



NEW TESTAMENT

with Psalms and Proverbs

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION



CROSSWAY

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ESV Vest Pocket New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs, Red Letter

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

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ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Acts.....	Acts	Matthew.....	Matt.
Colossians.....	Col.	1 Peter.....	1 Pet.
1 Corinthians.....	1 Cor.	2 Peter.....	2 Pet.
2 Corinthians.....	2 Cor.	Philemon.....	Philem.
Ephesians.....	Eph.	Philippians.....	Phil.
Galatians.....	Gal.	Proverbs.....	Prov.
Hebrews.....	Heb.	Psalms.....	Ps.
James.....	James	Revelation.....	Rev.
John.....	John	Romans.....	Rom.
1 John.....	1 John	1 Thessalonians.....	1 Thess.
2 John.....	2 John	2 Thessalonians.....	2 Thess.
3 John.....	3 John	1 Timothy.....	1 Tim.
Jude.....	Jude	2 Timothy.....	2 Tim.
Luke.....	Luke	Titus.....	Titus
Mark.....	Mark		

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

It will be important to understand a few facts about the book that you are holding.

1. Although it may not appear so at first, this book is telling one story – a story encompassing all of human history (see page vi, “What Is the Message of the Bible?”). God is its author and main character. He began the story, led it to its climax, and will one day end it. The story began when God created everything out of nothing, including human beings, who were given the responsibility of ruling over this creation. Yet, very soon afterward, humanity rebelled against the one who made them, bringing sin, sorrow, sickness, and death into God’s creation. In the centuries that followed, God chose a people through whom he would restore human beings; he taught them and led them and prepared them for the moment at which the book you are holding begins. On the first pages, you will read about God himself entering into human history, becoming a part of his creation, in the person of Jesus Christ. This was the climax of the story. This moment in time changed everything.

2. The New Testament is composed of 27 distinct documents, but all of them focus on the message of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospels. Gospel means “good news.” These books tell the story of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, during the time that he was on earth.

- Acts tells about the years immediately after Jesus’ life, particularly how the Holy Spirit enabled the followers of Jesus to spread the news about his death and resurrection.

- The next 21 books are epistles (or letters) written by the leaders of the Christian church to other individuals or entire church communities. They continue to explain the importance of what Jesus accomplished.

- Revelation is a book that brings the New Testament to a close with a vision of Jesus’ future return to the earth.

3. Psalms and Proverbs are two books from the Old Testament, and they are rich with captivating poetry that teaches us how to worship God and how to live in light of his Word.

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE?

The book that you are holding is unlike any other book. Every other book was written by people. This is the only book the world has ever seen that was also, and even more fundamentally, written by God. This is God's message to the world, telling us where we came from, what our purpose in life is, how to be restored to our true humanity, and where all of human history is headed.

The Bible is one united story. It was told by many different people over many centuries, but God has guided the story all the way along. The Bible is divided into two parts. The first part is called the Old Testament. It tells of the creation of the world in Eden, mankind's fall into sin and ruin, and the beginnings of God's plan to save the world. God calls Abraham and his descendants to be a blessing to the world and God promises to bring deliverance into the world through Abraham. Abraham's descendants become known as Israel. After many years of slavery in Egypt, God delivers Israel through Moses and gives Israel the law to show them what it means to be God's own family.

Throughout the Old Testament, however, God's people continually fail to love God, despite his great grace and favor toward them. God's people turn out to be just as broken and sinful as the nations around them. The prophets of the Old Testament—men such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, and others—call on the people to trust in God again, but very few do. In time, the people are given up to slavery again, conquered by the Assyrians and then by the Babylonians, and exiled from their homeland that God had given them.

History falls quiet for about four hundred years. Then, in a quiet village, to a poor family, a baby boy is born.

This child grows to be a man and lives the way Israel was supposed to live—in righteousness and love. This man follows the Mosaic law completely, and not only follows it but fulfills it. He is the embodiment of the law. He also begins the work of ultimate restoration by teaching the people, healing the sick, and raising

the dead—in other words, restoring the world to the way it was supposed to be.

Despite living the only perfect life the world has seen, this man, Jesus, was executed by the leaders of the day. He suffered and died on a cross to absorb the wrath of God that sinful humans deserve. He did not stay dead, however. His resurrection was the first instance in human history of the coming new age when God will restore this world. As sinners trust in Christ's saving work, they are forgiven and swept up into this life of the age to come even though much sin remains. One day, Jesus will return to earth once more and wipe out all sin, sickness, darkness, and evil. He will live with his people forever.

This is the message of the Bible. The Bible is a book of life in a world of death. The resounding message of Scripture is the grace of God washing over penitent sinners. Christianity is good news for broken people due to the finished work of Christ. All he asks is that we trust him. This story of Jesus was anticipated in the Old Testament, and it is told explicitly in the New Testament, which you now hold in your hands. As you read these pages, you read of God's great heart of love for men and women—for *you*, as you trust in Christ, the friend of sinners.

WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT . . .

ACCEPTANCE

John 6:37; Romans 12:3, 6;
Ephesians 1:5; 3:20

ANGELS / DEMONS

Matthew 10:1; 28:18; 22:30;
Mark 1:13; Luke 4:41; 7:21;
2 Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians
6:10–18; Hebrews 1:3–4;
13:2; 1 Peter 1:12; Revelation
12:11

CHURCH

Acts 2:41; Romans 8:17; 12:5;
1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians
5:25; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews
2:11–12; 10:24–25

COURAGE

Acts 4:13–31; Ephesians 6:10–18

COVENANT

Matthew 26:26–28;
2 Corinthians 3:5–6; Hebrews
8:6–7; 13; 9:15; 12:22, 24

DEATH

John 11:25; 14:1–3;
1 Corinthians 15:54;
2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians
1:21; 3:20–21; 2 Timothy 1:10

DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 10:24–25; 10:38–39,
42; 12:49; 28:19–20; John
8:31–32; 14:15

DIVORCE

Matthew 5:32; 19:3–6, 9;
1 Corinthians 7:10–13

DRINKING AND DRUGS

Luke 4:18–36; John 8:36;
Romans 6:11–13; 1 Corinthians
6:9–11; 10:13; Ephesians 5:18

ETERNITY

John 3:16; 4:14; 10:27–28;
Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians
15:54–55; Hebrews 13:8;
Revelation 21:1, 3; 22:5

FAITH

Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:22–26;
Romans 1:17; 5:1–2; 10:8–11, 17;
Hebrews 11; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:6–9

FINANCIAL

DIFFICULTIES

Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19;
1 Timothy 6:10; 1 John 5:14–15

FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14–15; 18:21–22;
Luke 6:37–38; 11:4; 23:34; John
8:11; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians
1:13–14; 2:13; Hebrews 10:18;
1 John 1:9

GIVING

Matthew 6:3–4; 25:40; Luke
6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6–12

GODLINESS

1 Timothy 4:7–8; 6:6; 6:11;
2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Peter 1:5–8

GOD'S LOVE

John 3:16; 15:13–16; Romans
5:8; 8:38–39; Ephesians 3:16–19;
5:1–2; Hebrews 12:6; 1 John
3:1; 4:9–18

GOD'S POWER

Mark 14:60–62; John 2:18–22;
Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians
6:14; Ephesians 3:20–21;
Colossians 2:11–12; 2 Peter 1:3

GOD'S WILL

Matthew 6:10; 12:50; Mark
14:36; John 4:34; 6:38–40;
1 John 2:17; 5:14; Romans 12:2

GOD'S WORD

2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12;
2 Peter 1:21

GRACE

John 1:14–18; Acts 15:11;
Romans 5:1–2; 2 Corinthians
12:7–10; Ephesians 1:3–7; 2:4–9;
Titus 2:11–13; Hebrews 4:15–16

GRATITUDE

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Colossians
3:17

HAPPINESS

Matthew 5:11–12; Luke 2:10–11;
Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:8–9

HEALING

Matthew 18:19; 2 Corinthians
12:7–9; James 1:6; 5:13–16

HEAVEN

1 Corinthians 15:55, 57;
2 Corinthians 5:6–8;
Philippians 1:21–24; 1 John 3:2;
Revelation 21

HELL

Matthew 5:22; 10:28; Mark 9:44;
Luke 16:23–24; 2 Thessalonians
1:8–9; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation
20:10–15

HONESTY

Acts 24:16; Ephesians 4:25, 28;
1 Timothy 1:5; Titus 2:7

HONOR

John 12:26; Romans 12:17;
1 Peter 2:17

HOPE

Romans 15:13; Colossians 1:3–5,
27; 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17;
Hebrews 11:1

HOSPITALITY

Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2;
1 Peter 4:9

IDENTITY

1 Corinthians 3:16;
2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians
4:6–7; Ephesians 2:19

IMMORALITY

John 8:11; 1 Corinthians
6:13–20; 1 Thessalonians 5:23;
1 John 1:9

JOY

Luke 15:7; John 15:11; Romans
5:11; Galatians 5:22; Philippians
4:4

JUDGMENT

Matthew 12:36; John 5:24;
Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians
3:11–15; 2 Corinthians 5:10;
Hebrews 9:27; Revelation
20:12–13

JUSTIFICATION

Romans 3:24; 5:1; Galatians 2:16;
2:21; 3:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21

LOVE

Matthew 22:37–40; John
13:34–35; 14:21–24; 15:13;
Romans 12:9–10; 1 Corinthians
13; 1 John 3:14; 4:11–21; 5:2

MARRIAGE

Matthew 19:3–6; 1 Corinthians
7:2–5; Ephesians 5:22–32;
Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1–7

MERCY

Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36;
10:30–35; Romans 9:15;
Colossians 3:12; James 2:13

MONEY

Matthew 6:24; Luke 6:38;
12:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12;
1 Timothy 6:7–9; Hebrews 13:5

OCCULT

Galatians 5:19–21; 2 Timothy 3:1–15; Revelation 21:8

PATIENCE

Romans 5:3–5; 8:25; 12:12; Galatians 5:19–21; Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 10:35–36; James 1:2–4; 5:7–8

PEACE

John 14:27; 16:33; Romans 5:1; 8:6; 14:17–19; Philippians 4:6–7; Colossians 3:15

**PERSECUTION /
SUFFERING**

Matthew 5:10–12; John 15:18–20; Romans 8:35–39; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:12; 1 Peter 4:12–14; Revelation 2:10

PERSEVERANCE

Mark 13:13; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 3:14; Colossians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 10:23; 12:1–2; James 1:25

PRAYER

Matthew 6:6–7; 7:7; 26:39; Mark 11:24; John 14:13–14; 15:7; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 3:12; 6:18; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 4:16; James 5:16

PRIDE

James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5–7

PURITY

Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 1:15; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 1:22

SALVATION

John 1:12; 3:3, 16; 14:6; Acts 2:21; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9, 13; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 9:22

SATAN

Luke 10:18; 13:16; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:3; Ephesians 6:11–18; James 4:7–8; 1 Peter 5:8–9; Revelation 12:9–10

SEXUAL PERVERSION

Romans 1:27–32; 12:2; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 10:13; Ephesians 4:22–24; 5:3–5; Hebrews 13:4

SHARING FAITH

Matthew 28:19; Romans 10:15; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15

SIN

John 6:37; Acts 10:43; 13:38–39; Romans 6:12–14; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 3:5; James 1:14; 1 John 1:7–9

STRENGTH

Romans 5:6; 2 Corinthians 12:9–10; Ephesians 3:16; 6:10; Philippians 4:13

TRUTH

John 4:24; 8:31–32; 14:6; 16:13; Ephesians 6:14; Philippians 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:15

UNITY

John 17:20–21; Acts 4:32; Romans 12:16; 14:19; 15:5–6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:4–6; Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 3:8

VICTORY OVER SIN

Matthew 6:13; John 16:33; Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4; 5:4

WORK

Acts 20:35; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:7–8

ABOUT THE ESV

The Bible

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;¹ they are pure;² they are powerful;³ and they are wise and righteous.⁴ We should read these words with reverence and awe,⁵ and with joy and delight.⁶ Through these words God gives us eternal life,⁷ and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.⁸

The ESV Translation

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

The ESV Publishing Team

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God’s Word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

¹Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 ²Ps. 12:6 ³Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23

⁴Ps. 19:7–11 ⁵Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 ⁶Ps. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16

⁷John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23 ⁸Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4

To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

MATTHEW

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos

the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the

Holy Spirit.¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to

worship him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening

their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Flight to Egypt

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Herod Kills the Children

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “**Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**”

Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “**It is written,**

“‘**Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that
comes from the
mouth of God.**’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the

pinnacle of the temple⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “**Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’**”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “**Be gone, Satan! For it is written,**

“‘**You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.**’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

¹²Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving

Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**”

²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their

father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they

may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Anger

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has

something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Lust

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Divorce

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery,

and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Retaliation

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Love Your Enemies

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your

neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Giving to the Needy

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Lord's Prayer

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily
bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their

trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Fasting

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise

the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Do Not Be Anxious

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Judging Others

7“Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

⁶“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Ask, and It Will Be Given

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who

are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

¹²“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

I Never Knew You

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one

who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Build Your House on the Rock

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

The Authority of Jesus

²⁸And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Jesus Cleanses a Leper

8 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ²And behold, a

leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, **"I will; be clean."** And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ And Jesus said to him, **"See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."**

The Faith of a Centurion

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him,⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."⁷ And he said to him, **"I will come and heal him."**⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, **"Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."**¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the sons of

the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, **"Go; let it be done for you as you have believed."** And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Jesus Heals Many

¹⁴ And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.¹⁹ And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."²⁰ And Jesus said to him, **"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."**²¹ Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."²² And Jesus said to him, **"Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."**

Jesus Calms a Storm

²³And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” ²⁶And he said to them, “**Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?**” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

²⁸And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” ³⁰Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.” ³²And he said to them, “**Go.**” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and

drowned in the waters. ³³The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

9 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ²And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “**Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.**” ³And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “**Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’ ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**”—he then said to the paralytic—“**Rise, pick up your bed and go home.**” ⁷And he rose and went home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth,

and he said to him, **“Follow me.”** And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard it, he said, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”** ¹³Go and learn what this means: **‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’** For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

A Question About Fasting

¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, **“Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.”** ¹⁶No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, ²¹for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, **“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”** And instantly the woman was made well. ²³And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, **“Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.”** And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶And the report of this went through all that district.

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁷And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” ²⁸When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, **“Do you believe that I am**

able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be done to you.”

³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.”

³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak

³² As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. ³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The Twelve Apostles

10 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy,

let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Persecution Will Come

¹⁶“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone

through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Have No Fear

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth.

I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Rewards

⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Messengers from John the Baptist

11 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

“ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the