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# The Good News According to the Tradition of Luke

## Chapter One

Since many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the message delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup>it seemed good to me also, having traced the course of all things accurately from the beginning, to write a chronological account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you were instructed.

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zacharias, of the priestly division of Abijah. He was married to Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Aaron. <sup>6</sup>They were both just before Godde, living blamelessly in all the precepts and ordinances of the Lady. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was doing his priestly duty before Godde in the order of his division, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the Lady's temple and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>The whole crowd of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>An angel of the Lady appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>Zacharias was anxious when he saw it, and fear gripped him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zacharias, because your request has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you'll name him John. <sup>14</sup>You'll have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>because he'll be great in the sight of the Lady. He'll drink no wine or strong drink. He'll be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from birth. <sup>16</sup>He'll turn many of the children of Israel to the Lady, their Godde. <sup>17</sup>He'll go before her in the spirit and power of Elijah 'to turn the hearts of the mothers and fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lady."

<sup>18</sup>Zacharias asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I'm an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

<sup>19</sup>The angel answered, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of Godde. I was sent to speak to you and to announce this good news to you. <sup>20</sup>Look, you'll be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things happen, because you didn't trust my words, which will be fulfilled at the right time."

<sup>21</sup>The people were waiting for Zacharias and wondering why he was delayed in the temple. <sup>22</sup>When he came out, he couldn't speak to them, and they realized that he'd seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them, and remained mute.

<sup>23</sup>When the days of his service were over, he went home. <sup>24</sup>After that his wife Elizabeth conceived! She remained in seclusion for five months. <sup>25</sup>"This is what the Lady has done for me when she looked favorably on me," she said, "to take away my disgrace among people!"

<sup>26</sup>Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from Godde to a town in Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of Bathsheba and David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel approached her and said, "Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lady is with you."

<sup>29</sup>But she was very anxious about that message and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because you've found favor with Godde. <sup>31</sup>Look, you'll conceive and give birth to a son, and you'll name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He'll be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lady Godde will give him the throne of his ancestors, Bathsheba and David, <sup>33</sup>and he'll reign over the house of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob forever. His reign will never end!"

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I'm a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of Godde. <sup>36</sup>Look, your cousin Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age; she was called barren, but she's in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>Nothing is impossible with Godde."

<sup>38</sup>"I'm the Lady's bondservant," Mary said. "May it be according to your word."

The angel left her. <sup>39</sup>Mary arose at that time and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>and went into Zacharias' house, and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She exclaimed with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>Why would this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>Look, when the voice of your greeting reached my ears, my baby leaped for joy in my womb! <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who trusted that what the Lady has told her will be fulfilled!"

<sup>46</sup>Mary said:

"My soul praises the Lady,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in Godde my Life-Giver,

<sup>48</sup>because she's looked favorably at the humble state of her bondservant.

Look, from now on all generations will call me blessed

<sup>49</sup>because the Mighty One has done great things for me!

Holy is her name.

<sup>50</sup>Her mercy extends to those who revere her from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>She's flexed her muscles

and scattered those who imagine they're something that they're not.

<sup>52</sup>She's pulled down rulers from their thrones

and has exalted the humble.

<sup>53</sup>She's filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>She's helped Israel, her servant, that she might remember mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as she promised our ancestors,

Sarah and Abraham and their offspring forever."

<sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with her about three months, then returned home.

<sup>57</sup>When it was time for Elizabeth have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lady had shown her great mercy, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child. They were going to name him Zacharias, after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he'll be called John."

<sup>61</sup>They said to her, "There's no one among your relatives with that name." <sup>62</sup>They made signs to his father to find out what he wanted to name him.

<sup>63</sup>He asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

Everyone was amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue freed, and he started to talk, praising Godde. <sup>65</sup>Their neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout entire the hill country of Judea people were talking about these things. <sup>66</sup>Everyone who heard them wondered, "What's this child going to be?" because the Lady's hand was with him.

<sup>67</sup>His father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit. He prophesied:

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lady, the Godde of Israel,

because she's visited us and redeemed her people,

<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of life for us in the house of her servants Bathsheba and David

<sup>70</sup>(as she said by the mouth of her holy prophets long ago),  
<sup>71</sup>rescue from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our ancestors,  
to remember her holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>her oath to Sarah and Abraham, our ancestors,  
to grant to us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve her without fear  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and justice before her all our days.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
because you'll go before the Lady to prepare her ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of life to her people by the forgiveness of their offenses,  
<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our Godde,  
whereby the dawn from on high will visit us  
<sup>79</sup>to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
to guide us into the way of peace."

<sup>80</sup>The child was growing and becoming strong in spirit, and was in the wilderness until the day he publicly appeared to Israel.

## Chapter Two

Now at that time a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the entire world. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone went to their own town to register for the census. <sup>4</sup>Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee too, to the town of Bathsheba and David in Judea called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of Bathsheba and David. <sup>5</sup>He went to register for the census with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that same country there were shepherds staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lady stood before them and the glory of the Lady shone around them. They were terrified. <sup>10</sup>The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. Look – I announce to you good news of great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today a Life-Giver is born for you in the town of Bathsheba and David; he's Christ, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: You'll find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, a crowd of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising Godde, singing:

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to Godde in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will among people."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what's happened, which the Lady has told us about." <sup>16</sup>They came in a hurry and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the feeding trough. <sup>17</sup>When they saw it, they spread the word about what they'd been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>Everyone who heard it was amazed about what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary remembered all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising Godde for everything they had heard and seen, just as they'd been told.

<sup>21</sup>When eight days had passed, it was time for the child to be circumcised. He was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

<sup>22</sup>When the days for their purification according to the Torah of Moses were over, they brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lady <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Torah of the Lady, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lady”), <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is prescribed in the Torah of the Lady: “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was just and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he wouldn’t see death before he had seen the Lady’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>He came in the Spirit into the temple. When the parents brought in their child, Jesus, to do for him what was customary according to the Torah, <sup>28</sup>he welcomed him into his arms, praised Godde, and said:

<sup>29</sup>“Now you may dismiss your bondservant, Master,  
in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your life  
<sup>31</sup>which you’ve prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>His father and mother were amazed about what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “Look, this one is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and had been a widow for eighty-four years. She never left the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that very time she came up, praised the Lady, and talked about her to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had done everything that was required by the Torah of the Lady, they returned to their own town Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and was strengthened, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of Godde was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast, <sup>43</sup>and when the days were over, they returned, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t know it, <sup>44</sup>but assuming he was in the caravan, they went a day’s journey, looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup>When they didn’t find him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When they saw him, they were astonished. His mother asked him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.”

<sup>49</sup>He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I must be in my Mother’s house?” <sup>50</sup>They didn’t understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup>He went down with them to Nazareth. He was obedient to them, and his mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with Godde and people.

### **Chapter Three**

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod Antipas was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene – <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, Godde’s word came to John son of Zacharias in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went throughout the entire region

around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of change for forgiveness of offenses. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
‘Make ready the way of the Lady!  
Make her paths straight!  
<sup>5</sup>Every valley will be filled.  
Every mountain and hill will be leveled off.  
The crooked will become straight,  
and the rough ways smooth.  
<sup>6</sup>All flesh will see Godde’s life!’”

<sup>7</sup>So he said to the crowds who went out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the fury to come? <sup>8</sup>So bear fruits worthy of change! Don’t begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Sarah and Abraham for our parents,’ because I tell you that Godde is able to raise up children of Sarah and Abraham from these stones.

<sup>9</sup>“Even now the axe also lies at the root of the trees! So every tree that doesn’t bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>The crowds asked him, “So what should we do?”

<sup>11</sup>He told them, “Whoever has two coats should give to the one who has none. Whoever has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup>Toll collectors came to be baptized too. They asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup>He told them, “Collect no more than what you’re authorized to collect.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers asked him too: “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>The people waited expectantly, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them, “I do baptize you in water, but one who’s greater than I will come, the thong of whose sandals I’m not worthy to loosen. He’ll baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his barn; but he’ll burn up the chaff with a fire that can’t be put out.”

<sup>18</sup>Then in many other ways he announced the good news to the people and urged them to change. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who was reprimanded by him because he’d married Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things he’d done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all by locking up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus had been baptized too. As he was praying, heaven opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit came down to him in bodily form like a dove. A voice came from heaven: “You are my beloved Son! I am very pleased with you.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus was about thirty years old when he started. He was the son (it was thought) of Joseph, whose ancestry extended through Heli, <sup>24</sup>Matthat, Levi, Melchi, Jannai, Joseph, <sup>25</sup>Mattathias, Amos, Nahum, Esli, Naggai, <sup>26</sup>Maath, Mattathias, Semein, Joseph, Judah, <sup>27</sup>Joanan, Rhesa, Zerubbabel, Shealtiel, Neri, <sup>28</sup>Melchi, Addi, Cosam, Elmodam, Er, <sup>29</sup>Jose, Eliezer, Jorim, Matthat, Levi, <sup>30</sup>Simeon, Judah, Joseph, Jonan, Eliakim, <sup>31</sup>Melea, Menan, Mattatha, Nathan, Bathsheba and David, <sup>32</sup>Jesse, Obed, Ruth and Boaz, Salmon, Nahshon, <sup>33</sup>Amminadab, Admin, Arni, Ephrath and Hezron, Perez, Tamar and Judah, <sup>34</sup>Leah and Jacob, Rebekah and Isaac, Sarah and Abraham, Terah, Nahor, <sup>35</sup>Serug, Reu, Peleg, Eber, Shelah, <sup>36</sup>Cainan, Arphaxad, Shem, Noah, Lamech, <sup>37</sup>Methuselah, Enoch, Jared, Mahalaleel, Cainan, <sup>38</sup>Enos, Seth, Eve and Adam, and Godde.

## Chapter Four

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness<sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. He didn't eat anything during those days. When they were over, he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup>"If you're the Son of Godde," the devil said to him, "tell this stone to turn into bread."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Do not live on bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him all the empires of the world in an instant. <sup>6</sup>The devil said to him, "I'll give you all this authority and splendor, because it's been given to me and I can give it to whomever I want. <sup>7</sup>So if you'll bow to me, it will all be yours."

<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written:

'Bow to the Lady your Godde,  
and serve her only.'"

<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said, "If you're the Son of Godde, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>because it is written, 'She'll put her angels in charge of you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup>and:

'On their hands they'll bear you up,  
so that you don't dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, "It has been said, 'Do not test the Lady, your Godde.'"

<sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every temptation, it left until an opportune time.

<sup>14</sup>Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread through all the surrounding area. <sup>15</sup>He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup>He came to Nazareth, where he had been raised. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Lady's Spirit is upon me,  
because she anointed me to announce the good news to those who are poor.  
She has sent me to proclaim liberty to those who are captive,  
recovery of sight to those who are blind,  
to liberate those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>and to proclaim the year of the Lady's favor."

<sup>20</sup>He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the officer, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were focused on him. <sup>21</sup>He started to tell them, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup>Everyone spoke well of him, and was amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

<sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you'll quote to me the proverb: 'Doctor, heal yourself!' And tell me, 'Whatever we've heard you did in Capernaum, do here in your hometown too.'" <sup>24</sup>But he said, "Believe me when I say that no prophet is welcome in their hometown. <sup>25</sup>Believe me, there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when heaven was shut for three and-a-half years and a great famine spread throughout the land. <sup>26</sup>But Elijah wasn't sent to any of them, except a woman who was a widow in Sidon at Zarephath. <sup>27</sup>There were many who had leprosy in Israel during time of the prophet Elisha, but not one of them was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

<sup>28</sup>When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. <sup>29</sup>They arose, threw him out of town, and led him to the top of the hill that their town was built on so in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he walked through the middle of them and went on his way.

<sup>31</sup>He went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbath. <sup>32</sup>They were amazed at his teaching because his message carried authority. <sup>33</sup>In the synagogue there was someone who had a corrupting spirit. He cried out in a loud voice, <sup>34</sup>“Ah! What do you want with us, Jesus the Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: Godde’s Holy One!”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus rebuked him. “Shut up,” he said, “and come out of him!”

When the demon threw him down in the middle of them, he came out of him without harming him.

<sup>36</sup>Everyone was amazed. “What is this message?” they asked each other. “With authority and power he orders the corrupting spirits, and they come out!” <sup>37</sup>Word about him spread into every place of the surrounding region.

<sup>38</sup>He left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering with a high fever, and they asked him about her. <sup>39</sup>He stood over her and rebuked the fever and it left her. Immediately she got up and ministered to them. <sup>40</sup>At sunset, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup>Demons also came out from many, shouting, “You’re the Son of Godde!” But he rebuked them and he didn’t let them speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup>The next morning, he left and went to a remote place. The crowds were looking for him. When they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving them. <sup>43</sup>But he told them, “I need to announce the good news of Godde’s reign to the other towns too, because that’s why I was sent.” <sup>44</sup>So he proclaimed the message in the synagogues of Judea.

## Chapter Five

Once when he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, the crowd pressed in on him to hear Godde’s message. <sup>2</sup>He saw two boats beside the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup>“Master,” Simon answered, “we worked all night but caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught so many fish that their nets started to break. <sup>7</sup>They motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they started to sink. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ knees. “Leave me, Lord,” he said, “because I’m a guilty man!” <sup>9</sup>He and the others with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>as were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you’ll be fishing for people.”

<sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

<sup>12</sup>Once when he was in one of the towns, there was a man full of leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him. “Lord,” he said, “if you want to, you can cure me.”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus reached out and touched him. “I want to,” he said. “Be cured.” Immediately the leprosy left him. <sup>14</sup>He instructed him: “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cure what Moses said to, as a witness to them.” <sup>15</sup>But word about him spread all the more. Large crowds gathered to hear and to be healed from their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup>But he withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

<sup>17</sup>Once on one of those days, when he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the Torah were sitting nearby. They had had come from every village of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. The Lady’s power was with him to heal. <sup>18</sup>People brought a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to carry him in to lay before Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>When they weren't able to find a way to carry him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him down on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

<sup>20</sup>Seeing their trust, he told him, "Friend, you're forgiven."

<sup>21</sup>The scholars and Pharisees started to say to themselves, "Who is this talking sacrilege? Who can forgive except Godde alone?"

<sup>22</sup>Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus asked them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Is it easier to say, 'You're forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?' <sup>24</sup>But to show that the Son of Woman has the right to forgive on earth ..." he said to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, Get up! Take your mat and go home."

<sup>25</sup>Immediately he got up in front of them, took what he had been lying on, and went home, praising Godde. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and glorified Godde. Filled with awe, they said, "We've seen strange things today!"

<sup>27</sup>After that he went out and saw a toll collector named Levi sitting at the toll booth. "Follow me," he said. <sup>28</sup>He left everything behind, got up, and followed him. <sup>29</sup>Then Levi held a great banquet for him in his house. A large crowd of toll collectors and others sat down with them. <sup>30</sup>The Pharisees and scholars complained to his disciples. "Why do you eat and drink with the toll collectors and outsiders?" they asked.

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered, "Those who are healthy have no need for a doctor, but those who are sick do. <sup>32</sup>I didn't come to call the 'just,' but outsiders to change."

<sup>33</sup>They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."

<sup>34</sup>Jesus told them, "How can you make the friends of the groom fast while the groom is still with them? <sup>35</sup>The time will come when the groom will be taken from them, and then they'll fast in that day."

<sup>36</sup>He told them a story too. "No one tears a patch from a new coat and sews it on an old coat, because the new will tear and the patch from the new won't match the old. <sup>37</sup>Nor do people put new wine in old wineskins, because the new wine would burst the skins, it would spill, and the skins would be ruined. <sup>38</sup>No! New wine must be put into fresh wineskins. <sup>39</sup>No one after drinking old wine wants the new, because they say 'the old is better.'"

## Chapter Six

Once he was passing through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples plucked the heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup>Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what isn't permissible on the Sabbath?"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Haven't you read what David and those with him did when they were hungry? <sup>4</sup>How he entered into Godde's house and ate the show bread that only the priests are permitted to eat, and also gave some to those who were with him?" <sup>5</sup>He said to them, "The Son of Woman is lord of the Sabbath."

<sup>6</sup>Once on another Sabbath he went to their synagogue and taught. A man whose right hand was withered was there. <sup>7</sup>In an attempt to incriminate him, the scholars and Pharisees watched him to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup>But he knew what they were thinking. He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." He arose and stood. <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to them, "Let me ask you something. Is it permissible to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath? To give life, or to destroy?" <sup>10</sup>He looked around at all of them and said to the man, "Hold out your hand." When he did, his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were furious and discussed with each other what they might do to Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>Now in those days, he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to Godde.

<sup>13</sup>When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them and designated them apostles:

<sup>14</sup>Simon, whom he named Peter;  
Andrew, his brother;  
James;  
John;  
Philip;  
Bartholomew;  
<sup>15</sup>Matthew;  
Thomas;  
James, the son of Alphaeus;  
Simon, who was called the Zealot;  
<sup>16</sup>Judas the son of James;  
and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

<sup>17</sup>He came down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there with a large number of the people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. <sup>18</sup>Those who were troubled by corrupting spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>The whole crowd tried to touch him, because power went out from him and healed them all.

<sup>20</sup>He looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is Godde’s reign.  
<sup>21</sup>Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be full.  
Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, criticize you, harass you, and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Woman. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and jump for joy, because look, your heavenly reward is great; for their ancestors did the same thing to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But how awful for you who are rich,  
For you have already received your encouragement!  
<sup>25</sup>How awful for you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry!  
How awful for you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep!

<sup>26</sup>“How awful for you when everyone speaks well of you, because their ancestors did the same thing to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to whoever is listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, and pray for those who slander you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other one too. If anyone takes away your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes your things, don’t demand them back.

<sup>31</sup>“Do to other people whatever you want them to do to you. <sup>32</sup>If you love those who love you, what good is it? Even outsiders love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what good is that? Even outsiders do that. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what good is that? Even outsiders lend to outsiders, expecting to be repaid. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend without expecting repayment. Then your reward will be great and you’ll be children of the Most

High, because she's kind toward those who are ungrateful and evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Mother is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Don't judge, and you won't be judged; don't condemn, and you won't be condemned; forgive, and you'll be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. You'll be measured the way that you measure."

<sup>39</sup>He told them a story. "Can someone who can't see guide another person who can't see? Won't they both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup>A disciple isn't greater than their teacher, but when they're fully trained they'll be like their teacher. <sup>41</sup>Why do you see the speck that's in your sister's or brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that's in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>Or how can you tell your sister or brother, 'Let me get that speck out of your eye,' when you yourself don't see the beam that's in your own eye? You hypocrite! First get the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to get the speck out of your sister's or brother's eye.

<sup>43</sup>"No good tree bears rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>Every tree is known by its own fruit. People don't gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. <sup>45</sup>The person who is good brings good things out of the treasure of their heart, and the person who is evil brings evil out of evil treasure, because their mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

<sup>46</sup>"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do what I say? <sup>47</sup>As for everyone who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them – I'll show you to whom they can be compared. <sup>48</sup>They can be compared to someone building a house who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the river beat on that house but couldn't shake it, because it was well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who hears and doesn't act is like someone who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river beat against it, it fell immediately. How great was the ruin of that house!"

## Chapter Seven

After he had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he went to Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>A certain centurion's highly regarded bondservant was sick and about to die. <sup>3</sup>When he heard about Jesus, he sent Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his bondservant. <sup>4</sup>When they approached Jesus, they eagerly begged him. "He's worthy for you to do this for him, <sup>5</sup>because he loves our nation and built our synagogue for us." <sup>6</sup>So Jesus went with them. When he wasn't far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him to say, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, because I'm not worthy for you to come under my roof. <sup>7</sup>That's why I didn't consider myself worthy to come to you. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup>I am also placed in a chain of command, having soldiers under me. I tell one, 'Go,' and they go; I tell another, 'Come,' and they come; I tell my bondservant, 'Do this,' and they do it."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus was amazed at him when he heard these things. He turned to the crowd following him. "I tell you," he said, "I haven't found such great trust even in Israel." <sup>10</sup>Those who were sent returned to the house and found the bondservant healthy.

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup>When he approached the gate of the town, someone who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her.

"Don't cry," he told her.

<sup>14</sup>He approached the coffin and touched it. The ones carrying it stopped.

"Young man," he said, "I tell you, arise!"

<sup>15</sup>The man who was dead sat up and started to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Everyone was filled with awe and they glorified God. "A great prophet has risen among us!" they said. "Godde has visited her people!" <sup>17</sup>Word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding region.

<sup>18</sup>John's disciples reported all these things to him. <sup>19</sup>John called two of them and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the coming one, or should we look for someone else?" <sup>20</sup>When they came to him, they said, "John the Baptizer has sent us to you to ask you, 'Are you the coming one, or should we look for someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup>That very hour he had cured many of diseases, sicknesses, and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.

<sup>22</sup>"Go and tell John what you have seen and heard," he said. "Those who:

are blind, receive their sight;  
are lame, walk;  
have leprosy, are cured;  
are deaf, hear;  
are dead, are raised up;  
are poor, have good news announced to them.

<sup>23</sup>Blessed is the one who isn't scandalized by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers were leaving, he started to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fancy clothes? Look, those who wear fancy clothes and live in luxury are in palaces. <sup>26</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say, and much more than a prophet, <sup>27</sup>because it is written about him:

'Look, I send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your path for you.'

<sup>28</sup>"I say that John is greater than anyone who's been born, but whoever is least in Godde's reign is still greater than he."

<sup>29</sup>When all the people and the toll collectors heard this, they acknowledged Godde's justice, because they had been baptized by John. <sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected Godde's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.

<sup>31</sup>"To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation?" Jesus asked. "What are they like? <sup>32</sup>They're like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to each other:

'We played the flute for you,  
and you didn't dance.  
We mourned,  
and you didn't weep.'

<sup>33</sup>John the Baptizer didn't come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, 'He's demonized!' <sup>34</sup>The Son of Woman has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of toll collectors and outsiders!' <sup>35</sup>But Wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him. He entered the Pharisee's house and sat at the table. <sup>37</sup>Now there was a woman in the town who was an outsider. When she learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup>As she stood behind his feet weeping, she started to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man really were a prophet, he would've known who and what kind of woman is touching him – that she's an outsider."

<sup>40</sup>Jesus told him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Say it, Teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup>"Two people owed money to a certain lender. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they couldn't pay, he forgave both of them. So which one of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup>"I guess the one who was forgiven more," Simon answered.

He told him, "You're right." <sup>44</sup>He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house. You didn't give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You didn't kiss me, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I got here. <sup>46</sup>You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>So I tell you, her many offenses have been forgiven because she loved much. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." <sup>48</sup>Then he told her, "You're forgiven."

<sup>49</sup>Those who sat at the table with him started to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives offenses?"

<sup>50</sup>He told the woman, "Your trust has given you life. Go in peace."

## Chapter Eight

Now after that he went from one town and village to another, proclaiming and announcing the good news of Godde's reign. The twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup>as well as certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; <sup>3</sup>Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza; Susanna; and many others, who supported them out of their own resources.

<sup>4</sup>When a large crowd was gathering and people from every town were coming to him, he told this story: <sup>5</sup>"A farmer went out to sow his seed.

"As he sowed, some seed fell by the roadside. It was trampled on, and the birds of the sky devoured it.

<sup>6</sup>"Other seed fell on the rock. When it grew up, it withered because it had no moisture.

<sup>7</sup>"Other seed fell into thorns. The thorns grew up with it and choked it.

<sup>8</sup>"Other seed fell into good soil. When it grew up, it yielded fruit one hundred times as much."

When he said this, he called out, "If anyone has ears, listen up!"

<sup>9</sup>Then his disciples asked him what this story meant.

<sup>10</sup>"The mysteries of Godde's reign have been revealed to you," he said, "but I teach the others through stories, so that:

'they may see, even if they don't perceive;  
and they may hear, even if they don't understand.'

<sup>11</sup>"Now here's the story: The seed is Godde's message. <sup>12</sup>Those by the roadside are those who've heard; then the devil comes and takes away the message from their hearts, so that they may not trust and be given life.

<sup>13</sup>"Those on the rock are the ones who joyfully accept the message when they hear it, but it doesn't sink in. They trust for a while, then fall away when the time of testing comes.

<sup>14</sup>"What fell among thorns are those who've heard, but as they go on their way they're choked by life's concerns, money, and pleasures, and they don't mature.

<sup>15</sup>"What was on good soil are those who hear the message, cling to it with an honest and good heart, and patiently bear fruit.

<sup>16</sup>"No one lights a lamp and hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in may see the light. <sup>17</sup>Nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, nor secret that won't be made known and come to light. <sup>18</sup>Consider this: Whoever has will be given more, and whoever doesn't have will lose even what little they seem to have."

<sup>19</sup>Then his mother and brothers came to him, but they couldn't join him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup>Someone announced to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside, wanting to see you."

<sup>21</sup>But he told them, "My mother, my sisters, and my brothers are those who hear Godde's message and do it."

<sup>22</sup>Now on one of those days he got into a boat with his disciples and told them, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they set out, <sup>23</sup>but he fell asleep while they sailed. A windstorm swept down on the lake and the boat was being swamped, and they were in danger. <sup>24</sup>They woke him up. "Master, master!" they cried. "We're dying!"

He woke up and rebuked the wind and the surging waters. They died down, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup>He asked, "Where's your trust?" They were afraid and amazed. "Who is this?" they asked each other. "He gives orders to even the winds and the water, and they obey him!"

<sup>26</sup>They sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus stepped ashore, a certain demonized man from the town met him. For a long time he hadn't worn any clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and bowed before him, crying out with a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High Godde? I beg you, don't harass me!" <sup>29</sup>For Jesus was instructing the corrupting spirit to come out of the man, because it had often seized him. He was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles. Breaking the chains apart, he was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

<sup>30</sup>"What's your name?" Jesus asked.

"Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup>Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding near the mountain. They begged him to let them enter the pigs.

He gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs. The herd charged down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. <sup>34</sup>When those who fed them saw what had happened, they ran away and spread the news in the town and in the countryside.

<sup>35</sup>People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed, and in his right mind. They were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been oppressed by demons was healed. <sup>37</sup>All the people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked him to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away. <sup>39</sup>"Go back to your house," he said, "and tell everything Godde has done for you." He left, proclaiming throughout the whole town everything Jesus had done for him.

<sup>40</sup>Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, because they were all expecting him. <sup>41</sup>Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, came and fell down at Jesus' feet, begging him to come to his house <sup>42</sup>because his only daughter, about twelve years old, was dying. But as he went, the crowds pressed in on him.

<sup>43</sup>There was a woman who had hemorrhages for twelve years. She had spent all she had on doctors, but no one could cure her. <sup>44</sup>She came up behind him and touched the tassel of his coat. Immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

<sup>45</sup>"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, "Master, the surrounding crowds are pressing in on you."

<sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, because I know that power has gone out from me." <sup>47</sup>When the woman saw that she couldn't go unnoticed, she came trembling and fell down before him. She told him in front of everybody why she had touched him and how she had been healed immediately.

<sup>48</sup>"Daughter," he said, "your trust has healed you. Go in peace."

<sup>49</sup>While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Don't bother the Teacher anymore."

<sup>50</sup>But when Jesus heard this, he answered, "Don't be afraid, only trust, and she'll be healed."

<sup>51</sup>When he came to the house, he didn't allow anyone to enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the child's mother and father. <sup>52</sup>They were all crying and mourning for her. "Don't cry," he said. "She isn't dead, but sleeping."

<sup>53</sup>They laughed at him because they knew that she was dead. <sup>54</sup>But taking her by the hand, he called out, "Child, get up!" <sup>55</sup>Her spirit returned and she got up immediately. He instructed them to give her something to eat. <sup>56</sup>Her parents were amazed, but he instructed them not to tell anyone what had happened.

## Chapter Nine

When he called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to cure diseases. <sup>2</sup>He sent them out to proclaim Godde's reign and to heal those who were sick. <sup>3</sup>He told them, "Take nothing for your journey — no staff, no bag, no bread, no money — not even an extra shirt. <sup>4</sup>Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup>Whenever they don't welcome you, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that town as a warning to them." <sup>6</sup>They left and went through the villages, announcing the good news and healing everywhere.

<sup>7</sup>Now King Herod heard of all the things that were happening. He was confused because some were saying that John had risen from the dead, <sup>8</sup>and others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. <sup>9</sup>"I beheaded John," Herod said. "So who is this I'm hearing about?" He tried to see him.

<sup>10</sup>When the apostles returned, they told Jesus what they had done. Then he took them and withdrew to a town called Bethsaida. <sup>11</sup>But the crowds found out and followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about Godde's reign, and cured those who needed healing.

<sup>12</sup>When the day was drawing to a close, the twelve approached him. "Send the crowd away," they said, "so that they can go into the surrounding villages and country to find lodging and get something to eat, because we're in a remote place."

<sup>13</sup>But Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat."

"We don't have any more than five loaves and two fish," they said, "unless we go and buy food for all these people." <sup>14</sup>(There were about five thousand.)

He told his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup>They did so, and everyone sat down. <sup>16</sup>He took the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he prayed. He broke them and gave them to the disciples to share with the crowd. <sup>17</sup>They all ate until they were satisfied. They picked up what was left over, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

<sup>18</sup>Once when he was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds think that I am?"

<sup>19</sup>"John the Baptizer," they said. "Others say Elijah, but others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen."

<sup>20</sup>"But who do you say that I am?" he asked.

Peter answered, "The Christ of Godde."

<sup>21</sup>But he warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup>"The Son of Woman has to suffer many things," he said, "and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scholars, be killed, and on the third day be raised up."

<sup>23</sup>He told everyone, "Whoever wants to follow me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross every day, and follow me; <sup>24</sup>because whoever wants to gain their life will lose it, and whoever will lose their life for my sake will gain it. <sup>25</sup>What good does it do someone if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves? <sup>26</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Woman will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Mother and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup>Believe me when I say that some people standing here won't die before they see Godde's reign."

<sup>28</sup>About eight days later, he took Peter, John, and James up onto the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly two men were talking with him: Moses and Elijah <sup>31</sup>appeared in glory, talking about his exodus which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were overcome with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup>As they were leaving him, Peter told Jesus, "Master, it's a good thing we're here. Let's put up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (He didn't know what he was talking about.)

<sup>34</sup>While he was speaking, a cloud formed and overshadowed them. They were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>A voice came out of the cloud: "This is my Son, my Chosen One! Listen to him!" <sup>36</sup>After the voice spoke, Jesus was all alone. They kept quiet and didn't tell anyone at that time anything they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>The next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>A man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, because he's my only child! <sup>39</sup>Look, a spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams. It shakes him until he foams at the mouth! It mauls him and hardly ever leaves him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they couldn't."

<sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, "You distrustful and stubborn generation! How long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

<sup>42</sup>While he was still approaching, the demon threw him down and shook him. But Jesus rebuked the corrupting spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup>They were all amazed at how great God is.

While everyone was marveling about all the things he was doing, he told his disciples, <sup>44</sup>"Listen carefully to what I'm going to tell you: The Son of Man is about to be handed over to others."

<sup>45</sup>But they didn't understand what he meant. It was hidden from them so that they couldn't get it, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

<sup>46</sup>An argument broke out among them as to which of them was the greatest. <sup>47</sup>Knowing what they were thinking in their hearts, Jesus invited a child to stand by him <sup>48</sup>and told them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me. Whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me, because whoever is least among you all, this is the one who's great."

<sup>49</sup>"Master," John said, "we saw someone casting out demons in your name. We tried to stop him because he doesn't follow with us."

<sup>50</sup>But Jesus told him, "Don't try to stop him, because whoever isn't against you is for you."

<sup>51</sup>As the time approached for him to be taken up, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem <sup>52</sup>and sent messengers ahead of him. They went into a Samaritan village to make arrangements for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people there didn't welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from the sky to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them, <sup>56</sup>and they went to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they went down the road, someone told him, "I'll follow you wherever you go."

<sup>58</sup>"The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests," Jesus answered, "but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest."

<sup>59</sup>He said to someone else, "Follow me!"

But they said, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first."

<sup>60</sup>But he answered, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and announce God's reign."

<sup>61</sup>Someone else said, "I'll follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to my family."

<sup>62</sup>But Jesus told him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for God's reign."

## Chapter Ten

After that the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup>He told them, “The harvest really is plentiful, but the workers are few. So pray that the Lady of the harvest will send workers into her fields. <sup>3</sup>Go! Look, I send you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup>Don’t carry a purse, bag, or shoes. Don’t greet anyone on the road. <sup>5</sup>As you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup>If a peaceful person is there, let your blessing rest on them; but if not, take back your blessing. <sup>7</sup>Stay in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, because the worker is worthy of their wages. Don’t move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup>If they welcome you in whatever town you enter, eat whatever is set before you. <sup>9</sup>Heal those who are sick there and tell them, ‘Godde’s reign is at hand!’ <sup>10</sup>But if they don’t welcome you in whatever town you enter, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup>‘We’re wiping from our feet even the dust from your town against you. But know this: Godde’s reign is at hand!’ <sup>12</sup>I’m telling you that in the coming judgment, it will be better for Sodom than for that town!

<sup>13</sup>“How awful for you, Chorazin! How awful you, Bethsaida! If the great deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed a long time ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup>But it will be better for Tyre and Sidon than for you in the coming judgment! <sup>15</sup>You, Capernaum, who have risen so high – you will fall down to Hades! <sup>16</sup>Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy. “Lord,” they said, “even the demons submit to us in your name!”

<sup>18</sup>He told them, “I saw the Satan fall like lightning from the sky. <sup>19</sup>Look, I’ve given you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, don’t rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

<sup>21</sup>Then Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit. “Thank you, Mother, Lady of heaven and earth,” he said, “for hiding these things from the wise and learned and revealing them to infants. Yes, Mother, this was what you wanted. <sup>22</sup>My Mother has given me everything. No one knows who the Son is except the Mother, or who the Mother is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wants to reveal her.”

<sup>23</sup>Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup>I tell you that many prophets and rulers wanted to see what you see, but didn’t see it; and to hear what you hear, but didn’t hear it.”

<sup>25</sup>A certain lawyer stood up to test him. “Teacher,” he asked, “what do I need to do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup>“What is written in the Torah?” Jesus asked him. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup>He answered, “Love the Lady your Godde with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

<sup>28</sup>“You’re right,” Jesus said. “Do this and you’ll live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who’s my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell among robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

<sup>31</sup>“By chance a certain priest was going down the same road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

<sup>32</sup>“So too, a Levite came to the place, saw him, and passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup>“But a certain Samaritan traveling that way came where he was. When he saw him, he was filled with compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he said. ‘When I return, I’ll reimburse you for whatever else you spend.’

<sup>36</sup>“Now which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the one who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

<sup>37</sup>“The one who showed him mercy,” he answered.

“Go and do the same,” Jesus told him.

<sup>38</sup>As they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus’ feet listening to his message. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by much ministry. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister left me to minister alone? Tell her to help me.”

<sup>41</sup>“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you’re worried and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup>but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what’s better, and it won’t be taken away from her.”

## Chapter Eleven

Once he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples told him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup>He told them, “When you pray, say:

‘Mother,

We honor your holy name.

Let your reign come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us our daily bread each day.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us our wrongdoings,

because we also forgive everyone who’s indebted to us.

Do not put us in harm’s way.’”

<sup>5</sup>He told them, “Let’s say you go to a friend at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup>because a friend of mine has arrived from a journey and I don’t have any food for him!’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from inside, ‘Don’t bother me! The door is already locked and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he won’t get up and give it to him because he’s his friend, nevertheless because of his persistence he’ll get up and give him as much as he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“I tell you, ask and you will receive. Look and you will find. Knock and it will be opened for you, <sup>10</sup>because everyone who asks receives. The one who looks finds. To one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Which of you mothers or fathers, if your child asks for a fish, will give them a serpent? <sup>12</sup>Or if they ask for an egg, will give them a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you, bad as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Mother give the Holy Spirit to those who ask her!”

<sup>14</sup>He was casting out a demon that couldn’t speak. Now when the demon came out, the person who couldn’t speak started talking. The crowds were amazed. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons because Beelzebul, the prince of the demons, gives him the power.”

<sup>16</sup>Others tested him, looking for him to show a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus told them, “Every divided empire is devastated, and a divided house will fall. <sup>18</sup>If the Satan is divided, how will its empire endure? You say that I cast out demons because Beelzebul gives me the power. <sup>19</sup>But if Beelzebul gives me power to cast out demons, who gives your people power to cast them out? So they prove you wrong. <sup>20</sup>But if the finger of Godde gives me the power to cast out demons, then Godde’s reign has come to you! <sup>21</sup>When the strong, fully armed, guards their own dwelling, their possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup>But when someone stronger attacks and overcomes them, they take away their trusted armor and divide the loot.

<sup>23</sup>“Whoever isn’t with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather with me, scatters. <sup>24</sup>When the corrupting spirit leaves, it journeys through arid places looking for rest, but doesn’t find it. Then it says, ‘I’ll return to the place I left’; <sup>25</sup>and when it comes back, it finds it swept and organized. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes out

and brings seven other spirits that are even worse, and they enter and live there. That person ends up even worse off than before.”

<sup>27</sup>While he was saying these things, a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and called out, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you!”

<sup>28</sup>But he said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who listen to the message of Godde and keep it.”

<sup>29</sup>As the crowds grew larger, he started to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, but no sign will be provided except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup>As Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so the Son of Woman will be a sign to this generation. <sup>31</sup>The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the people of this generation and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear Naamah and Solomon’s wisdom; and look, something greater than Naamah and Solomon is here. <sup>32</sup>The people of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because they changed at the proclamation of Jonah, and look, someone greater than Jonah is here.

<sup>33</sup>“No one lights a lamp and puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who come in may see the light. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is the body’s lamp. When your eye is fine, your whole body is full of light. When your eye is bad, your body is in the dark. <sup>35</sup>See to it, then, that your light isn’t dark. <sup>36</sup>So if your whole body is full of light, with no part dark in it, it’ll be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

<sup>37</sup>While he was talking, a Pharisee invited him to dinner. He went in and sat at the table. <sup>38</sup>When the Pharisee saw it, he was amazed that Jesus didn’t first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup>The Lord told him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of your cup and dish, but inside you’re full of greed and evil. <sup>40</sup>Fools! Didn’t the one who made the outside make the inside too? <sup>41</sup>But give what’s inside for donations, and look, everything will be clean for you. <sup>42</sup>But how awful for you Pharisees! You set aside mint and rue and all other herbs, but you ignore justice and Godde’s love. You should’ve done these without ignoring the others. <sup>43</sup>How awful for you Pharisees! You love the best seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup>How awful for you, because you’re like unmarked graves which people walk on without knowing it.”

<sup>45</sup>One of the lawyers told him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.”

<sup>46</sup>“How awful for you lawyers too,” he said, “because you load people with burdens that are hard to bear, but you yourselves won’t even lift a finger to help them. <sup>47</sup>How awful for you, because you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. <sup>48</sup>So you prove that you agree with what your ancestors did, because they killed them and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup>So Godde’s Wisdom said, ‘I’ll send prophets and apostles to them. Some of them they’ll kill and harass, <sup>50</sup>so that this generation will be guilty of the blood of all the prophets shed from the beginning of the world, <sup>51</sup>from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah, who died between the altar and the sanctuary.’ Yes, I say that this generation will be held responsible. <sup>52</sup>How awful for you lawyers, because you’ve taken away the key of knowledge. You haven’t entered yourselves, and you haven’t allowed those who are entering to enter.”

<sup>53</sup>When he left from there, the scholars and the Pharisees started to get very hostile and to question him about many things. <sup>54</sup>They plotted to catch him in something he might say.

## Chapter Twelve

Meanwhile, when a crowd of so many thousands had gathered that they were trampling on each other, he started to speak to his disciples first. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>But nothing is veiled that won’t be unveiled, nor hidden that won’t be made known. <sup>3</sup>Whatever you’ve said in the darkness will be heard in the light; and whatever you’ve whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

<sup>4</sup>“I tell you, my friends, don’t be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup>But I’ll show you whom to fear: Fear the one who can kill the body and then has the power to take you out with the trash and incinerate you. Yes, I tell you, fear that one!

<sup>6</sup>“Don’t five sparrows cost two pennies? Not one of them is forgotten by Godde. <sup>7</sup>Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid, because you’re more valuable than many sparrows.

<sup>8</sup>“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me in front of others, the Son of Woman will acknowledge in front of Godde’s angels. <sup>9</sup>But one who denies me in front of others will be denied in front of Godde’s angels. <sup>10</sup>Everyone who speaks out against the Son of Woman will be forgiven, but whoever slanders the Holy Spirit won’t be forgiven. <sup>11</sup>When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, don’t be anxious how to defend yourselves or what to say, <sup>12</sup>because the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd told him, “Teacher, tell my sisters and brothers to divide our inheritance with me.”

<sup>14</sup>But he told him, “Friend, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>Then he told them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, because life doesn’t consist in the abundance of possessions.”

<sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable. He said, “The land of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup>‘What should I do?’ he thought to himself. ‘I don’t have room to store my crops.’ <sup>18</sup>He said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns, and build bigger ones, and I’ll store all my grain and my goods there. <sup>19</sup>I’ll tell myself, “You have plenty of goods stored up to last many years. Relax! Eat, drink, and be merry.””

<sup>20</sup>“But Godde told him, ‘You fool! Tonight your life is demanded from you. Then who will get what you’ve prepared for yourself?’ <sup>21</sup>That’s how it is with the one who stores up things for themselves but aren’t rich toward Godde.”

<sup>22</sup>He told his disciples, “So I say don’t be anxious about your life, about what you’ll eat; or about your body, what you’ll wear. <sup>23</sup>Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. <sup>24</sup>Consider how the ravens don’t sow or reap. They have no warehouse or barn, yet Godde feeds them. You’re so much more valuable than the birds! <sup>25</sup>Which of you can add a moment to your life by being anxious? <sup>26</sup>So if you can’t do such a small thing, why be anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider how the lilies grow. They don’t work or spin, yet believe me when I say that even Naamah and Solomon in all their glory weren’t dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if Godde clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, she’ll clothe you much more, you who have little trust! <sup>29</sup>Don’t keep looking for what you’re going to eat or what you’re going to drink; don’t worry about it. <sup>30</sup>The Gentiles of the world look for all these things, and your Mother knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, look for Godde’s reign, and these things will be given to you too. <sup>32</sup>Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Mother is pleased to give you the reign. <sup>33</sup>Sell what you have and make donations. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven where no robber can get to it and no moth can destroy it. <sup>34</sup>Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and keep your lamps burning. <sup>36</sup>Be like people watching for their master to return from a wedding, so that when he comes and knocks they can open the door for him right away. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those bondservants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Believe me when I say that he’ll take off his coat, let them sit down, and come and minister to them. <sup>38</sup>They’ll be blessed if he comes in the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them ready. <sup>39</sup>But know this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief was coming, he would’ve kept watch, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>So be ready, because the Son of Woman will come when you don’t expect it.”

<sup>41</sup>“Lord,” Peter asked, “are you telling this story to us, or to everyone?”

<sup>42</sup>The Lord answered, “Then who is the trustworthy and wise manager whose lord has set them over the household servants to give their rations when it’s time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that bondservant if their lord finds them doing so when he comes. <sup>44</sup>Believe me when I say that he’ll set him over all that he owns. <sup>45</sup>But if that bondservant says in their heart, ‘My lord’s coming is delayed,’ and begins to beat the servants and the maids and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the lord of that bondservant will come when they don’t expect it, at a time that they don’t know, and will rip them to shreds and throw them out with those who

are distrustful. <sup>47</sup>The bondservant who knows their lord's will, but doesn't get ready or do what was wanted, will be beaten with many blows. <sup>48</sup>But the one who doesn't know and does what's worthy of punishment will be beaten with few blows. Much will be required from everyone who's been given much; and even more will be required from the one who's been given much more.

<sup>49</sup>"I came to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>But I have to undergo a baptism, and how distressed I am until it's done! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth? No, I say, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on, five will be divided in one house, three against two and two against three.

<sup>53</sup>Father will be divided against son,  
and son against father;  
mother against her daughter,  
and daughter against her mother;  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law,  
and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>He told the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain' – and it does. <sup>55</sup>And when a south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot' – and it is. <sup>56</sup>Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. Why don't you know how to interpret the present time? <sup>57</sup>Why don't you judge for yourselves what's just? <sup>58</sup>When you're going with your adversary to appear before the magistrate, do your best to settle the case on the way there, or your adversary may drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. <sup>59</sup>I say that you won't get out of there by any means until you've paid the very last penny."

## Chapter Thirteen

At that time some who were there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that these Galileans were any worse than all other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I say to you, no! But unless you change, you'll all perish in the same way. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were any worse than everyone living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I say to you, no! But unless you change, you'll all perish in the same way."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this story: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He went looking for fruit on it, but didn't find any. <sup>7</sup>He told the gardener, 'Look, for three years I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. So cut it down! Why waste the soil?'

<sup>8</sup>"'Master,' he answered, 'leave it alone this year too. I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.'"

<sup>10</sup>Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup>A woman there had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over. "Woman," he told her, "you're freed from your sickness!" <sup>13</sup>He laid his hands on her. She immediately stood up straight and glorified Godde.

<sup>14</sup>The synagogue leader became indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. "There are six days for work," he was telling the crowd, "so come on those days to be healed, but not on the Sabbath!"

<sup>15</sup>"Hypocrites!" the Lord answered. "Doesn't each of you free their ox or donkey from the manger on the Sabbath and lead it away to drink? <sup>16</sup>Shouldn't this woman, a daughter of Sarah and Abraham whom the Satan has bound for eighteen long years, be freed from this bondage on the Sabbath?"

<sup>17</sup>When he said these things, all who opposed him were ashamed, but the whole crowd rejoiced over all the glorious things he was doing.

<sup>18</sup>He asked, "What is Godde's reign like? To what should I compare it? <sup>19</sup>It can be compared to a mustard seed which a man sowed in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches."

<sup>20</sup>Again he asked, "To what should I compare Godde's reign? <sup>21</sup>It can be compared to yeast which a woman hid in fifty pounds of flour until it was all leavened."

<sup>22</sup>He traveled through towns and villages, teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few being given life?"

He told them, <sup>24</sup>"Strive to enter by the narrow door, because I say to you that many will seek to enter but won't be able to. <sup>25</sup>When the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you'll stand outside and start to knock on it. 'Lord, open the door!' you'll say.

"Then he'll answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

<sup>26</sup>"Then you'll start to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

<sup>27</sup>"But he'll say, 'I don't know where you come from. Go away, all you who do injustice!' <sup>28</sup>There will be weeping and grinding of teeth when you see Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Leah, Rachel, and Jacob, and all the prophets in Godde's reign, but you yourselves are thrown out. <sup>29</sup>They'll come from east and west, north and south, and will dine in Godde's reign. <sup>30</sup>Look, those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last."

<sup>31</sup>At that time some Pharisees approached him. "Go away," they told him, "and get out of here, because King Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup>He told them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Look, I'm casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I'll reach my goal. <sup>33</sup>But I have to press on today, tomorrow, and the next day, because a prophet can't die outside of Jerusalem!'

<sup>34</sup>"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I would've gathered your children together, like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not! <sup>35</sup>Look, your house is left to you deserted. But I say that you won't see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lady!'"

## Chapter Fourteen

One Sabbath, he went to dine in the house of a leading Pharisee. They were watching him closely. <sup>2</sup>A certain man suffering from dropsy was right in front of him. <sup>3</sup>Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it permissible to heal on the Sabbath, or not?"

<sup>4</sup>But they were silent.

Taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>Then he asked them, "If any of you had a child or an ox that fell into a well on a Sabbath, wouldn't you immediately pull them out?"

<sup>6</sup>They couldn't say anything.

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the best seats, he told them a story. <sup>8</sup>"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't sit in the best seat, in case someone more distinguished than you may have been invited. <sup>9</sup>The host who invited both of you would come and tell you, 'Give your place to this person.' Then you'd have to move to the lowest place in disgrace. <sup>10</sup>But when you're invited, go and sit in the lowest place so the host can come and tell you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you'll be honored in the presence of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup>Whoever is exalted will be humbled, and whoever is humbled will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>He also told the host, "When you prepare a luncheon or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your sisters and brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, in case they invite you too and you'd be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you prepare a banquet, invite those who are poor, disabled, lame, or blind. <sup>14</sup>Then you'll be blessed. Although they can't repay you, you'll be repaid in the resurrection of the just."

<sup>15</sup>When one of the dinner guests heard these things, he told him, "Blessed is anyone who will feast in Godde's reign!"

<sup>16</sup>But he told him, "Someone planning a great dinner invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>When dinner was ready, they sent their bondservant to tell the invited guests, 'Come, because it's ready now!' <sup>18</sup>But they all started to make excuses.

"The first said to the bondservant, 'I've bought a farm, and I need to go see it. Please excuse me.'

<sup>19</sup>"Another said, 'I've bought five pairs of oxen, and I need to try them out. Please excuse me.'

<sup>20</sup>"Another said, 'I've just got married, so I can't come.'

<sup>21</sup>"That bondservant went back and told the master all this. Then the master of the house became angry and told the bondservant, 'Hurry into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring in those who are poor, disabled, blind, and lame.'

<sup>22</sup>"Master,' the bondservant said, 'your instructions have been carried out, but there's still room for more.'

<sup>23</sup>"The master told the bondservant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and urge people to come in so that my house may be filled, <sup>24</sup>because I tell you that none of those who were invited will get a taste of my dinner.'"

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were going with him. He turned and told them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and doesn't disregard their father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters – yes, even their own life – they can't be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and join me can't be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>"Which of you wants to build a tower, but doesn't first sit down and figure out the cost to see whether they have enough to finish the job? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when they've laid the foundation and aren't able to finish it, everyone who sees what happened starts to mock them. <sup>30</sup>'This person started to build,' they say, 'but can't finish the job!' <sup>31</sup>Or what ruler, going out to wage war against another ruler, doesn't first sit down and consider whether they're able with ten thousand to meet the one who opposes them with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If they're not, they send a delegation while the other is still far away and ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, none of you can be my disciple without renouncing all their possessions.

<sup>34</sup>"Salt is good, but if it has lost its flavor, how can you get it back? <sup>35</sup>It's no good for the soil or the manure pile. It's thrown away. If anyone has ears, listen up!"

## Chapter Fifteen

Now all the toll collectors and outsiders were crowding around him to listen. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees and the scholars grumbled, "This one welcomes outsiders and even eats with them!"

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this story: <sup>4</sup>"Which of you, if you had a hundred sheep and lost one of them, wouldn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that got lost until they find it? <sup>5</sup>When they find it, they rejoice and carry it on their shoulders. <sup>6</sup>When they come home, they call together their friends and neighbors. 'Rejoice with me,' they say, 'because I've found my sheep that was lost!' I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one wrongdoer who changes than over ninety-nine just people who don't need to change.

<sup>8</sup>"Or what woman with ten silver coins, if she loses one, wouldn't light a lamp, sweep the house, and look everywhere until she found it? <sup>9</sup>When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors. 'Rejoice with me,' she says, 'because I've found the coin that was lost!' <sup>10</sup>In the same way, I tell you, Godde's angels rejoice over one wrongdoer who changes."

<sup>11</sup>"A certain man had two sons," he continued. <sup>12</sup>"The younger one told his father, 'Father, give me my share of your estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his property with loose living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, a severe famine spread throughout that country, and he started to be in need. <sup>15</sup>He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into the fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to eat the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of

my father's hired hands have bread enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I'll get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I've wronged both heaven and you. <sup>19</sup>I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me like one of your hired hands."

<sup>20</sup>"He got up and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>The son told him, 'Father, I've wronged both heaven and you. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his bondservants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the prize calf, kill it, and let's celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup>because this son of mine was dead, but now he's alive again. He was lost, but now is found!' They started to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his older son was in the field. When he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the servants over and asked what was going on.

<sup>27</sup>"Your brother is here,' he told him, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup>He was so angry he didn't want to go in. So his father came out and begged him. <sup>29</sup>But he told his father, 'Look, all these years I've worked for you like a bondservant, and I never disobeyed a single precept of yours, but you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours returned, the one who squandered your property with sex workers, you killed the prize calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup>"He told him, 'Son, you're always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead, but now he's alive again. He was lost, but now is found!'"

## Chapter Sixteen

Then he told his disciples, "A certain rich man had a manager who was accused of squandering his possessions. <sup>2</sup>So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this that I'm hearing about you? Give an account of your management, because you can't be my manager anymore.'

<sup>3</sup>"The manager said to himself, 'What can I do? My master is taking away my job! I'm not strong enough to dig ditches, and I'm ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job, people will welcome me into their houses.'

<sup>5</sup>"He called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?'

<sup>6</sup>"They said, 'A hundred jugs of oil.'

"He told them, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'

<sup>7</sup>"Then asked another, 'And you, how much do you owe?'

"They said, 'A hundred sacks of wheat.'

"He told them, 'Take your bill, and make it eighty.'

<sup>8</sup>"His master commended the unjust manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light. <sup>9</sup>I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves, so that when it's gone, they'll welcome you into eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is trustworthy with very little is also trustworthy with much. Whoever is unjust with very little is also unjust with much. <sup>11</sup>So if you haven't been trustworthy with unjust wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup>If you haven't been trustworthy with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something of your own?

<sup>13</sup>"No servant can follow two leaders, because they'll either hate one and love the other; or they'll be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both Godde and Money."

<sup>14</sup>Now when the Pharisees heard all this, they sneered at him, because they loved money. <sup>15</sup>He told them, "You're the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of others, but Godde knows your hearts. What people really value is despicable in Godde's sight. <sup>16</sup>The Torah and the prophets were announced until John. Since then the good news of Godde's reign has been announced, and everyone is violently breaking into it. <sup>17</sup>But it's easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for one tiny pen stroke to drop out of the Torah.

<sup>18</sup>"Everyone who divorces his wife and remarries is unfaithful to her, and whoever marries someone who's divorced is unfaithful too.

<sup>19</sup>"Now there was a certain rich man. He dressed in purple and fine linen, living luxuriously every day. <sup>20</sup>Lazarus, a certain man who was poor, laid at his gate. He was covered with sores. <sup>21</sup>He longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup>"When the poor man died, the angels carried him away to Sarah and Abraham. The rich man died too and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was tormented, he looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance with Lazarus beside them. <sup>24</sup>He called out, 'Mother Sarah and Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame!'

<sup>25</sup>"But Sarah and Abraham replied, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things. But now he's comforted here and you're suffering. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, there's a great chasm between you and us, so that those who want to go over to you can't, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

<sup>27</sup>"Then I ask you, mother and father,' he said, 'to send him to my father's house – <sup>28</sup>because I have five brothers – so that he can warn them and they won't come to this place of torment too.'

<sup>29</sup>"But Sarah and Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.'

<sup>30</sup>"No, Mother Sarah and Father Abraham!' he said. 'If someone from the dead goes to them, they'll change!'

<sup>31</sup>"If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,' they told him, 'they won't be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

## Chapter Seventeen

He told his disciples, "There's no way that people won't be tripped up, but how awful it will be for anyone who causes it! <sup>2</sup>It would be better for them if a millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea than for them to trip up one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup>Watch out. If your sister or brother offends you, correct them. If they change, forgive them. <sup>4</sup>Even if they offend you seven times a day and come back seven times and say 'I've changed,' then forgive them."

<sup>5</sup>The apostles told the Lord, "Increase our trust!"

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said, "If you had trust as big as a mustard seed, you could tell this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>"But who among you would tell a bondservant who comes in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, 'Come right now and sit down to eat?' <sup>8</sup>Wouldn't you instead tell them, 'Prepare my supper, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink, then you can eat and drink?' <sup>9</sup>Do they thank that bondservant for following instructions? <sup>10</sup>In the same way, when you've followed all your instructions, you should say, 'We're just bondservants. We've only done our duty.'"

<sup>11</sup>Now while he was on his way to Jerusalem, he traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a certain village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he told them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

They were cured on the way.

<sup>15</sup>When one of them saw that he was healed he returned, glorifying Godde with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He fell on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him – he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus asked, "Weren't ten people cured? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and glorify Godde besides this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>Then he told him, "Get up and go your way. Your trust has healed you."

<sup>20</sup>The Pharisees asked when Godde's reign would come. "The coming of Godde's reign can't be observed," he answered. <sup>21</sup>"Nor will they say, 'Look over here!' or 'Look over there!' Because Godde's reign is among you."

<sup>22</sup>He told the disciples, "The time will come when you'll want to see one of the days of the Son of Woman, but you won't see it. <sup>23</sup>They'll tell you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Don't go running after them, <sup>24</sup>because as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Woman be in his day. <sup>25</sup>But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation. <sup>26</sup>As it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Woman. <sup>27</sup>They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ship. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup>It was the same in the days of Lot. They were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. <sup>29</sup>But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from the sky and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup>That's what it will be like on the day the Son of Woman is revealed. <sup>31</sup>On that day, anyone on the housetop who has things inside shouldn't go down to get them. In the same way, anyone in the field shouldn't turn back. <sup>32</sup>Remember Lot's wife! <sup>33</sup>Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life will preserve it. <sup>34</sup>I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup>There will be two women grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other will be left."

<sup>37</sup>"Where, Lord?" they asked him.

"Where there's a carcass," he told them, "there the vultures will gather."

## Chapter Eighteen

He told them a story to show that they should always pray and never lose heart. <sup>2</sup>"A judge in a certain town neither revered Godde nor respected people," he said. <sup>3</sup>"Now a widow in that town kept coming to him. 'Grant me justice against my adversary!' she'd say. <sup>4</sup>For a while he wouldn't, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither revere Godde nor respect people, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow is bothering me, I'll grant her justice. Otherwise, she'll keep on coming until she wears me out!'"

<sup>6</sup>"Listen to what the unjust judge says," the Lord said. <sup>7</sup>"Won't Godde grant justice to her chosen ones who cry out to her day and night? Will she be slow to help them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, she'll grant them justice quickly. But when the Son of Woman comes, will he find trust on the earth?"

<sup>9</sup>He also told this story to some who were confident of their own justice and looked down on others: <sup>10</sup>"Two people went up into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other was a toll collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'Godde, I thank you that I'm not like everyone else – swindlers, unjust, promiscuous – or even like this toll collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week. I set aside ten percent of everything I get.'

<sup>13</sup>"But the toll collector stood far off. He wouldn't even look up to heaven, but beat his breast. 'Godde,' he said, 'have mercy on me, an outsider!'

<sup>14</sup>"I tell you, this one went home justified rather than the other one, because all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>15</sup>People were bringing their babies to him so he could lay his hands on them. When the disciples saw it, they scolded them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him and said, "Welcome the children and don't stop them from coming to me, because Godde's reign belongs to ones like these. <sup>17</sup>Believe me when I say that whoever will not welcome Godde's reign like a little child will ever enter it."

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what can I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except Godde alone. <sup>20</sup>You know the precepts: 'Do not be unfaithful.' 'Do not murder.' 'Do not steal.' 'Do not lie.' 'Honor your mother and father.'"

<sup>21</sup>He said, "I've done all these things since I was young."

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he told him, "There's still one more thing you need. Sell everything you have and distribute it to those who are poor, and you'll have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me."

<sup>23</sup>But when he heard this, he became very sad, because he was extremely rich.

<sup>24</sup>When Jesus saw how sad he got, he said, "How difficult it will be for those who have riches to enter Godde's reign! <sup>25</sup>It's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich person to enter Godde's reign."

<sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked, "Then who can be given life?"

<sup>27</sup>But he said, "What's impossible for mortals is possible for Godde."

<sup>28</sup>Peter said, "Look, we've left everything and followed you."

<sup>29</sup>Jesus told them, "Believe me when I say that there is no one who has left home, wife, husband, sisters, brothers, parents, or children for the sake of Godde's reign, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive many times more in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life."

<sup>31</sup>He took the twelve aside. "Look," he told them, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where everything the prophets wrote about the Son of Woman will come true. <sup>32</sup>He'll be handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, insulted, and spat on. <sup>33</sup>They'll flog him and kill him, and on the third day he'll rise again."

<sup>34</sup>They didn't understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they didn't know what he was talking about.

<sup>35</sup>As he approached Jericho, a certain man who was blind was sitting by the road begging. <sup>36</sup>When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

<sup>37</sup>"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him.

<sup>38</sup>He cried out, "Jesus, son of Bathsheba and David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup>Those who led the way scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of Bathsheba and David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>40</sup>Jesus stopped and directed the man to be brought to him.

When he came over, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>"What do you want me to do for you?"

He answered, "Lord, I want to see."

<sup>42</sup>"Receive your sight," Jesus told him. "Your trust has healed you."

<sup>43</sup>Immediately his eyes saw and he followed him, glorifying Godde. When all the people saw it, they praised Godde too.

## Chapter Nineteen

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man named Zacchaeus was there. He was a chief toll collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but couldn't see over the crowd because he wasn't tall enough. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the place, he looked up and told him, "Zacchaeus, hurry down here, because I need to stay at your house today."

<sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and joyfully welcomed him.

<sup>7</sup>Everyone who saw this complained, "He's gone to stay with an outsider!"

<sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood and told the Lord, "Look, Lord! I'm giving half of my possessions to those who are poor. And if I've defrauded anyone of anything, I'll pay back four times as much."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus told him, "Life has come to this house today, because he too is a son of Sarah and Abraham.

<sup>10</sup>For the Son of Woman came to seek out and to give life to those who are lost."

<sup>11</sup>While people were listening to this, he went on to tell a story, because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that Godde's reign was about to appear. <sup>12</sup>So he said, "A certain nobleman went to a distant country to be appointed king and then return. <sup>13</sup>He called ten of his bondservants and gave them ten mina coins. 'Do business with this until I come back,' he told them.

<sup>14</sup>"But his citizens hated him. They sent a delegation after him with the message: 'We don't want this one to rule over us.'

<sup>15</sup>"But he was appointed king and returned. Then he ordered that the bondservants, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he could find out what business they had done. <sup>16</sup>The first one came and said, 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas.'

<sup>17</sup>"He told him, 'Well done, good bondservant! Since you've been trustworthy with very little, take charge of ten cities.'

<sup>18</sup>"The second came and said, 'Lord, Your mina has made five minas.'

<sup>19</sup>"So he told this one, 'And you take charge of five cities.'

<sup>20</sup>"Another came and said, 'Lord, here's your mina. I tucked it away in a handkerchief, <sup>21</sup>because I was afraid of you, for you're a strict man. You take what you didn't deposit and reap where you didn't sow.'

<sup>22</sup>"He told him, 'I'll judge you by your own words, you evil bondservant! You knew that I'm a strict man, taking what I didn't deposit and reaping what I didn't sow? <sup>23</sup>So why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? Then when I came back, I could've collected it with interest.' <sup>24</sup>He told the bystanders, 'Take away the mina from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

<sup>25</sup>"But Lord,' they told him, 'he already has ten minas!'

<sup>26</sup>"He replied, 'I tell you that whoever has will be given more, but whoever doesn't have will lose even what little they do have. <sup>27</sup>As for my enemies who didn't want me to rule over them – bring them here and execute them before me!'"

<sup>28</sup>After he said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup>When he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples <sup>30</sup>with these instructions: "Go to the village opposite you. When you enter, you'll find a tied colt on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went off and found it just as he had told them.

<sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

<sup>34</sup>They said, "The Lord needs it."

<sup>35</sup>They brought it to Jesus, threw their coats on the colt, and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he rode along, people spread their coats on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he approached the slope down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples started to rejoice and praise Godde with a loud voice for all the mighty deeds they had seen:

<sup>38</sup>"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lady!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

<sup>40</sup>He answered, "I say that if they keep quiet, the stones will shout out!"

<sup>41</sup>When he approached and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup>and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would lead to peace! But now it's hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>The time will come when your enemies will build a barricade against you, surround you, and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They'll crush you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They won't leave one stone on another, because you didn't recognize the time of your visitation."

<sup>45</sup>Then he entered the temple and started throwing out those who did business there. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "It is written:

'My house is to be a house of prayer,'  
but you've made it a den of robbers!'"

<sup>47</sup>He was teaching every day in the temple. The chief priests, the scholars, and the leaders of the people looked for a way to destroy him, <sup>48</sup>but they couldn't figure out what to do, because all the people hung on his every word.

## Chapter Twenty

One day when he was teaching the people in the temple and announcing the good news, the chief priests and scholars, together with the elders, confronted him. <sup>2</sup>"Tell us on whose authority you do these things," they said. "Who's the one who gave you this authority?"

<sup>3</sup>"I'll ask you a question too," he answered. "Tell me, <sup>4</sup>did John get the authority to baptize from heaven, or from mortals?"

<sup>5</sup>They discussed it among themselves. "If we say, 'From heaven,' he'll ask, 'Then why didn't you trust him?' <sup>6</sup>But if we say, 'From mortals,' all the people will stone us, because they're convinced that John was a prophet." <sup>7</sup>So they answered that they didn't know where it came from.

<sup>8</sup>"Nor will I tell you on whose authority I do these things," Jesus told them.

<sup>9</sup>He started to tell this story to the people: "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it out to sharecroppers, and left for another country for a long time.

<sup>10</sup>"When the season came, he sent a bondservant to the sharecroppers so that they could give him his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the sharecroppers beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

<sup>11</sup>"So he sent another bondservant, but they beat him up too, insulted him, and sent him away empty-handed.

<sup>12</sup>"Then he sent a third, but they assaulted him and threw him out.

<sup>13</sup>"The owner of the vineyard said, 'What should I do now? I'll send my beloved son. Maybe they'll respect him!'

<sup>14</sup>"But when the sharecroppers saw him, they talked among themselves. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him so that his inheritance will be ours!' <sup>15</sup>So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He'll come, destroy the sharecroppers, and give the vineyard to others."

When they heard this, they exclaimed, "Certainly not!"

<sup>17</sup>But he looked at them and said, "Then why is it written,

'The stone which the builders rejected  
was made the cornerstone'?

<sup>18</sup>Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,  
but it will crush whomever it falls on."

<sup>19</sup>The chief priests and the scholars looked for a way to seize him at that time, but they were afraid of the people, because they knew he was talking about them.

<sup>20</sup>They watched him closely and sent spies who pretended to be just. They wanted to trap him in something he said so they could hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. <sup>21</sup>"Teacher," they said, "we know that what you say and teach is right, and you aren't partial to anyone, but teach the way of God in truth. <sup>22</sup>Is it okay for us to pay tribute to Caesar, or not?"

<sup>23</sup>But knowing their craftiness, he asked them, "Why do you test me? <sup>24</sup>Show me the money. Whose image and inscription are on it?"

“Caesar’s,” they answered.

<sup>25</sup>“So give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar,” he told them, “and give to Godde what belongs to Godde.”

<sup>26</sup>They weren’t able to trap him by what he said before the people. Amazed by his answer, they fell silent.

<sup>27</sup>Some of the Sadducees (who do not believe in resurrection) came to him. <sup>28</sup>They asked, “Teacher, Moses wrote for our benefit that if a man’s brother dies, leaving behind a wife but no children, his brother should marry his widow and raise children for his brother. <sup>29</sup>Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died childless. <sup>30</sup>Then the second and <sup>31</sup>the third married her, and in the same way all seven died childless. <sup>32</sup>After they all died, the woman died too. <sup>33</sup>So in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For all seven had married her.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus told them, “The children of this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup>But those who are considered worthy of that age and the resurrection from the dead aren’t married or given in marriage. <sup>36</sup>They can’t die anymore, because they’re like angels. They’re Godde’s children – children of the resurrection. <sup>37</sup>But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed in the story about the bush, since he called the Lady ‘the Godde of Sarah and Abraham, the Godde of Rebekah and Isaac, and the Godde of Leah, Rachel and Jacob.’ <sup>38</sup>So she isn’t the Godde of the dead, but of the living, because all are alive to her.”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the scholars responded, “Teacher, well said!” <sup>40</sup>No one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>41</sup>Then he asked them, “How can they say that the Christ is the son of Bathsheba and David? <sup>42</sup>David himself says in the book of Psalms:

‘The Lady said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand

<sup>43</sup>until I make your enemies a footrest for your feet.”’

<sup>44</sup>“If David describes Christ as his Lord, how can Christ be his son?”

<sup>45</sup>Within earshot of all the people, he told his disciples, <sup>46</sup>“Watch out for the scholars. They like to walk around in long robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces, and to take the best seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. <sup>47</sup>They devour widows’ houses and show off with long prayers. They’ll receive greater judgment!”

## Chapter Twenty-One

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury. <sup>2</sup>He saw a widow who was poor throw in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>He said, “Believe me when I say that this widow who was poor gave more than all of them, <sup>4</sup>because they all gave out of their abundance, but she, poor as she is, gave everything she had to live on.”

<sup>5</sup>Some were talking about how the temple was decorated with beautiful stones and gifts. But he said, <sup>6</sup>“As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another without being thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup>“Teacher,” they asked him, “when will these things be? What will be the sign that they’re about to happen?”

<sup>8</sup>“Be careful that you’re not misled,” Jesus said, “because many people will come in my name and say, ‘I am!’ and ‘The time is near!’ Don’t follow them. <sup>9</sup>When you hear of wars and revolutions, don’t panic, because these things must happen first, but the end won’t come immediately.”

<sup>10</sup>He went on to tell them, “Peoples will rise against each other and empire against empire. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, famines, and plagues in various places. There will be terrors and great signs

from heaven. <sup>12</sup>But before all this, they'll lay their hands on you and harass you, handing you over to synagogues and prisons, dragging you before rulers and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will be your chance to witness. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare how to answer in advance, <sup>15</sup>because I'll give you words and wisdom which all your adversaries won't be able to resist or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You'll be turned in even by parents, sisters and brothers, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. <sup>17</sup>You'll be hated by everyone because of me, <sup>18</sup>but not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you'll win your lives.

<sup>20</sup>"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you'll know that its destruction is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the city flee, and let those who are in the country not enter, <sup>22</sup>because these are days of vengeance when everything that's written will be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup>How awful for those mothers who are pregnant and nursing in those days! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup>They'll fall by the sword and will be hauled off as prisoners to all the peoples. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the peoples until their time is up. <sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars, and on the earth agony among peoples and confusion at the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what the world is coming to, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they'll see the Son of Woman coming in a cloud with great power and glory. <sup>28</sup>When these things start to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is near!"

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a story. "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves that summer is near. <sup>31</sup>In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that Godde's reign is near. <sup>32</sup>Believe me when I say that all these things will happen before the end of this generation. <sup>33</sup>(My words will last longer than heaven and earth.)

<sup>34</sup>"So be careful that your hearts won't be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of life, and that day will catch you suddenly <sup>35</sup>like a trap, because it'll come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>So watch out all the time, praying that you may be able to escape everything that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Woman."

<sup>37</sup>Every day he was teaching in the temple, and every night he would go out and spend the night at the place called the Mount of Olives. <sup>38</sup>All the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

## Chapter Twenty-Two

Now the feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. <sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the scholars were still looking for a way to get rid of him, because they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup>Then the Satan entered Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. <sup>4</sup>He went to the chief priests and captains and talked with them about how to set him up. <sup>5</sup>They were glad and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>He consented and looked for an opportunity to hand him over to them when there was no crowd around.

<sup>7</sup>The day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John with these instructions: "Go and prepare the Passover for us to eat."

<sup>9</sup>They asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?"

<sup>10</sup>He told them, "Look, when you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. <sup>11</sup>Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover meal with my disciples?'" <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there."

<sup>13</sup>They left, found things as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup>When the time came, he sat down with the twelve apostles. <sup>15</sup>He told them, "I've eagerly wanted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, <sup>16</sup>because I say to you that I won't eat it again until it's completed in Godde's reign."

<sup>17</sup>After he took a cup, he gave thanks. "Take this," he said, "and share it among yourselves, <sup>18</sup>because I say that I won't drink of this wine from now on until Godde's reign comes."

<sup>19</sup>He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them. "This is my body which is given for you," he said. "Do this in memory of me." <sup>20</sup>And in the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup>But look, the hand of the one who will betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Woman will die as it has been determined, but how awful for that man who betrays him!"

<sup>23</sup>They started to ask each other which of them would do this. <sup>24</sup>Then they got into an argument about which of them should be considered the greatest. <sup>25</sup>He told them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' <sup>26</sup>But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you should become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup>Who is greater, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? Isn't it the one who sits at the table? But I'm among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup>You're the ones who have stood by me in my trials. <sup>29</sup>I give you the same reign that my Mother gave me, <sup>30</sup>so that you may eat and drink at my table in my reign. You'll sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>31</sup>"Simon, Simon, listen! The Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup>but I've prayed for you, that your trust won't fail. When you've turned back again, strengthen your sisters and brothers."

<sup>33</sup>He answered, "Lord, I'm ready to go with you even to prison and death!"

<sup>34</sup>He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster won't crow tonight until you deny three times that you know me."

<sup>35</sup>He asked them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or shoes, did you need anything?"

"Not a thing," they answered.

<sup>36</sup>Then he told them, "But now, whoever has a purse should take it, and a wallet too. Whoever doesn't have a sword should sell their coat and buy one, <sup>37</sup>because I say to you that what's written must still be fulfilled about me: 'He was regarded as a criminal.' What was written about me is coming true."

<sup>38</sup>"Lord," they said, "look, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he told them.

<sup>39</sup>He went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>When he came to the place, he told them, "Pray that you don't fall into temptation."

<sup>41</sup>He withdrew from them about a stone's throw and knelt down. <sup>42</sup>"Mother," he prayed, "if you're willing, take this cup away from me. Yet let it be not what I want, but what you want."

<sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>In his agony he prayed more fervently. His sweat dripped to the ground like drops of blood.

<sup>45</sup>When he got up from his prayer and came to the disciples, he found them sleeping, exhausted by their grief. <sup>46</sup>"Why are you sleeping?" he asked. "Get up and pray that you aren't tempted."

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, a crowd arrived. The one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him. <sup>48</sup>But Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Woman with a kiss?"

<sup>49</sup>When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked him, "Lord, should we use our swords?" <sup>50</sup>One of them lunged at the bondservant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup>But Jesus answered, "Stop! Enough of this." And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus addressed the chief priests, the captains of the temple, and the elders who had come for him. "Have you come with swords and clubs to capture me like a rebel?" he asked. <sup>53</sup>"I was with you in the temple every day, and you didn't lay a hand against me. But this is your hour, when the power of darkness reigns."

<sup>54</sup>They took him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. <sup>55</sup>When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter joined them. <sup>56</sup>A certain maid saw him as he sat in the firelight. She looked right at him and said, "This one was with him too."

<sup>57</sup>But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him."

<sup>58</sup>A little later someone else saw him. "You're one of them too!" he said.

But Peter answered, "Man, I'm not!"

<sup>59</sup>About an hour later, another insisted, "Truly this one was with him too, because he's a Galilean."

<sup>60</sup>But Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup>The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered what the Lord had told him: "Before the rooster crows tonight, you'll disown me three times." <sup>62</sup>He went outside and wept bitterly.

<sup>63</sup>The men who held Jesus mocked him and beat him up. <sup>64</sup>They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Guess who hit you!" <sup>65</sup>They said many other slanderous things about him.

<sup>66</sup>When day came, the elders of the people, including the chief priests and scholars, met together and led him away to their court. <sup>67</sup>"If you're the Christ," they said, "tell us."

But he told them, "If I tell you, you won't trust, <sup>68</sup>and if I question you, you won't answer me. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Woman will be seated at the right hand of Godde's power."

<sup>70</sup>They all said, "Then you're Godde's Son."

He told them, "That's what you say."

<sup>71</sup>"Why do we need any witnesses?" they asked. "We've heard it for ourselves from his own mouth!"

### Chapter Twenty-Three

Then the whole crowd got up and led him off to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They started to accuse him by saying, "We found this man subverting the people, forbidding tribute to be paid to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king."

<sup>3</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

"Whatever you say," he answered.

<sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I don't find him at fault."

<sup>5</sup>But they were insistent. "He stirs up the people," they said, "teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here."

<sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup>When he learned that he was subject to King Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

<sup>8</sup>When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, because he had wanted to see him for a long time. He had heard many things about him and hoped to see him perform some sign. <sup>9</sup>He asked him many questions, but he gave no answer. <sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the scholars stood there, accusing him vehemently. <sup>11</sup>Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. They dressed him in an elegant robe and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup>That day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before that, they had been enemies.

<sup>13</sup>Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. <sup>14</sup>"You brought me this man as one who incites the people," he told them, "and look, I've examined him before you and have found no basis for your charges against this man. <sup>15</sup>Neither has Herod, because he sent him back to us, and look, he hasn't done anything worthy of death. <sup>16</sup>So I'll teach him a lesson and release him."

<sup>18</sup>But they all cried out together: "Away with this one! Release Barabbas to us!" <sup>19</sup>(Barabbas had been imprisoned for a certain revolt in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup>Pilate addressed them again, wanting to release Jesus,<sup>21</sup>but they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

<sup>22</sup>For a third time he asked them, "Why? What crime has he committed? I haven't found him guilty of any capital crime, so I'll teach him a lesson and release him." <sup>23</sup>But they loudly insisted that he be crucified, and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate decided to do what they demanded. <sup>25</sup>He released the one who had been imprisoned for revolt and murder, the one for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over as they wanted.

<sup>26</sup>As they led him away, they seized a certain Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country. They put the cross on him to carry after Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were crying and mourning for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them. "Daughters of Jerusalem," he said, "don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>Look, the time is coming when they'll say, 'Blessed are those without children, who never had babies, and who never nursed them!' <sup>30</sup>Then they'll start to tell the mountains:

'Fall on us!  
and tell the hills,  
'Cover us!'

<sup>31</sup>Because if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it's dry?"

<sup>32</sup>Two criminals were led out with him to be executed too. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called "the Skull," they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right hand and one on his left.

<sup>34</sup>"Mother, forgive them," Jesus said, "because they don't know what they're doing."

They divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots. <sup>35</sup>The people stood by watching. The authorities even sneered at him. "He rescued others," they said. "Let him rescue himself if he's Godde's Christ, the chosen one!"

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers mocked him too. They came up to him and offered him vinegar. <sup>37</sup>"If you're the King of the Jews," they said, "rescue yourself!"

<sup>38</sup>An inscription over him read: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals hanging there slandered him. "If you're the Christ," he said, "rescue yourself and us!"

<sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him. "Don't you revere Godde, seeing you've received the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>And our punishment is just, because we're getting what we deserve for our deeds. But this one hasn't done anything wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come to reign!"

<sup>43</sup>He answered, "Believe me when I say to you today, you'll be with me in Paradise."

<sup>44</sup>It was already about noon, and there was darkness over the whole land until three o'clock. <sup>45</sup>The sun was eclipsed and the veil of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Mother, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he said this, he died.

<sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what happened, he glorified Godde and said, "Truly this man was just!"

<sup>48</sup>When all the crowds that had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>Everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood watching at a distance.

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a good and just man named Joseph, a member of the council <sup>51</sup>who had not agreed to their plan and action. He was from Arimathea, a town in Judea. He was looking forward to Godde's reign. <sup>52</sup>He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. <sup>53</sup>He took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb cut from the rock, where no one had ever been buried. <sup>54</sup>It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. <sup>55</sup>The women who had come with him from Galilee followed. They saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned home and prepared spices and perfumes.

And on the Sabbath they rested according to the precept.

## Chapter Twenty-Four

On the first day of the week, at daybreak, they came to the tomb with the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they didn't find the body of

the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>Now while they were wondering about this, suddenly two people stood by them in dazzling clothes. <sup>5</sup>They were so terrified that they bowed their faces to the ground.

They asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here! He has risen. Remember what he told you in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over into the hands of wrongdoers, be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

<sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>returned from the tomb, and reported all this to the eleven and their companions. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told the apostles these things. <sup>11</sup>But they thought what the women said sounded like nonsense, and they didn't believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. He went home, wondering what had happened.

<sup>13</sup>Now that very day two of them were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself approached and traveled with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing with each other as you're walking?"

They stood still with sad faces. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, answered him. "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened there these last few days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked them.

They told him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we were hoping he would be the one to liberate Israel. What's more, it's now the third day since all this happened. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some women of our group amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they didn't find his body, they came and said that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

<sup>25</sup>He told them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to trust in all that the prophets have said! <sup>26</sup>Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Beginning from Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what all the Scriptures said about him. <sup>28</sup>They approached the village to which they were traveling, but he acted like he was going farther.

<sup>29</sup>They urged him, "Stay with us, because it's nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>Now when he sat down at the table with them, he took the bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>They arose at that time, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together with their companions. <sup>34</sup>"The Lord really has risen," they were saying, "and has appeared to Simon!"

<sup>35</sup>Then the two explained what had happened on the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

<sup>36</sup>While they were talking about these things, Jesus stood among them and told them, "Peace to you."

<sup>37</sup>But they were startled and afraid, thinking that they were seeing a ghost.

<sup>38</sup>"Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "Why are you doubting in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you see I have." <sup>40</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup>They still didn't know what to believe for sheer joy, and were still wondering. So he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

<sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of a broiled fish. <sup>43</sup>He took it and ate it in front of them.

<sup>44</sup>He told them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything written about me in Moses' Torah, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "So it is written that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that change and forgiveness of wrongdoings will be proclaimed in his name to all the peoples, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Look, I'm sending you what my Mother promised. Wait in the city until you're clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>He led them out as far as Bethany, lifted up his hands, and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>As he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>They bowed to him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>They continually thanked Godde in the temple.