spitting on him.

Then they got down on their knees and [sarcastically] bowed to their faces before him.

20Finally, after they’d had their fun, they stripped him of the purple [cloth], put his clothes back on, and took him out to be hung on the pole.

21So they drafted a man named Simon (a Cyrenian who was coming in from the fields; the father of Alexander and Rufus) to carry the pole. 22And from there, they took him to GolGotha (which translates as *‘Skull Place’*).

23Then, when they tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, he wouldn’t take it. 24So finally, they hung him on the pole and they threw dice to see which ones would get his clothes.

25It was during the 3rd hour [9am] that they hung him on the pole, 26and they put a sign over him that showed the charge against him:

 *‘The King of the Jews.’*

27There were also two robbers that were hung on poles along with him, one on his right and the other on his left. 28~~And the scripture was fulfilled, which says, ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’~~ [spurious, copied from Luke 22:37]

29Then, those who were passing by started saying terrible things to him, shaking their heads and shouting:

 ‘Bah! O you who would tear down the Temple and rebuild it in three days… 30Save yourself! Come down from the pole!’

31And that’s also the way that the Chief Priests and Scribes were joking about him, saying:

 ‘He saved others, but now he can’t save himself!’

[And:]

 32‘Let the Anointed One who is the *‘King of IsraEl’* come down from his pole so we can witness it and believe in him!’

And even those who were hanging with him mocked him.

33Thereafter, [a great] darkness came over the whole land from the 6th to the 9th hours [12 noon to 3pm].

34And at the 9th hour [3pm], Jesus shouted in a loud voice:

 ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ (which translates as, ‘My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?’).

35And when some of those standing there heard it, they said:

 ‘Look! He’s calling for EliJah!’

36So, someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine and held it up on a reed to give him something to drink. But the rest said:

 ‘Leave him alone… Let’s see if EliJah comes to take him down.’

37But then Jesus let out a loud groan and died.

38Well at that, the curtain [that separated] the Most Holy ripped in two from the top to the bottom!

39And when the centurion who was standing across from him saw all the things that happened when he died, he said:

 ‘This man truly was God’s Son!’

40Meanwhile, there were some women who had been watching from a distance. Among them was Mary of Magdala, Mary (the mother of Little James and Joses), Salome, 41and many others that had traveled with Jesus to JeruSalem and that used to serve him back in Galilee.

42Well, since it was already late in the afternoon, and because it was Preparation (the day before the Sabbath), 43JoSeph of HariMathea (a well-known member of the Council who was also accepting God’s Kingdom) got up enough courage to go before Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus. 44However, Pilate didn’t know if he was dead yet, so he called the centurion to ask if he’d died. 45Then, after checking with the centurion, he released the body to JoSeph.

46So JoSeph then went out and bought some fine linen. And after taking Jesus down, he wrapped him in the cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been cut into the bedrock, then he rolled up a stone over the tomb’s entrance.

47Meanwhile, Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joses [just sat there] looking at the place where he’d been laid.

### Mark

## Chapter 16

1Then, after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spiced ointments that, once they arrive, they’ll use to grease his body. 2Then, very early in the morning on the first day of the week[, that is, Sunday], they arrived at the tomb at sunrise.

3One asked the other:

 ‘Who’ll roll the stone away from the tomb entrance for us?’

4But when they looked up, they saw that the extremely large stone had already been rolled away!

5So when they entered the tomb, they saw a young man who was sitting on the right side wearing a white robe, and they were shocked!

6But he said to them:

 ‘Don’t be surprised.

 ‘You’re looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was impaled… But he isn’t here, he’s risen!

 ‘Look, here’s the place where they laid him!

 7‘Now, go tell his disciples and Peter that he’s going ahead of them into Galilee… They’ll see him there, just as he said.’

8Well when they came out, they ran from the tomb, because they were shaking with excitement. But then they didn’t say anything to anyone, being too afraid because ...

[**Editor note:** The Gospel text ends here, perhaps even in mid-sentence. Why? Perhaps the Gospel was never finished. Maybe the author, Mark, was martyred before he could complete it. If so, this would be a powerful ending! Alternatively, the Gospel may have been written in a codex (an early form of book), and the last page was lost before copies could be made.

The truth is, we don’t know.

At some later time, someone tried to fix the abrupt ending by adding a long conclusion – probably taken from another, now lost, book about Jesus. These verses appear in other Bibles as verses 9 to 20. However, this new ending contradicts some earlier statements in the same chapter, and is written in a different style.

Much later, somebody created a shorter conclusion which doesn’t contradict the rest of the chapter – perhaps to replace the longer conclusion with something better.

Almost all Bible scholars believe that these two endings are inauthentic later additions. However, the long ending is accepted by the Roman Catholic Church. See our page on spurious texts if you’d like to read the shorter and longer conclusions and see why we agree that they’re both inauthentic.

To read what happened next, see the parallel accounts starting at:

• Matthew 28:9
• Luke 24:10
• John 20:19]