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The Good News According to the Tradition of Matthew

Chapter One

This is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of Bathsheba and David, the son of Sarah and Abraham.

²Sarah and Abraham became the parents of Isaac,
Rebekah and Isaac of Jacob,
Leah and Jacob of Judah and his sister and brothers,
³and Tamar and Judah of Perez and Zerah.
Perez became the father of Hezron,
Hezron of Ram,
⁴Ram of Amminadab,
Amminadab of Nahshon,
Nahshon of Salmon,
⁵and Rahab and Salmon became the parents of Boaz.
Ruth and Boaz became the parents of Obed.
Obed became the father of Jesse,
⁶and Jesse of King David.

Bathsheba and David became the parents of Solomon,
⁷Naamah and Solomon of Rehoboam,
and Maacah and Rehoboam of Abijah.
Abijah became the father of Asa,
⁸and Azubah and Asa became the parents of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram,
And Athaliah and Joram became the ancestors of Uzziah.
⁹Jerusha and Uzziah became the parents of Jotham,
and Jotham became the father of Ahaz.
Abijah and Ahaz became the parents of Hezekiah,
¹⁰Hephzibah and Hezekiah of Manasseh,
Meshullmeth and Manasseh of Amon,
Jedidah and Amon of Josiah,
¹¹and Zebidah and Josiah of Jechoniah and his sisters and brothers, at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹²After the exile to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,
and Shealtiel became the grandfather of Zerubbabel.

¹³Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud,
Abiud of Eliakim,
Eliakim of Azor,
¹⁴Azor of Zadoc,
Zadoc of Achim,
Achim of Eliud,
¹⁵Eliud of Eleazar,

Eleazar of Matthan,

Matthan of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is the Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Sarah and Abraham to Bathsheba and David are fourteen generations; from Bathsheba and David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the carrying away to Babylon to the Christ, fourteen generations.

¹⁸This is how Jesus Christ was born: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit! ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, being a just person and not willing to embarrass her publicly, intended to break their engagement secretly. ²⁰But when he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, descendant of Bathsheba and David," the angel said, "don't be afraid to marry Mary, because what's conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She'll have a son. You'll name him Jesus, because he'll rescue his people from their wrongdoings."

²²Now all this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin will be with child,
and will have a son.
They will call him Immanuel";

which means, "God with us."

²⁴Joseph woke up, did as the angel of the Lord said, and married Mary; ²⁵but he didn't sleep with her until she had a son. He named him Jesus.

Chapter Two

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the time of King Herod the Great, magi from the east came to Jerusalem. ²"Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star in the east, and have come to bow to him."

³When King Herod heard it, he was anxious, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴Gathering together all the chief priests and scholars of the people, he asked them where the Christ would be born.

⁵"In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for it is written through the prophet:

⁶"You Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are in no way least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler,
who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly sent for the magi and found out exactly when the star appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and search diligently for the young child. When you've found him, let me know, so that I may come and bow to him too."

⁹Having heard the king, they went on their way; and the star which they saw in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over where the young child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overcome with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and bowed to him. Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Being warned in a dream that they shouldn't return to Herod, they went back to their own country another way.

¹³Now when they had left, an angel of the Lady appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Arise and take the young child and his mother," the angel said. "Flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you, because Herod will try to kill the young child."

¹⁴He got up, took the young child and his mother by night, withdrew to Egypt, ¹⁵and stayed there until the death of Herod to fulfill what was spoken by the Lady through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was very angry, and gave orders to kill all the male children in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside who were two years old and younger, according to the exact time which he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
lamentation, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she wouldn't be comforted,
because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod was dead, an angel of the Lady appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰"Arise and take the young child and his mother to Israel," the angel said, "because those who sought the young child's life are dead."

²¹He got up and took the young child and his mother to Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in the place of his father, Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee ²³and moved to a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Chapter Three

In those days, John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Change, because the reign of heaven is near!" ³This is the one who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
'Make ready the way of the Lady!
Make her paths straight!'"

⁴Now John himself wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then people from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan flocked to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their offenses.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he said, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the fury to come? ⁸So bear fruit worthy of change! ⁹Don't think 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.

¹⁰"Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees! So every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I do baptize you in water for change, but the one who comes after me is greater than I, whose shoes I'm not worthy to carry. He'll baptize you in the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he'll thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He'll gather his wheat into the barn, but he'll burn up the chaff with a fire that can't be put out."

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him. "I need to be baptized by you," he said, "and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus said, "Allow it now, because this is the right thing to do." Then John baptized him.

¹⁶When Jesus was baptized, he rose directly from the water, and heaven opened. He saw the Spirit of Godde coming down to him as a dove. ¹⁷A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son! I am very pleased with him."

Chapter Four

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³The tempter approached him and said, "If you're the Son of Godde, tell these stones to turn into bread."

⁴But he answered, "It is written:

'Do not live on bread alone,
but by every word that comes out of the mouth of Godde.'"

⁵Then the devil took him into the holy city, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said, "If you're the Son of Godde, throw yourself down, because it is written, 'She'll put her angels in charge of you,' and:

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

⁷Jesus answered, "Again, it is written, 'Do not test the Lady, your Godde.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, showed him all the glorious empires of the world, ⁹and said, "I'll give you all of these things, if you'll fall down and bow to me."

¹⁰Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! Because it is written:

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

¹¹Then the devil left, and angels came and ministered to him.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness saw a great light,
to those who sat in the region and shadow of death,
to them light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time, Jesus started to proclaim, "Change, because the reign of heaven is near!"

¹⁸Walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers: Simon, known as Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea – because they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Follow me," he said, "and I'll send you out to fish for people."

²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed him. ²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, mending their nets in the boat with their father Zebedee. ²²They immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of Godde's reign, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴Word about him spread all through Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, oppressed by demons, epilepsy, and paralysis, and he healed them. ²⁵Large crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan followed him.

Chapter Five

Seeing the crowds, he went up the mountain. When he sat down, his disciples approached him. ²He started to teach them:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the reign of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who grieve,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the gentle,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice,
for they will be full.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see Godde.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be known as children of Godde.

¹⁰Blessed are those who have been harassed for pursuing justice,
for theirs is the reign of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people criticize you, harass you, and slander you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be very glad, because your heavenly reward is great; for that is how they harassed the prophets before you.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, how can you get it back? It's good for nothing, but to be thrown out and walked on.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do you light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it shines for everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before everyone so that they may see your good deeds and praise your Mother who is in heaven.

¹⁷"Don't think that I came to destroy the Torah or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to complete. ¹⁸Believe me when I say that as long as heaven and earth exist, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke will in any way disappear from the Torah, until everything is done. ¹⁹Consequently, whoever breaks one of the least important precepts and teaches others to do so will be regarded as unimportant in the reign of heaven; but whoever obeys and teaches them will be known as great in the reign of heaven. ²⁰Because I say that unless you're more just than the scholars and Pharisees, there's no way you'll enter the reign of heaven.

²¹"You know that long ago it was said, 'Do not murder;' and 'Whoever murders will be in danger of judgment.' ²²But I say that everyone who's angry with a sister or brother will be in danger of judgment. Whoever calls a sister or brother 'Airhead!' will be in danger before the court, and whoever says 'You fool!' will be in danger of being taken out with the trash and incinerated.

²³"So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and then remember that your sister or brother has anything against you, ²⁴leave your gift before the altar and hurry away. First make amends with your

sister or brother, then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Agree with your adversary quickly while you're on the way to court, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you'll be thrown into prison. ²⁶Believe me when I say that you won't get out of there by any means until you've paid the last penny.

²⁷"You know that it was said, 'Do not be unfaithful;' ²⁸but I say that everyone who gazes at someone in lust has already been unfaithful in their heart. ²⁹If your right eye trips you up, pluck it out and throw it away, because it's better for one of your body parts to die than for your whole body to be taken out with the trash and incinerated. ³⁰If your right hand trips you up, cut it off and throw it away, because it's better for one of your body parts to die than for your whole body to be taken out with the trash and incinerated.

³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever wants out of a marriage should get a no-fault divorce,' ³²but I say that whoever divorces someone (except for promiscuity) causes them to be a victim of unfaithfulness; and whoever marries them is unfaithful too.

³³"You also know that long ago it was said, 'Do not break your promises, but keep all your promises to the Lady,' ³⁴but I say don't promise at all: not by heaven, because it's the throne of Godde; ³⁵nor by the earth, because it's the footstool of her feet; nor by Jerusalem, because it's the city of the great Queen. ³⁶Nor promise by your head, because you can't make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' be 'No.' Anything beyond that is evil.

³⁸"You know that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹But I say, don't violently resist the one who is evil; but if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other one to them. ⁴⁰If anyone sues you to take away your shirt, give them your coat too. ⁴¹If someone makes you go one mile, go an extra mile. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and don't refuse the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³"You know that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say love your enemies and pray for those who harass you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Mother who is in heaven; because she makes her sun rise on those who are evil and on those who are good, and sends rain on those who are just and on those who are unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what good is it? Don't even toll collectors do that? ⁴⁷If you welcome only your sisters and brothers, what makes you any different than anybody else? Don't even Gentiles do that? ⁴⁸So be inclusive, just as your Mother in heaven is inclusive.

Chapter Six

"Be careful not to publicize your pursuit of justice to be noticed, or you'll have no reward from your Mother who is in heaven. ²So don't blow your own horn when you make donations, like the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that people might praise them. Believe me when I say that they've already received their reward. ³But when you make donations, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your donations may be made secretly; then your Mother who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites, because they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will notice them. Believe me when I say that they've already received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your closet, shut the door, and pray to your Mother secretly; then your Mother who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷When praying, don't keep repeating yourselves like the Gentiles; they think that they'll be heard because they keep talking. ⁸So don't be like them, because your Mother knows what you need before you even ask her. ⁹This is how you should pray:

'Our Mother in heaven,
we honor your holy name.

¹⁰Let your reign come.

Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us our daily bread today.

¹²Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

¹³Do not put us in harm's way,
but rescue us from evil.'

¹⁴"If you forgive people for their faults, your heavenly Mother will forgive you for your faults too.

¹⁵But if you don't forgive people for their faults, your Mother won't forgive you for your faults either.

¹⁶"Furthermore, when you fast, don't be like the hypocrites who put on sad faces. They twist their faces so that people might notice they're fasting. Believe me when I say that they've already received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face ¹⁸so that people don't notice you're fasting; but your Mother who is in secret will notice, and your Mother, who sees in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹"Don't store treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moths and rust destroy it, and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moths nor rust destroy, and where thieves don't break in and steal. ²¹Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

²²"The eye is the body's lamp. So if your eye is fine, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in the dark. If your light goes out, how dark it will be!

²⁴"No one can follow two leaders, because they'll 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.

²⁵"So I say don't be anxious about your life, about what you'll eat or drink; or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶See how the birds of the sky don't sow, reap, or gather into barns. Your heavenly Mother feeds them. Aren't you much more valuable than they? ²⁷Which of you can add one moment to your life by being anxious? ²⁸Why are you anxious about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow. They don't work or spin, ²⁹yet believe me when I say that even Naamah and Solomon in all their glory weren't dressed like one of these. ³⁰But if Godde clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, won't she clothe you much more, you who have little trust? ³¹So don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²The Gentiles look for all these things, and your heavenly Mother knows that you need them. ³³But look for Godde's reign and her justice first, and all these things will be given to you too. ³⁴So don't be anxious about tomorrow, because tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day is taxing enough as it is.

Chapter Seven

"Don't judge, so that you won't be judged; ²because you'll be judged the way that you judge, and you'll be measured the way that you measure. ³Why 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? ⁴Or how will you tell your sister or brother, 'Let me get that speck out of your eye' when the beam is in your own eye? ⁵You 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.

⁶"Don't give what's holy to the dogs or throw your pearls before the pigs, in case they trample them under their feet, turn around, and tear you to pieces.

⁷"Ask and you will receive. Look and you will find. Knock and it will be opened for you, ⁸because everyone who asks receives. The one who looks finds. To one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Which of you, if their child asks for bread, will give them a stone? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, who will give them a serpent? ¹¹If you, bad as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Mother who is in heaven give good things to those who ask her! ¹²So do to other people whatever you want them to do to you, because this is the meaning of the Torah and the prophets.

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate, because wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter by it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate, and how restricted is the way that leads to life! Those who find it are few.

¹⁵“Beware of dishonest teachers. They approach you dressed like sheep, but they’re really predatory wolves on the inside. ¹⁶You’ll know them by their fruits. Can you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Every good tree bears good fruit, but the rotten tree bears spoiled fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can’t bear spoiled fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that doesn’t grow good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰By their fruits you’ll know them.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the reign of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Mother who’s in heaven. ²²Many will tell me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we speak in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty deeds?’ ²³Then I’ll tell them, ‘I never knew you. Go away, you criminals!’

²⁴“Everyone who hears my words and acts on them is like a wise person who built their house on a rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house; but it didn’t fall, because it was built on the rock. ²⁶Everyone who hears my words and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish person who built their house on the sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house; and it fell. How great was its fall!”

²⁸When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed ²⁹because he taught them with authority – not like the scholars.

Chapter Eight

When he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. ²Someone with leprosy approached and bowed to him. “Lord,” he said, “if you want to, you can cure me.”

³Jesus reached out and touched him. “I want to,” he said. “Be cured.” His leprosy was healed immediately.

⁴“Be sure to tell no one,” Jesus said, “but go show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses said to, to witness to them.”

⁵When he came to Capernaum, a centurion approached and begged him. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies in the house paralyzed, badly tormented.”

⁷“I’ll go heal him,” Jesus said.

⁸“Lord,” the centurion answered, “I’m not worthy for you to come under my roof. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I am also 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.”

¹⁰Jesus was amazed when he heard this. He said to his followers, “Believe me when I say that I haven’t found such great trust in anyone in Israel. ¹¹I say that many will come from the east and the west and will sit down with Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, and Leah, Rachel and Jacob in the reign of heaven, ¹²but the children of Godde’s reign will be thrown into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

¹³Jesus said to the centurion, “Go on. Let it be done for you according to your trust.” His servant was healed that very hour.

¹⁴Jesus entered Peter’s house and saw his mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand and the fever left her. She got up and ministered to him.

¹⁶When evening came, they brought to him many people who were oppressed by demons. He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick ¹⁷to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “He took our sickness and bore our diseases.”

¹⁸Now when Jesus saw large crowds around him, he gave the order to cross to the other side.

¹⁹A scholar approached him. “Teacher,” he said, “I’ll follow you wherever you go.”

²⁰"The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests," Jesus answered, "but the Son of Woman has nowhere to rest."

²¹Another disciple said to him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first."

²²But Jesus answered, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

²³When he got into a boat, his disciples followed. ²⁴A violent storm arose on the sea, so great that the waves overwhelmed the boat; but he was asleep. ²⁵They woke him up. "Rescue us, Lord!" they cried. "We're dying!"

²⁶He answered, "Why are you afraid, you who have little trust?" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and sea, and there was a great calm.

²⁷They were amazed. "What kind of person is this," they asked, "whom even the wind and sea obey?"

²⁸When he arrived at the other side, in the country of the Gadarenes, two demonized people from among the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass.

²⁹"What do you want with us, Son of Godde?" they cried out. "Have you come to harass us before our time is up?"

³⁰Now a herd of many pigs was feeding in the distance. ³¹The demons begged him. "If you cast us out," they said, "let us to go into the herd of pigs."

³²"Go!" he said.

They came out and went into the herd of pigs. The whole herd charged down the cliff into the sea and died in the water. ³³Those who fed them ran to town and told the whole story, including what had happened to those who were demonized. ³⁴The whole town came out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Chapter Nine

He got into a boat, crossed over, and went to his own town. ²They brought to him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a mat. Seeing their trust, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, cheer up! You're forgiven."

³"This is sacrilege!" some of the scholars said to themselves.

⁴Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus asked, "Why are you thinking such evil things? ⁵Is it easier to say, 'You're forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶But to show you that the Son of Woman has the right to forgive on earth ..." he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up! Take your mat and go home."

⁷He got up and went home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were amazed and praised Godde who had given such authority to mortals.

⁹As Jesus was leaving, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the toll booth. "Follow me," he said. He got up and followed him.

¹⁰As he sat in his house, many toll collectors and outsiders came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw it, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with toll collectors and outsiders?"

¹²When Jesus heard them, he said, "Those who are healthy have no need for a doctor, but those who are sick do. ¹³Go figure out what this means: 'I want compassion, not empty ritual.' I didn't come to summon those who are 'just,' but outsiders."

¹⁴Then John's disciples approached him. "Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast regularly," they asked, "but your disciples don't fast at all?"

¹⁵Jesus answered, "How can the friends of the groom grieve while the groom is still with them? The time will come when the groom will be taken from them, and then they'll fast.

¹⁶"No one sews a patch of new cloth on an old coat, because the patch would tear away from the garment and make the hole worse. ¹⁷Nor do people put new wine in old wineskins, because the skins

would burst, the wine would spill, and the skins would be ruined. No, they put new wine in fresh wineskins so that both are preserved.”

¹⁸While he said these things, a leader of the synagogue came and bowed to him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but if you come and touch her, she’ll live.”

¹⁹Jesus got up and followed him, along with his disciples. ²⁰A woman who had been hemorrhaging blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel of his coat. ²¹She said to herself, “If I just touch his coat, I’ll be healed.”

²²But Jesus turned around and saw her. “Daughter, cheer up!” he said. “Your trust has healed you.” The woman was healed that very hour.

²³Jesus came into the synagogue leader’s house. Seeing the flute players and the crowd in noisy disorder, ²⁴he said, “Make room, because the girl isn’t dead, but sleeping.”

They laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd was sent away, he went in and took her by the hand. The girl arose. ²⁶Word of the event spread all through the land.

²⁷As Jesus passed by from there, two men who were blind followed him, calling out: “Have mercy on us, son of Bathsheba and David!”

²⁸When he had come into the house, the men who were blind approached him. Jesus asked, “Do you trust that I’m able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they answered.

²⁹Then he touched their eyes. “It will be done for you according to your trust,” he said. ³⁰Their eyes were opened.

“Make sure that no one finds out about this,” Jesus sternly warned them. ³¹But they left and spread the news all through the land.

³²As they were leaving, a man who was demon-oppressed and mute was brought to him. ³³When the demon was cast out, the man who was mute spoke. The crowds were amazed. “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!” they said. ³⁴But the Pharisees said, “The prince of the demons gives him the power to cast out demons.”

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of Godde’s reign, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ³⁶But he was moved with compassion when he saw the crowds, because they were harassed and scattered – like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest really is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸So pray that the Lady of the harvest will send workers into her fields.”

Chapter Ten

He called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out corrupting spirits and heal every disease and sickness. ²Now the names of the twelve apostles are:

Simon, known as Peter;

Andrew, his brother;

James the son of Zebedee;

John, his brother;

³Philip;

Bartholomew;

Thomas;

Matthew the toll collector;

James the son of Alphaeus;

Thaddaeus;

⁴Simon the Cananean; and

Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

⁵Jesus sent out these twelve with these instructions: “Don’t go among the Gentiles, and don’t enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim, ‘The reign of heaven is at hand!’ ⁸Heal those who are sick, raise those who are dead, cure those who have leprosy, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give. ⁹Don’t take any gold, silver, or copper in your money belts. ¹⁰Don’t take a bag for your journey, or two shirts, or shoes or a staff, because the worker is worthy of their food. ¹¹Find out who’s trustworthy in whatever town or village you enter, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter a house, greet them. ¹³If they’re trustworthy, bless them; but if they aren’t, take back your blessing. ¹⁴If anyone doesn’t welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Believe me when I say that in the coming judgment, it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town!

¹⁶“Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Watch out, because people will turn you in to the courts and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸And you’ll even be dragged before governors and rulers because of me, to witness to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they turn you in, don’t be anxious about what to say or how to say it, because at that time the words will be given to you; ²⁰for it isn’t you talking, but the Spirit of your Mother talking through you.

²¹“Sisters and brothers will turn each other in to be executed, and parents will turn in their children. Children will turn against parents and cause them to be executed. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who endures to the end will be given life. ²³But when they harass you in one town, flee to the next. Believe me when I say that you won’t get through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Woman comes.

²⁴“A disciple isn’t greater than their teacher, nor a bondservant greater than their master. ²⁵It’s good enough that the disciple be like their teacher and the bondservant like their master. If they’ve called the head of the house ‘Beelzebul,’ how much more those of his household!

²⁶“So don’t be afraid of them, because nothing is veiled that won’t be unveiled, nor hidden that won’t be made known. ²⁷Whatever I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and whatever is whispered in your ear, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who can take both soul and body out with the trash and incinerate them!

²⁹“Don’t two sparrows cost a penny? Not one of them falls to the ground without your Mother knowing about it. ³⁰The very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid, because you’re more valuable than many sparrows.

³²“Whoever acknowledges me in front of others, I’ll acknowledge in front of my Mother who’s in heaven. ³³But whoever denies me in front of others, I’ll deny in front of my Mother who’s in heaven.

³⁴“Don’t think that I came to bring peace on earth. I didn’t come to bring peace, but a sword!

³⁵I came to turn a son against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶Family members will be enemies.

³⁷Whoever loves mother or father more than me can’t follow me, and whoever loves daughter or son more than me can’t follow me. ³⁸Whoever doesn’t take their cross and join me can’t follow me. ³⁹Whoever tries to gain their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will gain it.

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will be regarded as a prophet. Whoever welcomes a just person in the name of a just person will be regarded as a just person. ⁴²Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple – believe me when I say that they will in no way lose their reward.”

Chapter Eleven

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he left that place to teach and proclaim the message in their towns.

²Now when John, who was in prison, heard about what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the coming one, or should we look for someone else?"

⁴"Go and tell John what you hear and see," Jesus answered. ⁵"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.

⁶Blessed is the one who isn't scandalized by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus started to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fancy clothes? Look, those who wear fancy clothes live in palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say, and much more than a prophet, ¹⁰because it is written about him:

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

¹¹"Believe me when I say that John the Baptizer is greater than anyone who's been born, but whoever is least important in the reign of heaven is still greater than he. ¹²Since the time that John the Baptizer was arrested, the reign of heaven has been suffering violence, and violent people oppose it. ¹³All the prophets and the Torah witnessed up until John's time. ¹⁴If you can believe it, he's the coming Elijah. ¹⁵If anyone has ears, listen up!

¹⁶"To what can I compare this generation? It can be compared to children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their friends:

¹⁷We played the flute for you,
and you didn't dance.
We mourned,
and you didn't grieve.'

¹⁸John didn't come eating or drinking, and they say, 'He's demonized!' ¹⁹The Son of Woman came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of toll collectors and outsiders!' But Wisdom is vindicated by her actions."

²⁰Then he started to condemn the towns in which he had done most of his mighty deeds, because they didn't change. ²¹"How awful for you, Chorazin! How awful for 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. ²²But I say that it will be better for Tyre and Sidon than for you in the coming judgment! ²³You, Capernaum, who have risen so high – you will fall down to Hades! If the great deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would still be around today. ²⁴But I say that it will be better for the land of Sodom than for you in the coming judgment!"

²⁵Then Jesus prayed, "Thank you, Mother, Lady of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the wise and learned and revealing them to infants. ²⁶Yes, Mother, this was what you wanted. ²⁷My

Mother has given me everything. No one knows the Son except the Mother. Nor does anyone know the Mother except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wants to reveal her.

²⁸“Come to me, all you overburdened workers, and I’ll let you relax. ²⁹Work for me and let me teach you, because I’m gentle and humble. You’ll be refreshed, ³⁰because my work is easy and my workload is light.”

Chapter Twelve

Then Jesus walked through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they started plucking heads of grain and eating them. ²But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what’s not permissible on the Sabbath.”

³He answered, “Haven’t you read what David and those with him did when they were hungry? ⁴How they entered Godde’s house and ate the show bread that they were not permitted to eat – only the priests were? ⁵Or haven’t you read in the Torah that on the Sabbath, the priests in the temple breach the Sabbath, and are innocent? ⁶I say that one greater than the temple is here. ⁷If you had known what this means: ‘I want compassion, not empty ritual,’ you wouldn’t have condemned the innocent, ⁸because the Son of Woman is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁹He left and went to their synagogue. ¹⁰A man with a withered hand was there. In an attempt to incriminate him, they asked, “Is it permissible to heal on the Sabbath?”

¹¹He answered, “If your only sheep fell into a pit on the Sabbath, who among you wouldn’t grab it and get it out? ¹²How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! So it is permissible to do good on the Sabbath.”

¹³Then he told the man, “Hold out your hand.” When he held it out, it was just as healthy as his other hand. ¹⁴Then the Pharisees left and started plotting to destroy him.

¹⁵Knowing that, Jesus withdrew. Large crowds followed him. He healed them all ¹⁶and warned them not to reveal him, ¹⁷to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

¹⁸“See the servant I’ve chosen!
I love him and am very pleased with him.

I’ll put my Spirit on him.

He’ll proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹He won’t struggle or shout,
nor will anyone hear him crying out in the streets.

²⁰He won’t break a bruised reed
or snuff out a smoldering wick
until justice prevails.

²¹The Gentiles will put their hope in him.”

²²Then someone who was demon-oppressed, who couldn’t see or speak, was brought to him. He healed him, so the man who couldn’t see or speak could do both. ²³All the crowds were amazed. “Can this be the son of Bathsheba and David?” they asked.

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “This man casts out demons only because Beelzebul, the prince of the demons, gives him the power.”

²⁵Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus told them, “Every divided empire is devastated, and no divided city or house will endure. ²⁶If the Satan casts itself out, it’s divided. Then how will its empire endure? ²⁷If Beelzebul gives me power to cast out demons, who gives your people power to cast them out? So they prove you wrong. ²⁸But if the Spirit of Godde gives me the power to cast out demons, then Godde’s reign has come to you! ²⁹How can one break into the house of the strong and loot it without first binding the strong? Then one can loot the house.

³⁰“Whoever isn’t with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather with me, scatters. ³¹So I say that every offense and slander will be forgiven, but slander against the Spirit won’t be forgiven. ³²Whoever speaks out against the Son of Woman will be forgiven, but whoever speaks out against the Holy Spirit won’t be forgiven in this age or in the age to come.

³³“If you make the tree good, its fruit will be good. If you make the tree rotten, its fruit will be rotten. You can tell whether the tree is good or rotten by its fruit. ³⁴You offspring of vipers, how can you who are evil speak good things? The mouth speaks what the heart is full of. ³⁵The person who is good brings good things out of their good treasure, and the person who is evil brings evil things out of their evil treasure. ³⁶I say that everyone will be held accountable for every useless word they speak in the coming judgment. ³⁷You’ll be vindicated or condemned by your words.”

³⁸Then some of the scholars and Pharisees said, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

³⁹But he answered, “An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be provided except that of Jonah the prophet. ⁴⁰As Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of the sea monster, so the Son of Woman will spend three days and nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The 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. ⁴²The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with 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.

⁴³“When the corrupting spirit leaves, it journeys through arid places looking for rest, but doesn’t find it. ⁴⁴Then it says, ‘I’ll return to the place I left’; and when it comes back, it finds it empty, swept, and organized. ⁴⁵Then it goes out and brings along seven other spirits that are even worse, and they enter and live there. That person ends up even worse off than before. That’s how it will be with this evil generation.”

⁴⁶While he was still addressing the crowds, his mother and his brothers stood outside, trying to talk to him. ⁴⁷Someone said to him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside, trying to talk to you.”

⁴⁸But he answered, “Who is my mother? Who are my sisters and brothers?”

⁴⁹He motioned towards his disciples. “Look, my mother, my sisters, brothers!” he said. ⁵⁰“Whoever does the will of my Mother who is in heaven is my sister, my brother, my mother.”

Chapter Thirteen

That day Jesus left the house and sat by the seaside. ²Large crowds gathered around him, so he got into a boat and sat. The crowd stood on the beach. ³He taught them many things through stories.

“Look, a farmer went out to sow,” he said. ⁴“As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside. The birds came and devoured them.

⁵“Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn’t have much soil. They sprouted immediately because the soil was so shallow. ⁶When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no roots, they withered.

⁷“Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked them.

⁸“Others fell on good soil and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.

⁹“If anyone has ears, listen up!”

¹⁰The disciples approached him and asked, “Why do you teach people through stories?”

¹¹“The mysteries of the reign of heaven have been revealed to you, but not to them,” he answered.

¹²“Whoever has will be given more, and then some; but whoever doesn’t have will lose even what little they do have. ¹³So I teach them through stories, because although they see they don’t perceive, and although they hear they don’t understand. ¹⁴They fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah, which says:

'By hearing you'll hear,
and will in no way understand;
Seeing you'll see,
and will in no way perceive:
¹⁵for this people's heart has grown callous,
their ears are hard of hearing,
they've closed their eyes;
or else perhaps they may see, even if they don't perceive;
and they may hear, even if they don't understand,
because they don't want to change their ways and be forgiven.'

¹⁶"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷Believe me when I say that many prophets and just people wanted to see what you see, but didn't see it; and to hear what you hear, but didn't hear it.

¹⁸"So hear the story of the farmer. ¹⁹When anyone hears the message of Godde's reign and doesn't understand it, the enemy comes and steals what has been sown in their heart. This is what was sown by the roadside.

²⁰"What was sown on rocky ground represents the one who hears the message and joyfully accepts it right away; ²¹but it doesn't sink in and they don't last very long. When they're oppressed or harassed because of the message, they're tripped up right away.

²²"What was sown among thorns represents the one who hears the message, but the concerns of this age and the trap of money choke the message and they become unfruitful.

²³"What was sown on good soil represents the one who hears the message, understands it, and really bears fruit; some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty."

²⁴He shared another story with them. "The reign of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field," he said. ²⁵"While people slept, his enemy came and sowed weeds also among the wheat, then left. ²⁶When the crop sprang up and bore fruit, the weeds appeared too. ²⁷The bondservants of the manager came and said to him, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?'

²⁸"'An enemy has done this,' he answered.

"The bondservants asked, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹"'No," he said, "because you might accidentally pull up the wheat with the weeds. ³⁰Let them grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers, "First, pull up the weeds and tie them in bundles to burn; but put the wheat in my barn.'""

³¹He shared another story with them. "The reign of heaven can be compared to a mustard seed which a man sowed in his field," he said. ³²"It's really smaller than all the seeds. But when it's grown, it's greater than any of the plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds of the sky can come and nest in its branches."

³³He shared another story with them. "The reign of heaven can be compared to yeast which a woman hid in fifty pounds of flour until it was all leavened."

³⁴Jesus taught all these things to the crowds through stories; he didn't teach them anything without a story, ³⁵to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"I'll speak through stories;
I'll talk about things that have been hidden since the beginning of the world."

³⁶Then Jesus sent the crowds away and went into the house. His disciples approached him. "Explain to us the story about the weeds of the field," they said.

³⁷"The one who sows the good seed represents the Son of Woman, "he answered. ³⁸"The field represents the world. The good seed represents the children of Godde's reign. The weeds represent the

children of the enemy. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them represents the devil. The harvest represents the end of the age, and the reapers represent angels.

⁴⁰“As the weeds are bundled and burned, that’s what it will be like at the end of this age. ⁴¹The Son of Woman will send out his angels, and they’ll weed out of his reign everything that causes scandals and those who commit crime, ⁴²and will throw them in the fiery furnace. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth. ⁴³Then those who are just will shine like the sun in their Mother’s reign. If anyone has ears, listen up!

⁴⁴“The reign of heaven can also be compared to a treasure hidden in a field. A man found it and hid it. In his joy, he goes and sells everything that he owns and buys that field.

⁴⁵“The reign of heaven can also be compared to a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶Having found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold everything that he owned and bought it.

⁴⁷“The reign of heaven can also be compared to a dragnet that was cast into the sea. It gathered every kind of fish. ⁴⁸When it was filled, they dragged it onto the beach. They sat down and put the good fish in baskets, but threw away the bad fish.

⁴⁹“That’s what it will be like at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate those who are wicked from among those who are just ⁵⁰and will throw them into the fiery furnace. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they answered.

⁵²He said, “So every scholar who has become a disciple in the reign of heaven can be compared to a manager who brings out of their treasure both new and old things.”

⁵³When Jesus finished these stories, he left that place. ⁵⁴Coming into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue. They were amazed. “Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds?” they asked. ⁵⁵“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother known as Mary and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶Aren’t all of his sisters around? Then where did this man get all of these things?” ⁵⁷They were scandalized by him.

But Jesus said, “A prophet is respected, except in their own country and in their own house.” ⁵⁸He didn’t do many mighty deeds there because they didn’t trust.

Chapter Fourteen

Then King Herod Antipas heard about Jesus. ²“This is John the Baptizer,” he said to his servants. “He’s risen from the dead. That’s why he has these powers.”

³Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip; ⁴for John had told Herod, “It isn’t right for you to marry her.” ⁵He would’ve executed John, but he was afraid of the crowd because they regarded him as a prophet. ⁶But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod. ⁷Then he promised to give her whatever she wanted. ⁸Being prompted by her mother, she said, “Bring me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.”

⁹The king was sorry, but because of his promise and his guests, he ordered it to be given to her ¹⁰and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹His head was brought on a platter and given to the young lady, and she brought it to her mother. ¹²His disciples came, took the body, and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew and sailed to a remote place. When the crowds heard about it, they left the towns and followed him on foot.

¹⁴He went out and saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed those who were sick. ¹⁵When evening came, his disciples approached him. “This place is remote,” they said, “and it’s already late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”

¹⁶But Jesus answered, “They don’t need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷They told him, "All we have are five loaves and two fish."

¹⁸"Bring them to me," Jesus said. ¹⁹He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he prayed. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰They all ate until they were satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of what was left over from the broken pieces. ²¹About five thousand families ate.

²²Immediately Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side while he sent the crowds away. ²³After he had sent the crowds away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was alone.

²⁴By now the boat was far from land, tossed by the waves, because the wind was difficult. ²⁵At three in the morning, Jesus approached them, walking on the sea. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were worried. "It's a ghost!" They cried out in fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke. "Cheer up!" he said. "It's me! Don't be afraid."

²⁸"Lord," Peter answered, "if it is you, order me to come to you on the water."

²⁹"Come!" he said.

Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water to come to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid. Beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹Immediately Jesus reached out and grabbed him. "You who have little trust," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³²When they got into the boat, the wind died down. ³³Those who were in the boat bowed to him. "You really are the Son of Godde!" they said.

³⁴When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. ³⁵When the people there recognized him, they sent into all the surrounding area, brought to him all who were sick, ³⁶and begged him to let them just touch the tassel of his garment. All who touched it were healed.

Chapter Fifteen

Then Pharisees and scholars came to Jesus from Jerusalem. ²"Why do your disciples disregard the tradition of the elders?" they asked. "They don't wash their hands before they eat bread."

³He answered, "Why does your tradition disregard the precept of Godde? ⁴Godde said, 'Honor your mother and father,' and 'Whoever badmouths mother or father, let them be executed.' ⁵But you say, 'Whoever tells their mother or father, "Whatever I might have given to support you is a gift devoted to Godde," ⁶need not honor mother or father.' Your tradition has voided the word of Godde. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah accurately described you:

⁸These people honor me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.

⁹And they worship me pointlessly,
teaching rules made up by mortals as doctrine.'"

¹⁰He called the crowd. "Listen up!" he said. ¹¹"What goes into the mouth doesn't defile a person, but what comes out of the mouth does."

¹²Then the disciples approached him. "Do you know that the Pharisees were scandalized when they heard this?" they asked.

¹³But he answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Mother didn't plant will be pulled up. ¹⁴Leave them alone. They're ignorant guides. If one person who can't see guides another person who can't see, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵"Explain the story to us," Peter answered.

¹⁶So Jesus asked, "Are you still ignorant too? ¹⁷Don't you know that whatever goes into the mouth passes through the stomach and then out into the sewer? ¹⁸But the things that come out of the mouth

come out of the heart, and they defile the person. ¹⁹Because out of the heart come evil thoughts: murders, unfaithfulness, promiscuity, stealing, lying, and slander. ²⁰These are what defile the person; eating without washing your hands doesn't defile the person."

²¹Jesus left that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman came out. "Have mercy on me, Lord, son of Bathsheba and David!" she cried. "My daughter is severely oppressed by a demon!"

²³But he didn't say a thing.

His disciples came and begged him. "Send her away," they said, "because she bothers us."

²⁴He answered, "I wasn't sent to anyone but the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵But she approached and bowed to him. "Lord, help me," she said.

²⁶"It isn't right to throw the children's bread to the dogs," he answered.

²⁷"Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

²⁸Then Jesus answered, "Woman, your trust is great! What you want will be done for you." Her daughter was healed that very hour.

²⁹Jesus left that place and approached the Sea of Galilee. He went up the mountain and sat down. ³⁰Large crowds flocked to him, including those who were lame, blind, maimed, mute, and many others; and they laid them down at his feet. He healed them, ³¹so the crowd was amazed when they saw those who were mute speaking, maimed whole, lame walking, and blind seeing — and they praised the God of Israel.

³²Jesus called his disciples. "I have compassion on the crowd," he said, "because they've been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, because they might faint on the way."

³³The disciples asked, "Where would we get enough bread in such a remote place to satisfy so great a crowd?"

³⁴"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they answered, "and a few small fish."

³⁵He instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground, ³⁶and he took the seven loaves and the fish. He gave thanks and broke them. He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ³⁷They all ate until they were satisfied. They picked up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. ³⁸Four thousand families ate. ³⁹Then he sent away the crowds, got into the boat, and went into Magadan.

Chapter Sixteen

The Pharisees and Sadducees approached and tested him, asking him to show them a sign from heaven. ²But he answered, "When it's evening, you say, 'There will be good weather, because the sky is red.' ³In the morning, 'There will be bad weather today, because the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you can't interpret the signs of the times! ⁴An evil and unfaithful generation looks for a sign, but no sign will be provided except that of the prophet Jonah."

He left them and went away. ⁵When the disciples got to the other side, they realized they had forgotten to take bread. ⁶Jesus said, "Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

⁷They talked among themselves. "It's because we brought no bread," they said.

⁸Knowing what they were saying, Jesus asked, "Why do you talk among yourselves, you who have little trust, 'because you have no bread?' ⁹Don't you perceive yet, or remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you picked up? ¹⁰Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you picked up? ¹¹Why don't you perceive that I wasn't speaking to you about bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹²Then they understood that he wasn't telling them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people think that the Son of Woman is?”

¹⁴“Some think John the Baptizer,” they said. “Some think Elijah, and others think Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But who do you think I am?” he asked.

¹⁶“You’re the Christ,” Simon Peter answered, “the Son of the living Godde.”

¹⁷“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,” Jesus said, “because mortals haven’t revealed this to you, but my Mother who’s in heaven. ¹⁸I also say that you’re Peter, and on this rock I’ll build my community; and the gates of Hades won’t overcome it. ¹⁹I’ll give to you the keys of the reign of heaven. Whatever you prevent on earth will have been prevented in heaven; whatever you allow on earth will have been allowed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he instructed the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹From that time on, Jesus started to reveal to his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scholars, be killed, and on the third day be raised up.

²²Peter took him aside and started to rebuke him. “Far be it from you, Lord!” he said. “This will never be done to you!”

²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get out of my way, Satan! You’re a scandal to me, because you’re not thinking about the things of Godde, but about the things of mortals.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to follow me, let them deny themself, take up their cross, and follow me; ²⁵because whoever wants to gain their life will lose it, and whoever will lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶What good will it do someone if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? What will someone give in exchange for their life? ²⁷The Son of Woman will come in the glory of his Mother with his angels, and then he’ll judge everyone according to their deeds. ²⁸Believe me when I say that some people standing here won’t die before they see the Son of Woman coming in his reign.”

Chapter Seventeen

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John up a high mountain by themselves. ²He was transformed right in front of them. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with him.

⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it’s a good thing we’re here. If you want, I’ll put up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came out of the cloud and said, “This is my beloved Son! I’m very pleased with him. Listen to him!”

⁶When the disciples heard this, they were so afraid that they fell on their faces. ⁷Jesus approached and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸Looking up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you saw until the Son of Woman has risen from the dead.”

¹⁰His disciples asked, “Why do the scholars say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹Jesus answered, “Elijah does come first, to restore everything; ¹²but I say that Elijah has come already and they didn’t recognize him, but did to him whatever they wanted. In the same way, the Son of Woman will suffer by them too.” ¹³Then the disciples understood that he was talking about John the Baptizer.

¹⁴When they came to the crowd, a man approached him and knelt down. ¹⁵“Lord,” he said, “have mercy on my son, because he has epilepsy and suffers greatly. He often falls into fire and water. ¹⁶So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t cure him.”

¹⁷Jesus answered, “You distrustful and stubborn generation! How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him here.” ¹⁸Jesus rebuked the demon. It left him and the boy was cured that very hour.

¹⁹Then the disciples approached Jesus privately and asked, “Why weren’t we able to cast it out?”

²⁰“Because of your little trust,” he said. “Believe me when I say that if you have trust as big as a mustard seed, you can tell this mountain, ‘Move over there,’ and it’ll move; nothing will be impossible for you.

²²While they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said, “The Son of Woman is about to be handed over to people ²³who will kill him, but on the third day he will be raised.” They were very sad.

²⁴When they had come to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?”

²⁵“Yes,” he answered.

When he came into the house, Jesus anticipated him. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “Who pays tolls or tributes to earthly rulers? Their children, or strangers?”

²⁶“Strangers,” Peter answered.

“Then children are exempt,” Jesus said. ²⁷“But so that we don’t trip them up, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take the first fish you catch. When you open its mouth, you’ll find a coin. Take it and give it to them for both of us.”

Chapter Eighteen

That very hour the disciples approached Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the reign of heaven?”

²He called a child whom he set among them ³and said, “Believe me when I say that unless you change and become like children, there’s no way you’ll ever enter the reign of heaven. ⁴So whoever is as humble as this child is the greatest in the reign of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, ⁶but whoever trips up one of these little ones who trust in me, it would be better for them if a huge millstone were hung around their neck and they were sunk in the deep sea!

⁷How awful that the world trips people up! It’s inevitable that people will be tripped up, but how awful it will be for the person who causes it! ⁸If your hand or foot trips you up, cut it off and throw it away. It’s better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be taken out with the trash and incinerated. ⁹If your eye trips you up, pluck it out and throw it away. It’s better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be taken out with the trash and incinerated. ¹⁰Make sure that you don’t put down one of these little ones, because I say that in heaven their angels always face my Mother who’s in heaven.

¹²“What do you think? If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, don’t they leave the ninety-nine, go to the mountains, and look for the one that has gotten lost? ¹³If they find it, believe me when I say that they rejoice more over the one than the ninety-nine that have not gotten lost. ¹⁴In the same way, your Mother who’s in heaven doesn’t want one of these little ones to die.

¹⁵“If your sister or brother offends you, go and discuss the problem just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you’ve won back your sister or brother. ¹⁶But if they don’t listen, take one or two more people with you so that ‘everything can be confirmed by two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they refuse to listen to them, bring the issue to the community. If they refuse to listen to the community too, treat them like a Gentile or a toll collector. ¹⁸Believe me when I say that whatever you prevent on earth will have been prevented in heaven, and whatever you allow on earth will have been allowed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, believe me when I say that if two of you on earth agree on anything that they ask, my Mother who’s in heaven will do it for them. ²⁰Because where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there among them.”

²¹Then Peter approached him. “Lord,” he asked, “if a sister or brother keeps offending me, how many times do I have to forgive them? Seven times?”

²²“I say not seven times, but seventy times seven,” Jesus answered. ²³“The reign of heaven can be compared to a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his bondservants. ²⁴When he started, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought before him. ²⁵But because he couldn’t pay, his lord ordered him to be sold along with his wife, his children, and all that he had in order to make the payment.

²⁶“So the bondservant fell down, bowed to him, and said, ‘Have patience with me, and I’ll repay everything to you!’ ²⁷Feeling sorry for him, the lord released that bondservant and forgave the debt.

²⁸“But that bondservant went out and found one of his fellow bondservants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him by the throat and said, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow bondservant fell down at his feet and begged him. ‘Have patience with me,’ he said, ‘and I’ll repay you!’ ³⁰He wouldn’t, but instead threw him in prison until he could pay back what was due.

³¹“When his fellow bondservants saw what was done, they were very sorry. They told their lord the whole story.

³²“Then his lord summoned him and said, ‘You evil bondservant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow bondservant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His lord was so angry that he handed him over to the jailers until he could repay everything that he owed him.

³⁵“Similarly, my heavenly Mother will hold you accountable if you don’t forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

Chapter Nineteen

When Jesus finished speaking, he left Galilee and entered Judea beyond the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him and he healed them there.

³Pharisees approached to test him and asked, “Is it okay for a husband to divorce his wife for any reason?”

⁴He answered, “Haven’t you read that in the beginning the Maker made them female and male, ⁵and said,

‘This is why a man will leave his mother and father,
and will join his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?

⁶They’re no longer two, but one. So don’t let mortals tear apart what Godde has joined together.”

⁷“Then why did Moses instruct us to divorce our wives?” they asked.

⁸He answered, “Because you’re stubborn, Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but it hasn’t been that way from the beginning. ⁹I say that whoever divorces someone (except for promiscuity) and remarries is unfaithful.”

¹⁰His disciples said, “If that’s the case, it’s better not to marry!”

¹¹But he said to them, “Not everyone can accept this teaching except those to whom it is given. ¹²Some people can’t marry because they were born that way, some people can’t marry because they were made that way, and some people don’t marry for the sake of the reign of heaven. Whoever is able to accept it, let them accept it.”

¹³Then children were brought to him so he could lay his hands on them and pray, but the disciples scolded them. ¹⁴“Welcome the children,” Jesus said, “and don’t stop them from coming to me, because the reign of heaven belongs to ones like these.” ¹⁵He laid his hands on them and then went away.

¹⁶Someone approached him and asked, “Teacher, what good thing can I do to have eternal life?”

¹⁷He answered, “Why do you ask me what’s good? There is only one who’s good. But if you want to enter into life, keep the precepts.”

¹⁸“Which ones?” he asked.

“‘Do not murder,’” Jesus said. “‘Do not be unfaithful.’ ‘Do not steal.’ ‘Do not lie.’ ¹⁹‘Honor your mother and father.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁰“I’ve done all these things,” the young man said. “What more do I need?”

²¹"If you want to go all the way," Jesus answered, "then go, sell what you have and give to those who are poor, and you'll have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me."

²²But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had many things.

²³Jesus said to his disciples, "Believe me when I say that it will be difficult for a rich person to enter the reign of heaven. ²⁴Again I say, it's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich person to enter Godde's reign."

²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished. "Then who can be given life?" they asked.

²⁶Looking at them, Jesus said, "With mortals this is impossible, but with Godde all things are possible."

²⁷Then Peter answered, "Look, we've left everything and followed you. So what will we have?"

²⁸Jesus said, "Believe me when I say that in the rebirth, when the Son of Woman will sit on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹Everyone who has left homes, sisters, brothers, or mother, father, children, or property for my sake will receive one hundred times more and will inherit eternal life.

³⁰"But many who are first will be last, and last who will be first.

Chapter Twenty

"The reign of heaven can be compared to the master of a household who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²When he had agreed to pay the workers a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³"He went out at about nine o'clock and saw others standing around in the marketplace. ⁴He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too, and I'll pay you whatever is just.' So they went on their way.

⁵"He went out again at about twelve o'clock and at three o'clock, and did the same thing.

⁶"At about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around. He said to them, 'Why are you standing around here all day?'

⁷"They said, 'Because no one has hired us.'

"He said, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

⁸"When evening came, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.'

⁹"When those who were hired at about five o'clock came, they received a denarius apiece. ¹⁰When the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but they too received a denarius apiece. ¹¹When they received it, they complained about the master of the household. ¹²'The last ones have worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have paid them the same thing you have paid us, who have worked all day in the scorching heat!'

¹³"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I'm doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what's yours and go away. I want to give to this last person just as much as I gave you. ¹⁵Aren't I allowed to do what I want with what I own? Or are you jealous that I'm good?'

¹⁶"So the last will be first, and the first last."

¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside. ¹⁸"Look," he told them, "We're going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Woman will be handed over to the chief priests and scholars. They'll condemn him to death ¹⁹and hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify; but on the third day he'll be raised up."

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons approached him with her sons, bowing to him and asking him for something.

²¹"What do you want?" he asked.

She said, "Order that my two sons may sit on either side of you in your reign."

²²But Jesus answered, "You don't know what you're asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I'm about to drink?"

"We're able," they said.

²³"You will indeed drink my cup," he said, "but sitting on either side of me is not mine to grant; that belongs to those for whom it has been reserved by my Mother."

²⁴When the ten heard that, they got angry at the two brothers.

²⁵But Jesus called them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great leaders exercise authority over them. ²⁶It won't be that way among you, but whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant. ²⁷Whoever desires to be first among you will be your bondservant, ²⁸even as the Son of Woman came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life to liberate many."

²⁹As they went out from Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰Two men who were blind were sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Have mercy on us, son of Bathsheba and David!" ³¹The crowd scolded them, telling them to be quiet, but they cried out even more, "Lord, have mercy on us, son of Bathsheba and David!"

³²Jesus stopped, called them, and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

³³"Lord, open our eyes," they told him.

³⁴Being moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately their eyes saw and they followed him.

Chapter Twenty-One

When they approached Jerusalem and reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ²with these instructions: "Go to the village opposite you, and immediately you'll find a donkey and a colt tied. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say, 'The Lord needs them,' and they'll immediately send them."

⁴This was done to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
'Look, your King comes to you,
humble, and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶The disciples went and did what Jesus instructed them to do. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their coats on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds around him kept shouting:

"Praise the son of Bathsheba and David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lady!
Praise to the highest!"

¹⁰When he arrived at Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked.

¹¹The crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."

¹²Jesus entered the temple and threw out everyone who did business there. He overturned the money changers' tables and the seats of those who were selling doves.

¹³He said, "It is written:

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

¹⁴Those who were blind and lame approached him in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But the chief priests and scholars got angry when they saw the wonderful things that he did and heard the children crying in the temple, "Praise the son of Bathsheba and David!" ¹⁶So they asked him, "Do you hear what they're saying?"

"Yes," Jesus answered. "Didn't you ever read,

'From the mouths of babes and nursing babies
You've produced praise for yourself?'"

¹⁷He left, went out of the city to Bethany, and stayed there overnight.

¹⁸As he returned to the city the next morning, he was hungry. ¹⁹Seeing a fig tree by the road, he approached it, but found nothing on it except leaves. "May you never bear fruit again!" he said.

Immediately the fig tree withered away. ²⁰When the disciples saw it, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree immediately wither away?" they asked.

²¹Jesus answered, "Believe me when I say that if you have trust and don't doubt, not only can you do that to the fig tree; you can even tell this mountain, 'Get up and throw yourself into the sea,' and it will happen. ²²Whatever you ask for in prayer and trust, you will receive."

²³When he entered the temple and started teaching, the chief priests and elders of the people approached him. "On whose authority do you do these things?" they asked. "Who gave you this authority?"

²⁴"I'll ask you one question too," Jesus answered. "If you answer me, I'll tell you on whose authority I do these things. ²⁵Where did John get authority to baptize? From heaven or from mortals?"

They talked among themselves. "If we say 'From heaven,' he'll ask us, 'Then why did you not trust him?' ²⁶But if we say 'From mortals' – we're afraid of the crowd, because they all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

"Nor will I tell you on whose authority I do these things," he told them. ²⁸"But what do you think? A man had two sons. He approached the first one and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' ²⁹He answered, 'I won't,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰He approached the second one and said the same thing. He answered, 'Yes, sir,' but he didn't go. ³¹Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first one," they answered.

"Believe me when I say that the toll collectors and sex workers are entering Godde's reign Godde before you," Jesus said. ³²"John came teaching justice, and you didn't trust him, but the toll collectors and sex workers did. When you saw it, you didn't even repent afterward so that you might trust him.

³³"Listen to another story. The master of a household planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower, leased it out to sharecroppers, and left for another country.

³⁴"When the season for the fruit approached, he sent his bondservants to the sharecroppers to receive his fruit. ³⁵The sharecroppers took his bondservants, beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶"So he sent more bondservants, but they treated them the same way.

³⁷"Then he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They'll respect my son.'

³⁸"But when the sharecroppers saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him and seize his inheritance!' ³⁹So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

⁴⁰"So when the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those sharecroppers?"

⁴¹They said, "He'll destroy those awful people and lease out the vineyard to others who will give him the fruit in its season."

⁴²Jesus said, "Didn't you ever read in the Scriptures,

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

This was from the Lady.
It is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³"So I say Godde's reign will be taken away from you and given to a people who bring out its fruit.
⁴⁴Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but it will crush whomever it falls on."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and Pharisees heard his stories, they understood that he was talking about them. ⁴⁶They thought about seizing him but they were afraid of the crowds, because they considered him to be a prophet.

Chapter Twenty-Two

Jesus spoke to them again in stories. ²He said, "The reign of heaven can be compared to a certain king who organized a wedding feast for his son ³and sent his bondservants to summon the invited guests to the feast. But they wouldn't come.

⁴"He sent other bondservants with these instructions: 'Tell those who are invited, "Look, I've prepared my dinner. My cattle and my fat calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!"' ⁵But they made light of it and went their own ways; one to their farm, another to their business; ⁶and the rest grabbed his bondservants, humiliated them, and killed them.

⁷"When the king heard about it, he was angry. He sent his armies, destroyed the murderers, and burned their city.

⁸"Then he said to his bondservants, 'The wedding is ready, but the invited guests weren't worth it. ⁹So go to the crossroads of the highways and invite as many people as you can find to the wedding feast.'

¹⁰"Those bondservants went to the highways and rounded up as many people as they could, both evil and good. The wedding was filled with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who didn't have wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, 'Friend, why did you come in here without wearing wedding clothes?' He was speechless. ¹³The king said to the servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. ¹⁴Because many are summoned, but few are chosen.'"

¹⁵Then the Pharisees left and started plotting to trap him in his speech. ¹⁶They sent their disciples along with the Herodians to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are honest and teach the way of Godde in truth, no matter whom you teach, because you aren't partial to anyone. ¹⁷So tell us, what do you think? Is it okay to pay tribute to Caesar, or not?"

¹⁸But Jesus knew their malice. He asked, "Why do you test me, hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the money." They showed him a denarius.

²⁰"Whose image and inscription are on it?" he asked.

²¹"Caesar's," they answered.

"So give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," he told them, "and give to Godde what belongs to Godde."

²²When they heard it, they were amazed. They left and went away.

²³That day Sadducees (who don't believe in resurrection) approached him. They asked, ²⁴"Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies without children, his brother will marry his wife and raise children for his brother.' ²⁵Now, there were seven brothers. The first married and died without children, so his brother married his widow. ²⁶In the same way, the second one also died without children, and the third one, all the way to the seventh one. ²⁷After they all died, the woman died too. ²⁸So in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For they were all married to her."

²⁹But Jesus answered, "You're in error, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of Godde. ³⁰In the resurrection people aren't married or given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹Concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by Godde, ³²'I am the Godde of Sarah

and Abraham, the Godde of Rebekah and Isaac, and the Godde of Leah, Rachel and Jacob?' Godde isn't the Godde of the dead, but of the living."

³³When the crowds heard his teaching, they were astonished. ³⁴But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they got together. ³⁵One of them, a lawyer, asked a question to test him.

³⁶"Teacher, what's the greatest precept in the Torah?"

³⁷"Love the Lady your Godde with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind,' Jesus answered. ³⁸"This is the first and greatest precept. ³⁹The second is, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Torah and the prophets depend on these two precepts."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question. ⁴²"What do you think of the Christ?" he asked. "Whose son is he?"

"Of Bathsheba and David," they said.

⁴³He asked, "Then why did the Spirit inspire David to call him Lord:

⁴⁴The Lady said to my Lord,
sit on my right hand
until I make your enemies a footrest for your feet'?

⁴⁵"If David describes Christ as his Lord, how can Christ be his son?"

⁴⁶No one was able to answer a word, nor did anyone dare to ask him any more questions from that day on.

Chapter Twenty-Three

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. ²"The scholars and Pharisees sit in Moses' place," he said. ³"So pay attention to whatever they tell you and do it, but don't do what they do because they don't do what they say. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens that are hard to bear and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves aren't willing to lift a finger to help them. ⁵They do everything to be noticed. They make their prayer boxes broad and lengthen the tassels of their cloaks. ⁶They love the place of honor at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷the greetings in the marketplaces, and being called 'Rabbi.' ⁸But don't let yourself be called 'Rabbi,' because you have one teacher, and all of you are sisters and brothers. ⁹Call no one on earth your 'mother,' because you have one Mother, who's in heaven. ¹⁰Nor let yourselves be called 'Masters,' because you have one Master, the Christ. ¹¹But whoever is greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²Whoever is exalted will be humbled, and whoever is humbled will be exalted.

¹³"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you close the reign of heaven to people; you don't enter yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter.

¹⁴"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel around by sea and land to make one convert, and when they become one, you make them twice as deserving of being taken out with the trash and incinerated as yourselves.

¹⁵"How awful for you, you ignorant guides! You say, 'If someone promises by the temple, it means nothing; but if someone promises by the gold in the temple, they're obligated to keep their promise.' ¹⁷You ignorant fools! Which is greater, the gold or the temple which makes the gold holy? ¹⁸If someone promises by the altar, it means nothing; but if someone promises by the gift on the altar, they're obligated to keep their promise?' ¹⁹You ignorant fools! Which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy? ²⁰So whoever promises by the altar, promises by it and by everything on it. ²¹Whoever promises by the temple, promises by it and by the one who lives in it. ²²Whoever promises by heaven, promises by the throne of Godde and by the one who sits on it.

²³"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! You set aside ten percent of your mint, dill, and cumin, but have ignored the weightier matters of the Torah: justice, mercy, and trust. You

should've done these without ignoring the others. ²⁴You ignorant guides, you strain a gnat out of your drink but swallow a camel!

²⁵"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of your cup and plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶You ignorant Pharisee, first clean the inside of your cup and plate, so the outside may be clean too.

²⁷"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! You're like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but on the inside they're dirty and full of dead people's bones. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear just, but on the inside you're full of hypocrisy and crime.

²⁹"How awful for you, scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the just ³⁰and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we wouldn't have participated with them in killing the prophets.' ³¹So you prove to yourselves that you're children of those who killed the prophets. ³²So finish what your ancestors started. ³³You serpents, you offspring of vipers, how will you avoid being taken out with the trash and incinerated? ³⁴Look, that's why I send prophets to you, wise women and men and scholars. Some of them you'll kill and crucify; some of them you'll flog in your synagogues, and harass from town to town, ³⁵so that you may be guilty of all the just blood shed on earth, from the blood of just Abel to the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶Believe me when I say that all these things will happen to this generation.

³⁷"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! ³⁸Look, your house is left to you deserted. ³⁹For I say that you won't see me from now on, until you say 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Chapter Twenty-Four

Jesus left the temple and was going on his way. His disciples approached him to show him the buildings of the temple. ²But he answered, "You see all of these things, don't you? Believe me when I say that not one stone will be left on another without being thrown down."

³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately. "Tell us when these things will happen," they said. "What's the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

⁴"Be careful that no one misleads you," Jesus answered, ⁵"because many people will come in my name and say, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. ⁶You will hear about wars and rumors of wars. See that you aren't anxious, for all this must happen, but it's not the end yet. ⁷Peoples will rise against each other and empire against empire, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸But all these things are just the beginning of birth pains. ⁹Then they'll hand you over to oppression and will kill you. You'll be hated by all peoples because of me. ¹⁰Then many people will be tripped up, and will hand over each other, and will hate each other. ¹¹Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²Because crime will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be given life. ¹⁴This good news of God's reign will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a witness to all peoples, and then the end will come.

¹⁵"So when you see the despicable outrage standing in the temple as described by Daniel the prophet (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains! ¹⁷Don't let the person on their housetop go down to get the things in their house. ¹⁸Don't let the person in the field go back to get their clothes. ¹⁹How awful for those mothers who are pregnant and nursing in those days! ²⁰Pray that your escape will not happen in the winter or on a Sabbath, ²¹because then there will be great oppression, the likes of which haven't happened since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again. ²²No one will survive if those days aren't cut short, but for the sake of the chosen ones those days will be cut short.

²³“Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There,’ don’t trust them. ²⁴Because false Christs and false prophets will arise, and they will show great signs and wonders to mislead even the chosen ones if possible. ²⁵Look, I’ve warned you beforehand.

²⁶“So if they tell you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ don’t go out; ‘Look, he is in here,’ don’t trust them. ²⁷Because as lightning flashes in the east and is seen in the west, so will the Son of Woman come. ²⁸Wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather. ²⁹But immediately after the oppression of those days:

the sun will go dark,
the moon will not give its light,
the stars will fall from heaven,
and the powers of heaven be shaken;

³⁰and then the sign of the Son of Woman will appear in heaven. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they’ll see the Son of Woman coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹He’ll send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they’ll gather his chosen ones from the four corners of the earth, from one end of heaven to the other.

³²“Now learn from this story of the fig tree: When its branch has become tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³In the same way, when you see all these things, you know that it’s near, even at the doors. ³⁴Believe me when I say that all these things will happen before the end of this generation. ³⁵(My words will last longer than heaven and earth.) ³⁶But no one knows when, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, but only the Mother.

³⁷“The coming of the Son of Woman will be like the days of Noah. ³⁸In those days, before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ship. ³⁹They didn’t know until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Son of Woman will be like that. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²So watch, because you don’t know when your Lord comes. ⁴³But know this: If the master of the house had known when the thief was coming, he would’ve kept watch and wouldn’t have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴So be ready, because the Son of Woman will come when you don’t expect it.

⁴⁵“Then who is the trustworthy and wise bondservant whose lord has set them over the household to give their food when it’s time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that bondservant if their lord finds them doing so when he comes. ⁴⁷Believe me when I say that he’ll set them over all that he owns. ⁴⁸But if that bad bondservant says in their heart, ‘My lord’s coming is delayed,’ ⁴⁹and begins to beat their fellow bondservants and eats and drinks too much, ⁵⁰the lord of that bondservant will come when they don’t expect it, at a time that they don’t know, ⁵¹and will rip them to shreds and throw them out with the hypocrites. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

Chapter Twenty-Five

“Then the reign of heaven will be compared to ten attendants who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³Those who were foolish took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

⁵“Now while the groom delayed, they all got tired and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry: ‘Look, the groom is coming! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the attendants got up and readied their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’

⁹“But the wise answered, ‘What if there isn’t enough for us and you? Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy it for yourselves.’

¹⁰“While they went away to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut.

¹¹“Afterward the other attendants came too and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door!’

¹²“But he answered, ‘Believe me when I say that I don’t know you.’

¹³“So watch, because you don’t know when I’m coming.

¹⁴“It can be compared to a man going into another country. He summoned his own bondservants and entrusted his goods to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, according to what they each could manage. Then he went on his journey.

¹⁶“Immediately the one who received five talents traded with them and made another five talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who got two gained another two. ¹⁸But the one who received one buried it and hid his lord’s money.

¹⁹“Now after a long time the lord of those bondservants returned to settle accounts with them. ²⁰The one who received five talents brought another five talents and said, ‘Lord, you gave me five talents. I’ve gained another five talents besides them.’

²¹“His lord told him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy bondservant. You’ve been trustworthy over a few things, so I’ll set you over many things. Enter the joy of your lord.’

²²“The one who got two talents said, ‘Lord, you gave me two talents. I’ve gained another two talents besides them.’

²³“His lord told him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy bondservant. You’ve been trustworthy over a few things, so I’ll set you over many things. Enter the joy of your lord.’

²⁴“The one who had received one talent said, ‘Lord, I knew you that you’re a hard man, reaping where you didn’t sow and collecting where you didn’t invest. ²⁵I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. You have what is yours.’

²⁶“But his lord answered him, ‘You evil and lazy bondservant! You knew that I reap where I didn’t sow and collect where I didn’t invest. ²⁷So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and upon my return I should’ve received back my own money with interest. ²⁸So take away the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. ²⁹Whoever has will be given more, and then some; but whoever doesn’t have will lose even what little they do have. ³⁰Throw the unprofitable bondservant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.’

³¹“But when the Son of Woman comes in his glory with all his angels, then he’ll sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the peoples will be gathered before him, and he’ll separate them from one another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He’ll set the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. ³⁴Then the king will tell those on his right hand, ‘Come, blessed of my Mother, inherit the reign prepared for you since the foundation of the world, ³⁵because I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you took me in. ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷“Then those who are just will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you as a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’

⁴⁰“The king will answer them, ‘Believe me when I say that whatever you did for one of the least of my sisters and brothers, you did for me.’

⁴¹“Then he’ll say to those on his left hand, ‘You who are cursed, you’ll be taken out with the trash and incinerated along with the devil and its angels; ⁴²because I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in. I was naked and you didn’t clothe me. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

⁴⁴“Then they’ll answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and didn’t help you?’

⁴⁵“Then he’ll answer them, ‘Believe me when I say that whatever you didn’t do for one of the least of these, you didn’t do for me.’ ⁴⁶They’ll be taken out with the trash and incinerated, but those who are just will enter eternal life.”

Chapter Twenty-Six

When Jesus finished teaching, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming and the Son of Woman will be handed over to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests, scholars, and elders of the people gathered in the court of the high priest, who was known as Caiaphas. ⁴They started plotting to trick Jesus so they could capture him and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, or else the people might riot.”

⁶Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon who had leprosy, ⁷a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment and poured it on his head as he reclined at the table. ⁸But when his disciples saw this, they got angry. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹“This ointment could’ve been sold for a lot of money and given to those who are poor.”

¹⁰However, knowing what they were saying, Jesus asked, “Why are you bugging this woman? She’s done a good deed for me. ¹¹You’ll always have people who are poor with you, but you won’t always have me. ¹²She poured this ointment on my body to prepare me for burial. ¹³Believe me when I say that wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will be talked about in memory of her.”

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, who was known as Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I set him up?” They gave him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶From that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹⁷Now on the first day of the Unleavened Bread Feast, the disciples approached Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?”

¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain person, and tell him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is near. I’ll eat the Passover meal at your house with my disciples.”’”

¹⁹The disciples did as Jesus instructed and prepared the Passover. ²⁰Now when evening came, he was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹As they were eating, he said, “Believe me when I say that one of you will betray me.”

²²They were very sad and started to ask, “It isn’t me, is it, Lord?”

²³He answered, “The one who dipped his hand with me in the dish will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Woman will die as the Scriptures say he will, but how awful for that man who betrays the Son of Woman! It would be better for him if he hadn’t been born.”

²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, asked, “It isn’t me, is it, Rabbi?”

“You said it,” he answered.

²⁶As they were eating, Jesus took bread, prayed over it, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” ²⁷He took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, “All of you drink it, ²⁸because this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of wrongdoings. ²⁹But I say that I won’t drink of this wine from now on, until I drink it anew with you in my Mother’s reign.” ³⁰When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹Then Jesus said, “All of you will be tripped up because of me tonight, because it is written:

‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

³²But after I’m raised up, I’ll go before you into Galilee.”

³³But Peter answered, “Even if everyone else will be tripped up because of you, I’ll never be tripped up.”

³⁴Jesus said, "Believe me when I say that before the rooster crows tonight, you'll disown me three times."

³⁵Peter answered, "Even if I have to die with you, I won't disown you." All of the disciples said the same thing.

³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. He started to feel sad and very anxious. ³⁸Then he said, "I'm so sad it's killing me. Stay here and watch with me."

³⁹He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, "My Mother, if it's possible, let this cup pass me by. Yet not what I want, but what you want."

⁴⁰He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, "What, couldn't you watch with me for one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you aren't tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Mother, if this cup can't pass me by without me drinking it, may your will be done." ⁴³He came again and found them sleeping, because they couldn't keep their eyes open.

⁴⁴He left them again and prayed a third time, saying the same prayer. ⁴⁵Then he came to his disciples and asked, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the time has come, and the Son of Woman is being handed over to wrongdoers. ⁴⁶Get up; let's go. Look, the one who betrays me is near!"

⁴⁷While he was still talking, Judas, one of the twelve, approached. He was with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. They were from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸The betrayer had given them a sign: "Whoever I kiss is the one. Seize him."

⁴⁹Immediately he approached Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

⁵⁰Jesus said, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they grabbed Jesus and took him. ⁵¹One of those who were with Jesus reached out, drew his sword, and lunged at the bondservant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword away, because everyone who uses the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Or do you think that I couldn't ask my Mother to send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled?"

⁵⁵At that time Jesus asked the crowds, "Have you come with swords and clubs to capture me like a rebel? I sat teaching in the temple every day, and you didn't arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has happened to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets."

Then all the disciples left him and fled. ⁵⁷Those who had taken Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scholars and the elders were gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter followed from a distance to the court of the high priest. He entered and sat with the officers to see the end.

⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole court looked for false testimony against Jesus so they could put him to death. ⁶⁰Even though many perjurers came forward, they didn't find any evidence. But at last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This man said, 'I'm able to destroy the temple of Godde and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶²The high priest stood up and asked him, "Don't you have an answer? What is it they're saying about you?"

⁶³But Jesus held his peace.

The high priest answered, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living Godde whether you are the Christ, the Son of Godde."

⁶⁴"Whatever you say," Jesus said. "But I tell you that after this you'll see the Son of Woman sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes. "Sacrilege!" he cried. "Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard his sacrilege. ⁶⁶What do you think?"

"He deserves death!" they answered. ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and beat him with their fists. Some slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy, Christ! Who hit you?"

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the court. A maid approached him and said, "You too were with Jesus, the Galilean!"

⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

⁷¹When he went out onto the porch, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth too."

⁷²Again he denied it with an oath: "I don't know the man."

⁷³After a little while those who stood by approached and said to Peter, "Surely you're one of them too, because you have the same accent."

⁷⁴Then he started to curse and swear. "I don't know the man!"

Immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you'll disown me three times." He left and wept bitterly.

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Now when morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people started plotting against Jesus to put him to death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. ³Then Judas, who betrayed him, felt remorse when he saw that Jesus was condemned. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. ⁴"I've done wrong because I betrayed an innocent person," he said.

But they asked, "Why should we care? You deal with it."

⁵He threw down the pieces of silver in the sanctuary and withdrew, then left and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It's not appropriate to put them into the treasury, since it's blood money." ⁷They discussed it among themselves, then used them to buy the potter's field to bury strangers in. ⁸So that field has been known as "The Field of Blood" to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

"They took the thirty pieces of silver,
the price of the one for whom a price had been set,
whom some of the children of Israel priced,
¹⁰and they gave them for the potter's field,
as the Lady instructed me."

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor. The governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
"Whatever you say," Jesus answered.

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he didn't answer. ¹³Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear all the things they're saying about you?"

¹⁴He didn't answer, not even one word; so the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the Feast the governor regularly released to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they held a notable prisoner known as Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they were gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is known as Christ?" ¹⁸Because he knew that Jesus had been handed over because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent a message to him: "Have nothing to do with that just man, because I've been bothered all day by a dream I had about him."

²⁰Now the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹But the governor asked, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

"Barabbas!" they said.

²²Pilate asked, "Then what should I do to Jesus, who is known as Christ?"

"Crucify him!" they said.

²³But he asked, "Why? What crime has he committed?"

But they cried out all the more, "Crucify him!"

²⁴So when Pilate saw that there was no point in dragging it out any longer and that a riot was about to erupt, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd. "I'm innocent of this blood," he said. "You deal with it."

²⁵All the people answered, "We'll be held accountable for his blood!"

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed over to be crucified. ²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison together against him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹They wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. They kneeled down before him and mocked him. "Hail, King of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spat on him, took the reed, and struck him on the head. ³¹When they had mocked him, they took off his robe, put his clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they came out, they found a man of Cyrene known as Simon and forced him to go with them to carry his cross. ³³They came to a place called "Golgotha," which means "Place of the Skull." ³⁴They gave him sour wine mixed with something bitter to drink. When he tasted it, he would not drink. ³⁵When they crucified him, they cast lots and divided his clothes among themselves. ³⁶They sat and watched him there. ³⁷They set an inscription over his head with the accusation, "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

³⁸Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right hand and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by ridiculed him, shaking their heads. ⁴⁰"You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, rescue yourself!" they said. "If you are the Son of Godde, come down from the cross!"

⁴¹In the same way, the chief priests, scholars, and elders also mocked him. ⁴²"He rescued others," they said, "but he can't rescue himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross now and we will trust in him. ⁴³He trusts in Godde. Let Godde rescue him now if she wants him; for he said, 'I am the Son of Godde.'" ⁴⁴The rebels who were crucified with him leveled the same criticism.

⁴⁵Now there was darkness all over the land from noon until three o'clock. ⁴⁶At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" Which means, "My Godde, my Godde, why have you abandoned me?"

⁴⁷When they heard it, some of them who stood there said, "This man is calling Elijah."

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, "Let him be. Let's see whether Elijah comes to rescue him."

⁵⁰Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. ⁵¹The veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs opened and many of the holy people who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After Jesus' resurrection they came out of the tombs, entered the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those who were watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that happened, they were very afraid. "Truly this was the Son of Godde!" they said.

⁵⁵Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and ministered to him were watching from a distance. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷That evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived. His name was Joseph, and he was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that the body be handed over. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock. He rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and left. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Now on the next day (the day after the Preparation Day), the chief priests and Pharisees assembled before Pilate. ⁶³"Sir," they said, "we remember what that charlatan said while he was still alive: 'After three days I'll rise again.'" ⁶⁴So order that the tomb be secured until the third day, in case his disciples come at night, steal his body, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' That fraud would be even worse."

⁶⁵Pilate said, "You have a guard. Go and secure it as best you can." ⁶⁶So they went with the guard and secured the tomb, sealing the stone.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Now after the Sabbath, as it started to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ²There was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled away the stone, and sat on it. ³It looked like lightning and its clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid they fainted. ⁵The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know that you're looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. ⁶He is not here! He has risen, just as he said. Come and see where he was lying. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and look, he has gone before you into Galilee; you'll see him there.' Look, I have told you so."

⁸They quickly left the tomb with fear and great joy, running to tell his disciples. ⁹On the way Jesus met them and said, "Rejoice!"

They approached him, grabbed his feet, and bowed to him.

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go tell my sisters and brothers that they should go into Galilee, and they'll see me there."

¹¹Now while they were going, some of the guards entered the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When they had met with the elders and discussed it, they gave a large amount of silver to the soldiers. ¹³"Claim that his disciples came by night and stole his body while we slept," they said. ¹⁴"If this comes to the governor's attention, we'll protect you so you'll have nothing to fear." ¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were told. This rumor was spread throughout Judea and continues even to this day.

¹⁶But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they bowed to him, but some doubted. ¹⁸Jesus approached them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹So go and make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to do everything that I told you. Look, I am with you always, even to the end of time."