

EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**THE FIRST COMING OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
FROM A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS**

by

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WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States jurists saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord"

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?**Salvation is available for all members of the human race.**

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation it neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

How do I become a Christian?

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (I Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

The results of Salvation

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful. My sins are taken away (John 1:29) I possess eternal life now (I John 5:11,12), I become a new creature in Christ [2 Corinthians 5:17), The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (I Corinthians 6:19) And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

Christian resources are available from our internet web sites www.ebcwa.org.au and www.ebcwa.free.org.nz

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INTRODUCTION

Christianity is a **relationship** with the One True God which is obtained through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a gift from God, given to humanity by God in grace, which if accepted results in eternal life with God. It is God's way and God's Plan. What God has done for us in the person and work of Jesus could not be done by any works by humankind.

Religion in contrast is fallen man's way of trying to please gods using their own limited means. To have a living relationship with the One True God we need the unlimited power and grace of the completed work of God on our behalf. This is the work of Jesus, who came from eternity into our space-time universe and completed all the work that was necessary to win for all human-kind the open door to relationship with our Creator, who is also our Saviour.

It is therefore essential for Christians to know our Lord Jesus as our relationship with God is through Him, and it is vital for all who do not know Him to know about Him, and to see their eternally significant choice. What people do with the Saviour is going to determine their eternal position, as well as their joy in space and time.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, (the four gospel "good news" accounts of the life and work of Jesus) all have the same focus, which is mainly on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ at His First Coming.

The different authors give various perspectives on the events, and so we have a story "in depth" in 4 dimensions, but we will see as we go through the Harmony of the Four Gospels that we have a common story.

Over a decade ago I spent three years on a verse by verse harmony of the four Gospels. This was published in 25 volumes with the 26th volume being a paraphrase. In this volume I have revisited the paraphrase and upgraded it into more modern English. In the pages that follow the four Gospels have been consolidated to allow the combined information to be read at one sitting.

It is chronological, and divided into titled paragraphs, so that you can walk through the amazing life of the Lord Jesus Christ at His First Coming/Advent, with glimpses of His expected return as King and Judge at his Second Advent.

From a personal viewpoint I have found the experience of undertaking this work spiritually uplifting with my appreciation of the life and work of our Lord making me stand back in awe.

All Holy Spirit empowered and led Bible study will have this impact on our lives; it will become worship. That is our desire as a ministry; that as you study these pages you will sing in worship to the Saviour, Lord and King who is revealed in the Gospel accounts.

Here we will see how He overcame constant and wide ranged violent opposition from both angelic and human sources to go alone to the Cross and pay the astronomic cost of all the sins of humanity over the entire history of the human race, past, present and future.

As I have approached this work on the Harmony of the Gospels, I have approached it with the apostolic belief, that all Scripture is God Breathed, and as the Holy Spirit has put all the books together there is a harmony amongst them all. 2 Timothy 3:16, Jude 3. I have seen this truth worked out as I did this work.

As we read this Harmony we see the prophecies of the Old Testament being fulfilled literally centuries later, and reported on in the Gospel message within the New Testament.

The four Gospels have different emphases, each drawing attention to different characteristics of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

a) Matthew	Christ the King	Branch of David - Isaiah 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15
b) Mark	Christ the Servant	My Servant the Branch - Zechariah 3:8
c) Luke	Christ the Perfect Man	Man whose name is the branch - Zechariah 6:12,13
d) John	Christ the Son of God	Branch of Jehovah - Isaiah 4:2

The Gospels have equivalents in the creatures in Revelation 4:7 and the colours of Exodus 26:36.

a) Matthew	King	Head of a Lion	Purple of Royalty
b) Mark	Servant	Head of an Ox	Scarlet of Sacrifice
c) Luke	Man	Head of a Man	White of Purity
d) John	God	Head of an Eagle	Blue of Deity

In the appendices we have a list of prophecies which were completely and perfectly fulfilled as to action and time by our Lord Jesus Christ during His First Advent as well as the Harmony outline.

I trust that this work which shows the full Gospel story of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ through this Harmony will encourage you, and move you to worship and service, as it has moved me as I have done this work.

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HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS

1. THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

BEFORE TIME EXISTED – IN ETERNITY PAST

This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the beginning the Word existed and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. Everything was made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness and the darkness does not overcome the light.

THE STORY OF CHRIST CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED

My dear friend Theophilus, several biographies of Jesus Christ have already been written using as their sources reports circulating among us from the early disciples as well as from other eyewitnesses. It occurred to me [Luke] that it would be well to recheck all these accounts from first to last and after a thorough review to pass this summary on to you to confirm the truth that you have already been taught.

GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE TRUE KING OF THE JEWS STARTING WITH ABRAHAM

The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, the descendant of Abraham.

There are 14 generations from Abraham the first Hebrew to David the King.- Abraham – Isaac –Jacob - Judah - Perez - Hezron - Aram –Amminadab – Nahshon – Salmon - Boaz - Obed – Jesse - David the king.

There are 14 generations from David to the Babylonian captivity:- David the king - Solomon – Rehoboam – Abijah – Asa – Jehoshaphat – Joram – Uzziah – Jotham – Ahaz – Hezekiah – Manasseh – Amos – Josiah - Jechoniah in the time they were carried away to Babylon.

There are 14 generations from the Babylonian captivity to Jesus Christ:- After they were brought to Babylon, Jechoniah – Shealtiel – Zerubbabel – Abiud – Eliakim – Azor – Zadok – Achim – Eliud – Eleazar – Matthan – Jacob - Joseph who was the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus the Christ.

GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST AS TRUE HUMANITY AND A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF ADAM

Adam was created by God, his descendants were – Seth – Enos – Cainan – Maahaleleel – Jared – Enoch – Methuselah – Lamech – Noah – Shem – Arphaxed – Cainan – Shelah – Eber – Peleg – Reu – Serug – Nahor – Terah – Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – Judah - Perez – Hezron - Arni- Admin – Amminadab – Nahashon – Salmon - Boaz – Obed – Jesse – David – Nathan – Mattatha – Menna – Melea – Eliakim – Jonam – Joseph – Judah – Simeon – Levi – Matthat – Jorim – Eliezer – Joshua – Er – Elmadam – Cosam – Addi – Melchi – Neri – Shealtiel – Zerubbabel – Rhesa – Joannan – Juda – Josech – Semein – Mattathias – Maath – Naggai – Esli – Nahum – Amos – Mattathias – Joseph – Jannai – Melchi – Levi – Matthat – Heli – Mary – Jesus. [Footnote - Heli, Mary's father adopted Joseph as the legal but not natural father of Jesus.]

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTISER, JESUS' HERALD

In the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah who was in the weekly serving group of Abijah. His wife whose name was Elisabeth was a descendant of Aaron. Both lived uprightly before God blamelessly walking in accordance with all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. They were both quite old and had no children because Elisabeth was barren.

One day as Zechariah was performing his priestly service when his group was on duty he was chosen by lot to burn incense in the Lord's Temple. At the hour of incense a large crowd of people was praying outside.

An angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense appeared to Zechariah. When Zechariah saw the angel he was troubled and became very anxious. But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard and your wife Elisabeth will have a son and you are to name him John".

The angel continued, "You will have great joy and gladness and many people will rejoice at his birth because he will be one of the Lord's great men. He will not drink wine nor alcoholic drink and from birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. He shall go before them in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the obstinate to the wisdom of the righteous in order to prepare a people who are ready for the Messiah."

Zechariah said unto the angel, "How shall I know this is true as I am an old man and my wife is quite elderly?" The angel replied, "I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you to announce this good news to you. Now you will be dumb and not able to speak until the day when these events take place because you didn't believe my words which will come true at the proper time."

The people who were waiting for Zechariah were very surprised that he had stayed so long in the Temple. When he came out Zechariah could not speak to them and they recognised that he had seen a vision in the Temple because he made gestures to them but remained silent.

He remained serving in the Temple until his days of duty finished, and as soon as he completed the time he went to his own house. After those days his wife Elisabeth conceived and hid herself five months saying, "How kindly has the Lord dealt with me to take away my disgrace of having no children".

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST'S BIRTH FORETOLD TO MARY BY THE ANGEL GABRIEL

In the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph. He was descended from David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Gabriel came in to her and said, "Greetings favoured one, the Lord is with you. You are blessed among all women." When she saw Gabriel she was confused at this greeting and considered what the greeting might mean.

Gabriel said to her, "Don't be frightened Mary, God has decided to wonderfully bless you. You will become pregnant and have a son who you shall call Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give to Him the throne of his father David. He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever and there will be no end to His kingdom."

Mary said to Gabriel, "How can this be since I have no husband?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you. Therefore the baby born to you will be totally holy and will be called the Son of God. Also your cousin Elisabeth who was barren is six months pregnant with a son in her old age. For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Mary said, "Here am I the Lord's servant. Let it be with me according to what you say." Gabriel then departed from her.

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

A few days later Mary journeyed to the highlands in a hurry to a city of Judah, and arrived at Zechariah's house and greeted Elisabeth. As Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting her baby leaped within her womb and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elisabeth gave a joyful cry and exclaimed to Mary, "You are blessed among women and blessed is the baby you are carrying. How is it that my Lord's mother should come to me? As soon as I heard your greetings when you arrived my baby leaped in my womb for joy. You believed that God would do the things He said and it will be completed."

Mary said, "How my soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. God has taken notice of the lowliness of His humble servant. From now on all generations shall call me blessed, for God has done great things to me and Holy is His name."

"God's mercy is on those who profoundly respect Him from generation to generation. He has exercised great power with his arm and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has dethroned princes and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich He has sent empty away. He sustained Israel, His servant, remembering His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his descendant forever.”

Mary stayed with Elisabeth about three months, before returning to her own home.

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now Elisabeth's time to give birth came and her son was born. Her cousins and neighbours heard how the Lord had showed great mercy upon her and they rejoiced with her.

CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING OF JOHN

On the eighth day all the relatives and friends came to circumcise the baby and they named him Zechariah after the name of his father, but Elisabeth his mother said “No; he must be called John”. The relatives argued with her, “There is no one in the family who has that name”. They gestured to Zechariah enquiring as to how the baby should be named. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John”. The relatives were most surprised. Instantly Zechariah could speak again and he began praising God.

The neighbours hearing this were amazed and the news of what had happened spread throughout all of the hill country of Judea. All who heard this remembered it and wondered what kind of child John would become because the hand of the Lord was with him in a special way.

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH IN PRAISING GOD FOR HIS MERCY

Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied saying, “Praise the Lord God of Israel; for he has looked with favour upon His people. He is sending us a mighty Saviour from the royal line of His servant David just as it was prophesied by His holy prophets from the start of time. This was so that we should be saved from our enemies, and from all those that hate us. He will show the mercy promised to our ancestors and to remember His holy covenant;

He swore an oath to our ancestor Abraham that He would grant us, having been saved from our enemies, fearlessly to worship Him in His presence forever in holiness and righteousness.

John, my son, you will be called the prophet of the Highest because you will go in front of the Lord to prepare His ways. You will tell the people of the way of His salvation for them by the forgiveness of their sins through the tender mercy of our God by which the light of dawn from on high will be on us. This is to give light to them that sit in darkness and in death's shadow and to guide us in the way of peace.”

The child grew, became spiritually strong and was in the desert areas until his ministry in Israel commenced.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY AN ANGEL OF THE LORD TO JOSEPH REGARDING CHRIST'S BIRTH

The birth of Jesus Christ came about in this way. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph but she was still a virgin when she became pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her fiancé was fair-minded and not wanting to disgrace Mary publicly, so he planned to break the engagement secretly.

While he was considering this an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to take Mary as your wife: for the child in her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary will give birth to a son and you shall call Him Jesus [meaning Saviour] because He will save His people from their sins.”

All this took place so that what had been said by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah could be fulfilled. Isaiah had said, “Listen a virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us’.” Then Joseph woke up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had told him. Joseph took Mary as his wife but she remained a virgin until she had given birth to Jesus.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST AT THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE CENSUS

At this time a decree was issued, by the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus that a census must take place for the whole Roman Empire. (This census was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) All the people went to their own city for their registration.

Joseph travelled up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David, Bethlehem in Judea, because he was of the lineage of David, there to be registered with Mary his fiancée, whose pregnancy was now far advanced.

As a result, while they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for the birth of her child. She gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger because there was no room for the family in the inn. Joseph called His name Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD TO THE SHEPHERDS

Locally there were shepherds staying in the fields overnight caring for their flock of sheep when an angel of the Lord appeared among them and the glory of the Lord shone brightly around them and they were very frightened.

The angel said to them, "Have no fear because I bring you the most joyful news ever and it is for everyone. Christ the Lord and Saviour has been born this very day in Bethlehem, the city of David. This is how you will recognise Him by finding a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there was with the angel a huge number of angels praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, on earth peace and good will toward men."

VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS TO ADORE CHRIST

When the angels had returned to heaven the shepherds said one to another "Let us now go to Bethlehem, and see this amazing event which has happened and which the Lord has made known to us".

They left in a hurry and found Mary with Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. When they had seen the baby they told many others about what the angel had told them and about this child.

All those who heard the story expressed amazement about the events that the shepherds had told them about but Mary treasured these events and thought them over in her heart.

The shepherds returned to the fields glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard, seen, and what they had been told.

CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS AND HIS PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Eight days after His birth He was circumcised and given the name Jesus which was the name the angel had given Him even before He was conceived in the womb.

The time came for Mary's purification sacrifice to be offered in the Temple according to the requirements of the Law of Moses. They brought Jesus to Jerusalem to dedicate Him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. (This is what is written in the Torah, "If a woman's first child is a boy he shall be dedicated to the Lord".)

PROPHECY OF SIMEON

There was, at that time, a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. Now Simeon was a righteous man, very devout, filled with the Holy Spirit, and waiting for the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah.

Simeon was guided by the Holy Spirit into the Temple at the time when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple for His dedication to the Lord. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God saying "Lord, now let your bond servant depart in peace, in agreement with Your Word for I have seen with my own eyes Your Saviour who You have given to the world. He is the light that will shine on the Nations and will be the glory of Your people Israel."

Joseph and Mary were amazed at all those things which were spoken of Him. Simeon blessed them and said unto Mary his mother, "See this child is appointed for the falling and rising up of many in Israel and for a sign that will be opposed. A sword shall pierce through your own soul and the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

ANNA THE PROPHETESS SEES JESUS

Also in the Temple was Anna, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, a prophetess who was very old. Anna had lived with her husband for seven years and had since been a widow for about eighty four years. She never left the Temple, serving God perpetually with fasting and prayers.

She came along at the same time while Simeon was speaking with Joseph and Mary. She immediately began thanking God and speaking to all she met in Jerusalem who were actively looking for the Messiah.

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI, WISE MEN FROM THE EAST TO SEE THE YOUNG BOY IN BETHLEHEM

After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of King Herod the Great, Wise Men came from the east to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the new born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east and we have come to worship Him."

On hearing this question King Herod was deeply disturbed and Jerusalem was filled with rumours. Herod called together all the Chief Priests and Scribes of the people and inquired of them, "Did the prophets tell us where the Messiah would be born?"

They told King Herod, "In Bethlehem of Judea as Micah has written in his prophecy, 'You Bethlehem in the land of Judea are an important place because out of you a leader will rise up who will rule My people Israel.'"

Now King Herod called a private meeting with the Magi and asked specifically when the star had first been sighted. He sent them to Bethlehem saying, "Go and search for the young child and when you have found Him report back to me so that I can come and worship Him also".

After this interview with Herod they left and followed the star which they had seen in the east to Bethlehem where it stopped, over the place where the young child was living.

When they saw the star stationary, they rejoiced greatly and entering the house they saw the young child with Mary His mother. The Magi fell down and prostrating themselves they worshipped Him and opening their treasure they gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then by being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod they left Judea travelling to their own country another way.

JOSEPH AND MARY WITH JESUS FLEE TO EGYPT FROM BETHLEHEM

When the Magi left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up and take the young child and Mary and flee to Egypt. You are to stay there until I tell you because Herod will search for the young child in order to murder Him."

Joseph woke up and took Jesus and Mary at night time, and left for Egypt where they stayed until Herod died. This was to fulfil the prophecy of Hosea which says, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son".

SLAUGHTER OF THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM

Herod was furious when he saw that he had been betrayed by the Magi. He sent out a detachment of troops and murdered all the children that were residing in Bethlehem and the surrounding region two years old and younger according to the time he had been told by the Magi of the first sighting of the star.

This fulfilled the prophecy given by Jeremiah, "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping with great mourning. Rachel uncontrollably weeping for her children for they are dead."

RETURN OF JOSEPH, MARY AND JESUS FROM EGYPT TO NAZARETH

When Herod died an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said to Joseph, "Get up and take the young child and Mary and return to Israel because those who wished to kill the young child are dead".

So Joseph took the family back to Israel but when he heard that Archelaus was now king in Judea he was afraid to go back there. As a result being warned by God in a dream Joseph returned to Galilee and resided in Nazareth. This would fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah which said, "He will be called a Nazarene".

JESUS OF NAZARETH AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SCHOLARS IN THE TEMPLE

In Nazareth Jesus grew up and became strong spiritually and full of wisdom, with God pouring out His grace upon Him.

Joseph and Mary went up to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old He accompanied Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

After the celebration of the feast Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem while the rest of the family group commenced the journey home. Joseph and Mary didn't know that He had stayed and presumed He was with the group. They travelled for a day before looking for Jesus and when they found He was not there with the group, Joseph and Mary turned back to seek Jesus in Jerusalem.

They searched for three days before they found Him in the Temple sitting among the theologians and scholars listening to what they were saying and asking them questions.

All that heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers. When Joseph and Mary saw Him they were also amazed. Mary said to Him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching everywhere for you frantically."

Jesus said, "Why were you seeking Me? Did you not realise that I would be here at the Temple doing My Father's business." Joseph and Mary did not understand what He meant.

He went down with them to Nazareth and submitted Himself to them. His mother Mary treasured all these memories in her heart. Jesus continued to grow, advancing in wisdom and in favour both with God and man.

2. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY

JOHN THE BAPTIST

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came to bear witness of the Light in order that all men through him might believe. John was not that Light, but was sent as a herald to bear witness of that Light.

John was a witness of Jesus Christ proclaiming, "This is He of whom I spoke, He that comes after me is far greater than me: for He existed before me". We have all received His bountiful blessing and grace for grace. The Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who is closely associated with the Father, has declared Him.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

That was the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar the following held high positions. The Roman Governor of Judea was Pontius Pilate. Herod was the Tetrarch of Galilee, with his brother Philip Tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the Tetrarch of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests.

At this specific time the word of God came to John the Baptist, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. John travelled throughout the country near the River Jordan in the wilderness of Judea, preaching the baptism of repentance because of the remission of sins.

This was done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan where John was baptising. John wore camel's hair clothes with a girdle of a skin about his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

THE HERALD OF THE FIRST ADVENT PROPHESED

John is the person prophesied in the book of Isaiah which said "Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before Me". A voice is calling out in the wilderness, "Clear the way for the Lord, make His way straight". Every ravine will be filled up and every mountain and hill shall be levelled, the crooked paths shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth and all people shall see the salvation of God.

THE RESPONSE TO JOHN'S MINISTRY

John baptized in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance because of the remission of sins. He said, "You must repent because the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand". Crowds went out to John from Judea, Jerusalem and all the area close to the River Jordan. Believers were all baptized by John in the Jordan; confessing their sins. John exhorted the crowds and preached many other things to the people.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS ASK JOHN WHO HE IS

The people were interested and they all wondered who John was, and whether he was the Messiah or not. John noticed that the leadership in Jerusalem sent Priests and Levites down to ask him who he was. John said to them, "I am not the Messiah". "Are you Elijah or a prophet?" John answered, "No I am not". "Well who are you?", the questioners asked. John replied, "I am the voice of a person in the wilderness encouraging the people to repent and straighten out their lives and follow God's way as Isaiah the prophet told us".

JOHN QUESTIONED BY THE PHARISEES ABOUT BAPTISM

Those that were sent were Pharisees and they asked John, "Why do you baptise people seeing you are not the Messiah, Elijah or the Prophet". John replied, "I baptize with water but there now exists among you a person who you do not know. He will follow me but is so superior to me that I am not worthy to take off and carry His shoes for Him. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit or with Fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand and He will thoroughly separate the wheat from the chaff. He will gather the wheat into His barn but will burn the chaff with an unquenchable fire."

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE CRITICISED AS THEY SEEK BAPTISM

John now saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees among the large number of people wanting to be baptised. John said to them "You brood of snakes!, Who has warned you to flee from the coming judgment? You must produce fruits in keeping with your repentance. Don't think to have confidence in the fact that you are descended from Abraham your ancestor, because God can create children to Abraham from these stones. The axe is already laid out at the root of the trees and every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

JOHN TELLS A MIXED CROWD INCLUDING TAX COLLECTORS AND SOLDIERS WHAT TO DO

The people asked him, "What shall we do then?" John answered, "The person with two coats, let him give one to a person who has none; and he that has food let him do likewise".

Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to John, "Master, what shall we do?" John replied, "Take no more money than what is the required legal amount owing." The soldiers also sought guidance from John saying, "What shall we do?" John replied, "Don't be violent to people, nor falsely accuse them. Don't loot the vulnerable but be content with your wages."

JESUS COMES FROM GALLILEE TO MEET JOHN TO BE BAPTISED

Jesus was about thirty years of age and the day after John had been questioned as to who he was Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee to John to be baptised by him in the Jordan.

John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is He of whom I said, "He that comes after me is far greater than me for He existed before me." "I didn't know Him other than He should appear in Israel and so I have come baptising with water."

John said to Jesus, "I need to be baptised by You and You come to me?" Jesus answered, "Please do it now for I must fulfil all righteousness." So John baptised Jesus in the Jordan.

JESUS IS BAPTISED AND JOHN SEES THE DOVE

Immediately after His baptism Jesus came up out from the water praying. Heaven was opened and the Spirit of God descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him. John gave witness to this, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him".

"I did not know Him, but He that commissioned me to have a ministry of baptising with water said to me, "The person upon whom you shall see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, He is the person who baptises with the Holy Spirit. I saw it happening to this man and bear witness that this is the Son of God."

GOD TESTIFIES AS TO THE PERSON OF CHRIST

And a voice from heaven said, "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I delight".

JESUS IS TAKEN BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL

Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit was immediately driven up from the Jordan by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. He was in the wilderness for forty days tempted by Satan with wild beasts as His companions. During this period he ate nothing so that by the end of the forty days He was very hungry.

THREE SATANIC TEMPTATIONS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

TURNING STONES INTO BREAD

When Satan came to Jesus he said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be turned into bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD

Again Satan took Jesus up into a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and the glamour of them. Satan said to Him, "All this power and these things will I give You and the glory of them because they have been given to me and to whom I will gift it. All of it will be Yours if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus replied, "Go away, go behind me Satan: because it is written You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

THE TEMPLE INCIDENT

Then Satan took Jesus up into Jerusalem, the holy city, and sat Him on a pinnacle of the Temple. Satan said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here for it is written, "He shall give his angels charge concerning You to keep You and in their hands they shall bear you up, in case at any time You dash Your foot against a stone". Jesus answering said to Satan, "It is written again You shall not tempt the Lord your God".

THE DEVIL DEPARTS AND ANGELS MINISTER TO JESUS

When Satan had ended all the temptations he departed from Him for a while and angels came and ministered to Him.

JOHN, ANDREW AND PETER MEET JESUS AND BECOME HIS DISCIPLES

The next day John stood with two of his disciples and looking at Jesus as He walked, John said, 'Look at the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They replied "Rabbi, (or Master,) where do You live?" Jesus said, "Come and see". They came and saw where he lived and they stayed with Him that day because it was four in the afternoon.

One of the two who followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He went and found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah", [which means the Christ in Greek].

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw him He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah, you will be called Cephas", which means 'a stone'.

PHILIP AND NATHANAEL CALLED ON THE WAY TO GALILEE

The next day Jesus was going into Galilee, and found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me". Philip was of Bethsaida, the same city as Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael, and said to him "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets has written, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph". Nathanael said to Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see". Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him and said, "Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do You know me?" Jesus replied, "I saw you before Philip called you when you were under the fig tree". Nathanael answered, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel". Jesus replied and said to him, "Did you believe because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree? You shall see greater things than these." Jesus continued, "I assure you that in the future you shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man".

THE FIRST MIRACLE AT CANA OF GALILEE

On the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee and Mary the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus was called to the marriage together with His disciples. On arrival they wanted to toast the wedding with wine but Mary told Jesus "They have no wine". Jesus replied, "Woman, what have I to do with that? My hour has not yet come." Mary then told the servants, "Whatever Jesus says to you, do it".

Sitting there were six stone water pots conforming to the requirements of the purifying of the Jews, containing many litres of water each. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the water pots with water". The servants filled them up to the brim. He then said, "Now take them to the governor of the feast", and they took them.

When the governor of the feast tasted the water he found it had been turned into wine but did not know where it had come from, although the servants who filled the pots with water did. The governor of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everybody at the beginning provides the best wine and when people have become a little drunk then poorer wine is provided, but you have kept the best wine until now."

This miracle in Cana of Galilee is the first of the miracles that Jesus did. It showed His glory and His disciples believed in him. After this He went down to Capernaum with Mary His mother, His family and His disciples but they did not stay there for long.

THE FIRST PASSOVER WHERE JESUS DROVE THE MONEYCHANGERS FROM TEMPLE

As the Jewish Passover was approaching Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple Jesus found those who sold oxen, sheep and doves and where the changers of money were sitting.

When Jesus had made a whip of small cords he drove all of them out of the Temple together with the sheep and the oxen and overturned the money changers' tables. He instructed those who sold doves to leave the Temple and not make His Father's house a house of money making. His disciples remembered that it was written, "The zeal of Your house has totally consumed Me"

PREDICTION OF HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The Jewish leaders said to Jesus, "What sign do You show us having done this?" Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jewish leaders said, "This temple took forty six years to build and You will raise it up in three days?" Jesus however was speaking of the 'temple' of His body. When He had risen from the dead His disciples remembered that He had said this and they believed the Scripture and the Prophecy that Jesus had given.

JESUS AND THE CROWD'S RESPONSE AT THE PASSOVER

When He was in Jerusalem on the feast day at the Passover many believed on His Name when they saw the miracles which He did. Jesus however did not rely on them because He knew the weaknesses of man and did not need any of them to testify of Him.

INSTRUCTION OF NICODEMUS

Nicodemus, a Pharisee who was a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus at night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God for no one can do these miracles that You do unless God is with Him." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you unless a man is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus questioned Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

Jesus answered, "I assure you that unless a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born again'. The wind blows where it wants and you hear the sound but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus replied, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered, "You are a teacher and ignorant of this? I assure you that We speak of We do know and testify that We have seen; but you do not accept Our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you don't believe Me, how will you believe if I tell you of heavenly things?"

"No one has ever gone to Heaven apart from He who came down from heaven, the Messiah whose home is Heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Messiah must be lifted up in order that all who believe in Him may not perish, but have eternal life."

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world through Him might be saved.

He that believes on Him is not condemned but he that does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

"The situation is that the light has come into the world but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are wicked. Every one that practises evil hates the light and does not come to the light in case their deeds should be exposed. However the one who practises the truth wants the light on it so that it may be demonstrated that he is working in union with God."

After these events Jesus and His disciples came to Judea where they stayed and baptised.

RENEWED TESTIMONY OF JESUS BY JOHN THE BAPTIST

Before John the Baptist was imprisoned he was baptising at Aenon near Salim because there was plenty of water there. A constant stream of people came and were baptised.

A dispute arose between some of John's disciples and another Jew about purification. The disciples came to John and said, "Rabbi, He who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, who you said was the Messiah is baptising and crowds are coming to Him."

John replied, "No one is able to lay claim on anything unless it has been revealed to him from heaven. You yourselves witnessed that I said, I am not the Messiah but that I have been sent ahead of Him."

"The bridegroom has the bride but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice so by this means my joy is fulfilled. He must grow in importance, but I must become less prominent."

“He that comes from above is superior to everyone. He that originates from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks from an earthly viewpoint but He that comes from heaven is higher than all. He testifies to what He has seen and heard, yet no one accepts His testimony.”

“Whoever does accept His testimony knows that God is true because He who God has sent speaks the words of God: God has given Him the Spirit in unlimited amounts.”

“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hands. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life: and he that does not believe the Son shall not see everlasting life and God’s judgment stays on him.”

JESUS GOES TO GALILEE

Afterwards Jesus heard the news that John the Baptist had been imprisoned. He also knew that the Pharisees were aware that He was making more disciples than John and His disciples were baptising them so He left Judea and returned in the power of the Holy Spirit to Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. As a result people throughout the region became very interested in Him.

INTERVIEW WITH THE WOMAN FROM SAMARIA

Jesus needed to go through Samaria and came to a city in Samaria called Sychar, which is situated near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. About noon Jesus, being tired from His journey, sat at the well. A Samaritan woman arrived at the well to draw water and as His disciples had gone to buy food in Sychar, Jesus asked her to give Him a drink of water.

The Samaritan woman said, “How is it that You being a Jew, asks me for a drink as I am a Samaritan woman?” because the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus replied, “If only you knew what a wonderful gift God has for you, and who I am you would ask Me for some living water”. “But you do not have the means to draw the water and the well is very deep”, said the woman. “Where does this living water come from? Are You greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well? Jacob drank from it himself as well as his descendants and cattle.”

Jesus told her, “Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst and the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”. “Please give me this water so that I am never thirsty and do not have to come daily to draw water”, said the woman.

Jesus asked the woman to go and call her husband and return. The woman said, “I have no husband”. “You are telling the truth”, Jesus replied. “You have had five husbands and the person you are now living with is not your husband”.

She said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain; and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

Jesus replied, “Believe me the time is coming when we will not be concerned about worshipping the Father at this mountain or Jerusalem”. “You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know because salvation comes from the Jews. But the time is coming and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth because the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is a Spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said to Jesus, “I know that Messiah comes which is called Christ. When He comes He will tell us all things”. Jesus said to her, “I am the Messiah”.

THE REACTION OF THE DISCIPLES

At this point in time His disciples returned and were very surprised that He talked with the woman, but no one asked Him, “What are you seeking”?, or, “Why were you talking with her?”

The woman then left her water pot, and went back into Sychar and said to the men, “Come, see a man, who told me all the things that I ever did: is not this the Messiah?” The people left the city and came to Jesus.

His disciples pleaded with Him to eat but Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." Therefore the disciples said to one another "Has anybody else brought Him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."

REVIVAL AT SYCHAR

Jesus continued, "Do you not say that there are still four months to the harvest. Look up I tell you and see the fields they are already white ready for the harvest. Already the reaper receives his wage and gathers fruit to life eternal so that both he that sows and he that reaps may rejoice together."

"It is true one sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap where you didn't sow, other men laboured, and you received the harvest."

Many of the Samaritans of Sychar believed in Jesus when the woman had said. "He told me all that ever I did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they begged that He would stay with them and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of what He Himself said. They said to the woman, "We now believe, not because of what you said, but we have heard Him ourselves, and know that He is indeed the Messiah, the Saviour of the world".

CURE OF NOBLEMAN'S SON

After the two days He left Sychar and went into Galilee for Jesus agreed that, "A prophet is not honoured in his native land." When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans received Him having seen all the things that He did at the feast in Jerusalem because they had also gone to the Feast. Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee, where He made the water wine.

There was a nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus was come from Judea into Galilee, he went to see Him and begged Him that he would come and heal his son because he was at the point of death.

Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe' The nobleman replied "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus answered, "Go home, your son lives". The nobleman believed what Jesus had said and started to go home.

As he was going his servants met him and told him, "Your son lives". The nobleman asked at what time had his son began to get better. The servants told him that it was at the seventh hour that the fever had left him. His father therefore recognised that it was exactly at the same time as Jesus had told him that his son was healed. He believed as did his household. This is the second miracle that Jesus did when He came into Galilee from Judea.

IMPRISONMENT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Herod the tetrarch had been criticised by John the Baptist because Herod had married Herodias the wife of his brother Philip. John told him, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife", so Herod arrested John and shut him up in prison.

Herodias would have killed him but she couldn't because Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man. Herod also feared the population because they recognised John as a prophet. Herod had also observed John and had heard him gladly.

HEROD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND THE OFFER TO SALOME

On his birthday Herod provided a banquet for his lords, high captains, and chief landowners of Galilee. Salome, the daughter of Herodias came in and danced before them and pleased Herod and his visitors.

Herod said to Salome, "Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you". He promised with an oath that he would give her up to half of his kingdom.

She immediately went and asked her mother Herodias, "What shall I ask for?" Herodias said, "The head of John the Baptist." She hastily returned to Herod and said, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a serving dish."

Herod was very sad but having made an oath and to save face in front of the guests he did not reject her request and commanded that John's head be given to her.

JOHN IS BEHEADED AND BURIED

Immediately Herod the king sent for an executioner and commanded John's head to be brought. The executioner went and beheaded John in the prison and brought John's head in a serving dish and gave it to Salome and she brought it and gave it to her mother Herodias.

When John's disciples heard of his death they came and took up his corpse and buried it laying it in a tomb and went and told Jesus what had happened.

3. THE LORD'S EARLY GALILEAN MINISTRY AND SERMON ON THE MOUNT

A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

Leaving Nazareth Jesus came and dwelt in Capernaum which is on the sea coast in the border area between Zebulun and Nephthaim.

This happened so that the prophecy given by Isaiah the prophet stating, "The people from the land of Zebulun and the land of Nephthaim by the way of the sea beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles which were in darkness saw a great light; and to those who were in that region and the shadow of death a light is risen", might be fulfilled.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "The time is fulfilled, repent and believe the gospel because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". He taught in their synagogues being well received by all.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF HIS FIRST COMING

Jesus came to Nazareth where He had been brought up. As was His custom He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read the Scriptures. He was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

When He had opened the book He found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are bruised and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord".

He then closed the book and He gave it again to the leader and sat down. The eyes of all of those that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him and he said to them, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears".

THE RESPONSE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT

They all spoke well about Him and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded from His lips and said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Jesus said to them, "You will doubtless quote to Me this proverb, 'Physician, heal Yourself'. Do in Your hometown whatever we have heard that You have done in Capernaum."

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Jesus said, "I assure you that no prophet is accepted in his own country. I remind you that there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when there was no rain with heaven shut up for three years and six months and when there was a great famine throughout the whole land. To none of them was Elijah sent, except to Zarephath, in the city of Sidon, a woman who was a widow.

There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet but none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

REJECTION AT NAZARETH

When they heard these things all those in the synagogue became very angry. They got up and threw Him out of the city and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built so that they might throw Him headlong over the cliff but He moved through the angry crowd and left the area.

THE LORD TEACHES FROM PETER'S BOAT

One day as He was preaching on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, and as the crowd closed in on Him to hear the word of God He saw two empty boats standing by the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left the boats and were washing, casting and mending their nets.

He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and asked if he would move out a little from the land. Once the boat had been repositioned Jesus sat down and taught the people from the ship.

THE LORD GOES FISHING AND THE GREAT HAUL OF FISH

After He had finished speaking He said to Simon, "Launch the boat out into deeper water and let down your nets to fish". Simon replied, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, however I will do as You say and let down the net".

When the net had been lowered they caught a huge number of fishes and their net broke. They waved to their companions who were in the other ship asking them to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so much that they both began to sink.

When Simon saw this happen he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me O Lord for I am a sinful man". This is because Simon, like James and John the sons of Zebedee who were his partners, were amazed at the size of the number of fish which they had caught.

THE CALL OF THE FOUR DISCIPLES

Jesus said to Simon "Don't worry from now on you shall catch men! Come, follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men." As soon as they had brought their ships to the shore they followed Jesus leaving everything including Zebedee, father of James and John and their hired servants.

JESUS TEACHES IN THE SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM

The group came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. On the Sabbath day Jesus entered the synagogue, and taught. Those present were astonished at His teachings because Jesus taught them His word with power as one who had authority and not the way that the Scribes taught.

THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN

Now there was in the synagogue a demon possessed man. The demon cried out with a loud voice, "Let us alone; what have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are, the Holy One of God." Jesus rebuked the demon, "Be quiet and come out of him". When the demon had thrown him on the floor he cried with a loud voice and came out of him without hurting him any further.

Those in the synagogue were all so amazed that they discussed among themselves asking, "What is this? What new teaching is this? What a word is this because with authority and power He even commands demons and they obey Him and depart." Immediately His fame went out throughout all the region around Galilee.

HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER IN LAW

As soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they arrived and entered Simon's house together with Andrew, James and John. Now Simon's mother in law was sick with a serious fever. They told Jesus about this and asked for His help. Jesus stood over her and took her by the hand, lifted her up and told the fever to go. Immediately the fever left her and she got up and was able to serve them.

JESUS HEALS MANY PEOPLE TO FULFIL ISAIAH'S PROPHECY

At sunset they brought to Jesus many who were diseased and many who were demon possessed. All of the people from the city gathered together and Jesus laid His hands on every one of them and healed many that were sick of different diseases.

Jesus cast out many demons, many of them coming out shouting, "You are the Christ the Son of God". Jesus rebuked them commanding them to be silent because they knew that he was the Messiah. This was to fulfil prophecy spoken by Isaiah, "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses".

HIS MINISTRY IN GALILEE

In the morning Jesus got up long before dawn, went out and travelled to an isolated place and prayed. When the sun rose Jesus then went into a desert area. Simon and those who were with him followed after Jesus and when they had found Him, they said, "Everybody is looking for You". The people who were seeking Jesus came to Him and stayed with Him so that He would not leave them.

Jesus said to them, "I must preach the Kingdom of God in other cities as well for this is why I am sent". "Let us go into the next towns so that I can preach there also". So Jesus travelled around the whole of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all sorts of sickness and diseases among the people.

His fame went out throughout all of Syria: and they brought to Him sick people who had different diseases and problems, those who were demon possessed, those who were lunatic and those that had the palsy and He healed them and cast out the demons. Great crowds of people followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond Jordan.

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER AND HIS INSTRUCTION

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. Now when he was in a city a man with advanced leprosy came to him. On seeing Jesus he knelt down and fell on his face pleading with Him "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean".

Jesus, moved with pity touched him and said to him, "I am willing; Be cleansed". As soon as Jesus had spoken the leprosy departed from him and the leper was cured. Jesus sent him off with a strict instruction that he was to tell no one but to go and show himself to the priest and offer the sacrifice according to what Moses had commanded for being cured of leprosy as a witness to the priests.

Afterwards the leper went out and began to speak out about being cured and spread the news very actively. As a result of the publicity Jesus couldn't enter the city without encountering crowds. They came from everywhere to hear Him and to be healed of their problems. Jesus therefore withdrew into isolated places and prayed.

THE LORD TEACHES AT CAPERNAUM

Jesus went by ship and some days later entered His own city, Capernaum. A rumour circulated that He was in a house and immediately such a large crowd of people gathered making it impossible for them to be accommodated in the room, so Jesus preached from the doorway. When Jesus was teaching Pharisees and Doctors of the Law sitting nearby who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judaea and Jerusalem itself. The power of the Lord was very clear.

CURING THE MAN SICK WITH THE PALSY AND CRITICISM BY THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

Four men brought a person on a bed, sick with a palsy. The four men tried to find a way to bring the sick man and to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find how this might be done due to the crowd they went up to the housetop and uncovered the roof where Jesus was. When they had broken a hole in the roof they lowered him down on his bed in front of Jesus who, seeing their faith, said to the invalid, "Son, be happy your sins are forgiven".

Some of the Scribes and Pharisees sitting there began to think, "Why does this man speak such blasphemies as only God can forgive sins?"

Immediately Jesus became spiritually aware of them, and knowing their thoughts, said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? Is it easier to say to this person, "Your sins are forgiven" or, "Arise, take up your bed, and walk? It is important for you to know that the Messiah has power upon earth to forgive sins."

Jesus continued saying to the invalid, "I say to you, Arise, take up your bed and leave. Go to your own house." Immediately he got up in front of them all, took his bed and departed for his house praising God.

When the crowd saw this happen they were totally amazed and glorified God. They were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange unique events today which has given such power to men".

MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR

Jesus went out again to the sea side with a huge crowd following Him and He taught them. After the teaching Jesus saw a tax collector named Matthew, Levi the son of Alphaeus, sitting at his table and said to him, "Follow me." Matthew left everything, stood up and followed Jesus and he made Jesus a great feast in his house. While Jesus was having the meal, many tax collectors and prostitutes sat with Jesus and His disciples because many of them followed Him.

JESUS CRITICISED FOR ASSOCIATING WITH SOCIAL OUTCASTS

When the Scribes and Pharisees saw Jesus having a meal with tax collectors and prostitutes they criticised the disciples saying, "How is it that you and your Master eat and drink with tax collectors and prostitutes?" When Jesus heard it He said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "Those that are healthy have no need of the doctor but those who are sick do. Go away and learn what this means. I will have mercy, not sacrifice for I haven't come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DISCIPLES FASTING

The disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees used to fast. The disciples of John came and said to Jesus, "Why do we and the disciples of the Pharisees often fast and pray but Your disciples don't fast?" Jesus said to them, "Can you make the children of the bride chamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days."

MIXTURE OF OLD AND NEW

Jesus told a parable to them saying, "No one sows a piece of new cloth to patch an old garment, because the patch will shrink and the tear will be made worse. In another situation, no one puts new wine into old bottles because the old bottles will break and the wine will run out and the bottles will be destroyed. You put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved. In addition, nobody having drunk old wine immediately desires new wine for they say, "The old is better".

HEALING OF THE MAN AT POOL OF BETHESDA

After this there was a Jewish Feast and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem by the sheep market there is a pool which is called in the Hebrew "Bethesda" It has five porches. In these lay a large crowd of the weak and powerless invalids, the blind, crippled and withered waiting for the moving of the water.

This was because an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever stepped first into the pool after the agitation of the water was cured of the disease the person had. A man was lying there who had a problem for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time Jesus said, "Do you want to be made well?"

The invalid replied, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is agitated so while I am attempting to get to the pool another enters before me." Jesus said to the invalid, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk". Immediately the man was healed. He picked up his bed, and walked. The day on which he was healed was the Sabbath.

RESPONSE OF THE RELIGIOUS JEWS AND THE MAN MEETS JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

The Jewish leaders therefore said to the healed man, "It is the Sabbath. It is illegal for you to carry your bed". The healed man replied, "He who cured me instructed me to take up my bed and walk." The Religious Jews asked him, "What man was it who instructed you, 'Take up your bed, and walk'?" The healed man did not know who it was as Jesus had left the area and there was a large crowd at the Pool of Bethesda. Later Jesus found the healed man in the temple and said to him, "Look you are cured do not sin anymore in case a worse thing inflicts you". The man left and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had cured him.

THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP PLAN TO KILL JESUS FOR WORKING ON THE SABBATH

As a result, the Jewish leadership persecuted Jesus and plotted to kill Him because He had done this on the Sabbath day. Jesus said to them, "Up to now My Father works and I work". This increased the desire of these Jews to kill him because He had not only broken the Sabbath but had also said that God was his Father, making Himself equal with God.

RELATIONSHIP OF JESUS WITH THE FATHER

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders, "I assure you the Son Himself can do nothing but that which He sees the Father do. For everything the Father does the Son does also. The Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself does and He will show Him greater works than these that will amaze you."

"As the Father raises the dead and gives them life the Son also gives life to all who He wishes. The Father does not judge but has delegated all judgment to the Son. Everybody should honour the Son, in exactly the same way as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who has sent Him."

RESURRECTION

I tell you the truth, "He who hears My Word and believes on Him that sent Me has everlasting life and shall not be condemned but has passed from death to life. The time is coming, and now is here when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God. They that hear shall live. As the Father has life in Himself so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself.

The Father has given the Son authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Messiah. Don't be surprised at this because the hour is coming when all those that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come out of the graves. Those that have produced good will receive the resurrection of life and those that have only produced evil will receive the resurrection of damnation."

FOURFOLD WITNESS TO JESUS

Jesus said, "I can do nothing independently, I judge as I am informed and My judgment is fair because I am not doing it for My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. If I witness about Myself, My witness is not accepted as true but others are testifying about Me, and I know that the witnesses who testify of Me are true."

[1] JOHN THE BAPTIST

"You sent witnesses to John, and he bore witness of the truth. However, I do not rest my testimony on human beings, I only say these things that you might be saved. He was a burning and shining light and for a while you were willing for a while to be happy in his light."

[2] THE WORKS

"However, I have a greater witness than that of John because the works which the Father has given Me to finish, the same works that I do, testify of Me, that the Father has sent Me."

[3] THE FATHER

"The Father Himself who has sent Me, has testified of Me. You have never heard His voice at any time, nor seen Him physically, nor do you have His word living within you because you do not believe in the One whom He sent."

[4] THE SCRIPTURES

“Search the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them and yet they bear witness of Me. Yet you do not want to come to Me in order to have life. I do not look for honour from men but I know that you do not have the love of God in you.

I have come in my Father's name and you don't receive Me, but if another comes in his own name you will receive him. How can you believe when you welcome praise from one other but do not seek praise from the only God?

Don't imagine that I will accuse you before the Father, your accuser is Moses in whom you are trusting. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed Me because he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My teachings?”

PLUCKING CORN ON THE SABBATH, DAVID'S ACTIVITY AND JESUS LORD OF THE SABBATH.

On a Sabbath while He was passing through the grain fields, His disciples were hungry and began to pluck the heads of grain rubbing them in their hands before eating them. When some of the Pharisees saw this they said to Jesus, “Look, Your disciples are doing unlawful work on the Sabbath day”. The Pharisees then said to the disciples, “Why are you doing unlawful things on the Sabbath days?”

Jesus replied, “Haven't you read what David did? How he went into the House of God in the days of Abiathar the High Priest He took and ate the shewbread which it is not lawful to eat other than by the priests. He also gave the shewbread to his companions. Or haven't you read in the law how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple eat the bread on the Sabbath, and are blameless?”

“Truly there is here something that is greater than the Temple. Had you known what this statement means, ‘I want mercy, and not sacrifice’, you would not have condemned the innocent. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath, for the Messiah is Lord even of the Sabbath day.”

HEALING OF THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

On yet another Sabbath Jesus entered a synagogue and taught. In the synagogue there was a man who had a withered hand. The Scribes and Pharisees watched Jesus to see if they might find something against Him to enable them to accuse Him. They wanted to see whether He would heal the man on the Sabbath day. They asked Him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days?” Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and stand”, so the man rose and stood there.

Jesus said to the group, “Which of you who has one sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath day won't he get hold of it lift it out? How much better then is a man than a sheep?” Jesus continued, “I will ask you one thing; is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it? There was silence.

He looked at them all, and he was angry and saddened because of the hardness of their hearts, and said to the man with the withered hand, “Stretch out your hand”. The man stretched his hand out and it was completely restored. The Pharisees left the synagogue very frustrated and discussed with each other and with the Herodians how they might be able to destroy Jesus.

MULTITUDES OF THE AFFLICTED FOLLOW THE LORD

When Jesus became aware of their plotting He came down with His disciples to the plain and they moved to the sea. Large crowds from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea, from beyond Jordan; and those near Tyre and Sidon followed them. Those who had diseases or were troubled by demons came to Jesus to be healed when they heard what great things He had been doing.

Jesus spoke to His disciples asking that a small ship should be brought round because of the large crowd in case they should get too close and crush Him as the whole group jostled to touch Him because of His healing power and He healed them all.

FULFILMENT OF A PROPHECY

Unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before him, and proclaimed, “You are the Son of God”. He ordered the demons to be quiet so that they should not make Him known.

This was so that Isaiah's prophecy might be fulfilled, "Behold My servant, whom I have chosen; My beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased: I will put My spirit on Him, and He shall show judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He sends out judgment to victory and in His name the Gentiles shall trust".

SELECTION OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

Soon afterwards Jesus went up into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer with God the Father. When daylight came He called His disciples to Him and they came. He appointed twelve who should be with Him that He might send them out preaching. He gave them power over the demons enabling them to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and diseases.

THE NAMES OF THE DISCIPLES

The names of the twelve apostles are these; the first Simon, (whom He named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James [who He named Boanerges, which means the sons of thunder], Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew the tax collector and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Canaanite called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James [Lebbaeus whose surname was Thaddaeus] and Judas Iscariot, who was the traitor, and they went into a house.

THE LORD PREPARES TO TEACH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Seeing the crowds Jesus went up into a mountain and when He was seated His disciples came to Him and Jesus started teaching.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are you that weep now for you shall laugh. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"You are blessed when men shall look down on you, persecute you and shall falsely say many evil things against you, hate you and exclude you from their company and shall blame you and say you are evil, for My, the Messiah's, sake. Rejoice in that day, leap for joy and be very glad for your reward in heaven is great. In exactly the same way their ancestors persecuted the prophets who came before your time."

THE CURSINGS

"Alas to those who are rich as you have already received your rewards. Alas to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Alas to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Alas to you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste how can it be used as a preservative? It is good for nothing but to be thrown out and to be trodden under foot."

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"You are the light of the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one when he has lit a candle, puts it in a secret place or under a cover but puts it on a candlestick so that those who come in may see the light as well as giving light to all that are in the house.

The light of the body is the eye so when your eye is sound, your whole body also is full of light; but when your eye is defective your whole body is full of darkness. Beware therefore that the light which is in you is light and not darkness.

If the whole body is full of light it will be like when the bright shining of a candle gives you light. Let your light so shine before humanity that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

JESUS CHRIST AND THE LAW, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"Don't think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets, I have not come to destroy them but to fulfil them. I confirm that until heaven and earth pass away nothing at all will be removed from the Law until all of it is fulfilled.

Whoever breaks one of the smallest of the commandments and shall teach others to do so shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach the Law will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. I assure you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees you will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

MENTAL MURDER

"You have heard that men in ancient times were told 'You shall not murder and whoever murders will be liable before the courts.' But I tell you, anyone who is angry with his brother without a cause is liable to judgment and whoever shall speak abusively of his brother is liable before the Sanhedrin but whoever shall say 'You fool' shall be in danger of hell fire."

ACCEPTABLE GIVING

"If you bring your offering to the altar and when you are there remember that your brother has something against you, then leave your offering at the altar there and return to be reconciled to your brother before coming and offering your gift.

Come to terms with your opponent quickly while you are on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent may hand you over to the judge and the judge hand you over to the court officer to be put into prison. I assure you that you will not get out of prison until you have paid back everything."

MENTAL ADULTERY

"You have heard that it has been said, 'Do not commit adultery', but I say whoever looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

TEACHING BY MEANS OF SHOCK TACTICS

"If your right eye causes you to sin pluck it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than you should perish and your whole body be thrown into hell. If your right hand cause you to sin cut it off and throw it away for it is better that you allow one of your members to perish than have your whole body thrown into hell."

THE LAW AND PRACTICAL LIVING

"It has also been said that whoever divorces his wife should give her a divorce certificate. But I say that whoever divorces his wife apart from unfaithfulness causes her to commit adultery and whoever shall marry the divorced woman commits adultery.

Again it has been said, 'You should not swear falsely but should perform your oaths to the Lord', but I say to you, "Do not swear at all, not by heaven, because it is God's throne, nor by the earth because it is His footstool, nor by Jerusalem for it is the city of the Great King. You are not to swear by your head because you cannot make one hair black or white."

Say just a simple, 'Yes I will', or 'No I will not'. Anything else comes from the evil one.

It has been said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth', but I say to you, "Do not resist an evil one but whoever strikes you on the right cheek turn to him the other one also."

If anyone wants to sue you for your tunic let him also have your robe. If a person forces you to go a mile with him, go with him a second one. Give to him who begs from you and do not refuse the borrower."

BIBLICAL LOVE

“You have been told, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy’. But I say to you, “Love your enemies and bless those who curse you, do good to those that hate you and pray for those who persecute you that you may be the sons of your Heavenly Father who makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” “As you would wish others to do to you, do to them.”

If you only love those who love you what good is there in that because tax collectors and prostitutes also love those that also love them. If you only greet your brothers what do you more than other members of society who do that? Even the tax collectors do that!

If you lend to those who you hope will return it, what advantage do you have, even prostitutes lend to prostitutes expecting to receive the same again. Love your enemies and do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return and your reward shall be great. You will be the children of the Highest: for He is kind to the unthankful and to the evil. Therefore, be merciful and perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is merciful and perfect.”

BIBLICAL CHARITY

“Be sure not to do your good works in the view of the public so that you can be admired. If you do it that way you will have no reward from your Heavenly Father. Therefore, when you do your good works don’t advertise it as the hypocrites who do that in the synagogues and in the streets so that they can be admired. I tell you that the world’s admiration is their reward.

But when you do your good works do it in secret avoiding publicity and your Father which sees all the secret things shall personally reward you openly.”

ATTITUDE WHEN PRAYING

“When you pray don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by the public. I assure you that they have their reward.

In contrast to them when you pray go to a quiet room and close the door and pray privately to your Father and He will reward you openly. Don’t recite the prayers over and over again. The pagans do this because they think that they will be heard because of the length of their prayers. Don’t be like them because your Father knows what things you require even before you ask Him.”

THE DISCIPLES MODEL PRAYER

“Pray in this way, Our Father who is in heaven we honour your Holy name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our food and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into testing but deliver us from evil One. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

A GODLY ATTITUDE

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you but if you do not, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

When you fast, don’t be like the hypocrites who have a dishevelled appearance because they disfigure their faces so that the public may recognise that they are fasting. I assure you they have their reward. However, when you fast be well presented and wash your face so that you do not appear to be fasting. Your Father however, will know and will reward you openly.

Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth where moth and rust degrade them and where thieves break and enter to steal. On the contrary store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where it is protected and secure because where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will follow one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and worldly riches.”

GOD CARES FOR YOU

“Therefore, do not be anxious regarding your life, what you will eat or drink, nor for what clothes you may wear. Isn't life more than food and the body than clothes? Look at the birds - they do not sow, reap or store in barns but your heavenly Father feeds them all. Aren't you much more valuable than them?”

By worrying, can you change the length of your life? In the case of clothing consider the lilies of the field - how they grow; they do not work nor do they manufacture clothes and yet I say that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. So if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown onto the fire will not He do much more for you, O you of little faith?

Therefore, don't worry saying, “What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Or, how shall we be dressed?” The Gentiles seek after all these things but your Heavenly Father knows what you require. Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be given to you. Therefore, do not concern yourself about tomorrow for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

DO NOT JUDGE

“Do not judge in case you will be judged, because in the way you judge you shall be judged and by what standard you use it will be used on you.

Why do you look for the splinter in your brother's eye but do not recognise the log of wood in your own eye? How then can you say to your brother, “Let me pull out the splinter in your eye.” You hypocrite, first remove the log out of your eye, then you will clearly see to pull out the splinter from your brother's eye.

Jesus told this parable to His disciples “Can the blind lead the blind? Won't they both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

Do not give that which is sacred to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before the swine in case they trample the pearls and turn and tear you to pieces.

Give and it shall be given to you, in good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over. The generosity of the way that you give shall be generously returned to you again.”

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you, for every one that asks receives, and he that seeks finds, and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

Who of you, if his son asked for bread would give him a stone? Or if he asked for a fish would give him a snake? If you then, being sinful and hard hearted know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to them that ask him?

Therefore, all the things whatever you would have that people should do to you, do that to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

THE TWO ALTERNATIVE WAYS

“Enter in at the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad the way that leads to destruction and death and many go that way. However, the gate and the way which leads to life is narrow, and only a few people ever find it.”

FRUIT IN THE LIFE

“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are wolves who will tear you apart. You shall know them by the fruit they produce. Do men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? No, in the same way every good tree produces good fruit; but a corrupt tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Every tree is known by its own fruit. By their fruits you shall know them.

A good man out of the storehouse of his heart produces that which is good, but an evil man out of the evil things stored in his heart produces that which is evil. The mouth reveals of what is filling a person's heart.”

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

“The way to heaven is for them that do the will of my Father which is in heaven. Not every one that says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not given prophesies in Your name? In Your name have we not cast out devils and done many wonderful works?’ And then will I frankly say to them, I never knew you, get away from Me you evil workers. Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?”

Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them, I will show to you who he is like. I will compare him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. He excavated and laid a deep foundation onto bed rock. The rain descended, the winds blew and beat upon that house and when the flood rose and beat upon that house, it never collapsed as it was founded solidly on the rock.

However, every one that hears My sayings and does not do them is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand without a foundation. The rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and the water beat upon that house and immediately it collapsed and the house was a complete wreck.

When Jesus had finished these sayings, the people were amazed at his teaching as He taught them with authority unlike the method used by the Scribes.”

4. THE GALILEAN MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**THE CENTURION AND HIS SICK SERVANT**

When Jesus had finished his teachings, he came to Capernaum. The well-loved servant of a Centurion was very sick with trembling in the limbs; so severe that he was tormented by it. He was at the point of death.

Some Jewish elders came to Him begging Jesus to come and heal the sick servant. They commended the Centurion to Jesus,, saying that he was a great friend of the Jewish nation and had built a synagogue for them.

When the Centurion heard of Jesus’ arrival he came saying, ‘Lord, my servant is at home sick’. Jesus answered him, ‘I will come and heal him’. The Centurion replied, ‘Lord, do not inconvenience Yourself because I am not worthy for you to come inside my house, but just say the word and my servant will be healed.

I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, “Go, and he goes;” and to another, “Come, and he comes;” and to my servant, “Do this”, and he does it.’ When Jesus heard these things, He was amazed and turned round and said to the people that followed Him, ‘I tell you, I haven’t found such great faith, no, not in Israel’.

I tell you, many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven, while many of the Israelites for whom the Kingdom was prepared will be cast out into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus replied, ‘Go back. You have believed, so this has been done to you’. They returned to the house and found the servant that had been sick completely cured and that the healing had occurred at the time when Jesus spoke.

THE RAISING OF THE WIDOW OF NAIN’S SON

The day after the healing of the Centurion’s servant Jesus went into a city called Nain together with a crowd of His followers. When Jesus arrived near to the gate of the city a dead man was carried out, a widow’s only son with a large crowd following the funeral procession.

When Jesus saw her, he felt sympathy for her and said, “Do not weep”. Jesus came and touched the bier and those pall bearers stopped. Jesus said, “Young man, I tell you arise”, and the dead son sat up and began to speak to those around him and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

The crowd was amazed and they praised God, saying that a great prophet is risen up among us and that God has visited His people. News of Jesus went out throughout all Judea and the surrounding area.

JOHN THE BAPTIST SENDS HIS DISCIPLES TO JESUS

Now when John the Baptist had heard in the prison the works of the Messiah, John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to Jesus to ask, "Are You the one that should come or do we look for another?" When the men were come to Jesus they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You asking, Are You the One that should come or do we look for another?"

CONFIRMATION SIGNS OF JESUS AS THE MESSIAH

While they were there Jesus cured many of their illnesses and diseases, cleansed those controlled by demons and gave many that were blind, sight. Jesus said to them, "return and tell John of the things which you have heard and seen. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Happy is he who does not lose his faith in Me."

JESUS QUERIES THE MOTIVATION OF THE CROWD

When the disciples of John the Baptist left, Jesus began to say to the crowd concerning John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?" Jesus said. "A reed shaken by the wind, a man well dressed in good clothes?" "I tell you those who are very well dressed and live in luxury are in kings' palaces. Who did you go out to see, a prophet? Yes and I tell you much more than a prophet because John was the person of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger in advance of You, who will prepare Your way before You."

TESTIMONY OF THE GREATNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

"I tell you no person born of a woman is a greater prophet than John the Baptist and yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than him. From the days when John the Baptist started preaching until now the Kingdom of Heaven has suffered violence and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. If you will accept, it he himself is Elijah who was to come. He that has ears to hear, let him hear."

All the people when they heard Him, even the tax collectors, acknowledged God as just, because they accepted John's baptism but the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law rejected God's purpose for them and refused John's baptism.

JESUS CRITICISES THE ATTITUDE OF THE CROWD

Jesus said, "What can I compare this generation to? They are like children sitting in the marketplace, and calling to other children 'We have played the flute but you haven't danced; we have mourned with you but you have not wept or mourned.'"

John the Baptist came not eating normal food or drinking wine, and you say, "He is demon possessed". I, the Messiah man, came eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and prostitutes." I am sure you can always justify your inconsistencies.

THE WOMAN ANOINTS JESUS' FEET

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to come and have a meal with him. Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and sat down for the meal. One of the city prostitutes came, knowing that Jesus was having a meal with the Pharisee, bringing an alabaster flask of perfume. She stood behind Jesus kneeling and weeping at His feet and began to wash His feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair. She kissed his feet and anointed them with the perfume.

When the Pharisee, who had asked Jesus for the meal, saw this happening he said to himself, "This man, if He was a prophet would have known that this woman who was ministering to Him was a prostitute".

JESUS GIVES A PARABLE ON DEBTORS AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus spoke directly to the Pharisee, "Simon, I would like to say something to you." Simon said, "Master please do". Jesus continued, "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors: one owed him five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

When both of the two debtors told him they had no money to repay the debt he kindly forgave them both. Tell me Simon, which of them will love him most?" Simon replied, "I suppose that it would be the person who had owed the most". "Correct", Jesus agreed.

JESUS FORGIVES THE WOMAN

Jesus now turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman, do you really see this woman? I entered your house and you gave me no water to wash my feet on entering your house, but she has washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair.

You did not greet me with the customary kiss of welcome, but this woman since the time I came in has not ceased kissing my feet. You did not traditionally anoint my head with oil but this woman has anointed my feet with sweet smelling perfume."

Jesus then said to him, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she loved me much, but one who is forgiven little shows little love". Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven, your faith has saved you, go in peace". Those seated at the meal with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this that also forgives sins?"

PREACHING AND THE RESPONSE OF SOME WOMEN

Afterwards Jesus walked through one place to another with His twelve disciples, preaching and telling the good news of the Kingdom of God. Some women also accompanied them; Mary Magdalene, who had been healed from the possession by seven demons, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who supported Him from their own means.

CRITICISM OF THE LACK OF REPENTANCE IN CHORAZIN, BETHSAIDA AND CAPERNAUM

Jesus began to criticise the attitude of the inhabitants of the cities in which most of his miracles had been done as they had not turned back to God. He said, "Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you Bethsaida! If the miracles performed in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have long ago repented in sackcloth and ashes. It shall be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon at Judgment Day than for you."

"Capernaum, you who are highly esteemed shall go down to hell. If the miracles that have been done in Capernaum had been done in Sodom, it would still be in existence today. I tell you that it shall be more endurable for the land of Sodom at Judgment Day than for you."

"People will give account of every careless word that they have spoken on Judgment Day because by your words you shall be justified or condemned. He that is not with Me is against Me, and he that does not work with Me wastes his time."

REST FOR THE TRUSTING WEARY

Jesus prayed, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth I thank You because You have hid these things from the learned and intelligent and have revealed them to children. Yes Father, for it pleased You to do it in this way."

"Everything has been entrusted to Me by my Father. Only the Father knows the Son and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son reveals Him.

Come to Me all you that work so hard and have a heavy burden and I will give you rest. Wear My yoke and let Me teach you because I am gentle and humble and you will find rest for your souls as I give you only light burdens."

THE HEALING OF A DEMON POSSESSED MAN AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JESUS

The crowds came together again so compact as to prevent Jesus and the disciples having a meal. A man was brought to Jesus who was demon possessed. He was blind and dumb. Jesus cast out the demon and healed him. When the demon had gone the man could both speak and see. The crowd were amazed and said, "Is this the Messiah?"

The Pharisees and the Scribes who had come down from Jerusalem heard of Jesus healing and said, "He is indwelt by Beelzebub [Satan] and casts out demons using Satan's power. He does not cast out demons except through Beelzebub."

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom which is divided against itself is brought to ruin and every city or house divided against itself shall not remain."

"How can Satan cast out Satan? If Satan rises up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but it will end in self destruction. If I cast out demons through Beelzebub's power who then casts the demons out for your sons? Let them be your judges."

"However, if I with the finger of God can cast out demons through the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you."

DESTROYING A STRONG MAN'S HOUSE

"When an armed strong man protects his residence, his goods are secure. No one can break into a strong man's house and seize his goods unless the thief first binds him, then he will ransack his house. Therefore when a stronger person than him shall come and overcome him the conqueror takes all his armour in which he trusted and divides the booty."

BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said, "This truth I share with you, people will be forgiven a huge amount of sin and blasphemy but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. Those who do so are in danger of eternal damnation because they said I had an unclean spirit. Whosoever speaks a word against Me shall be forgiven but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven, neither in this age nor in the age to come. He that blasphemes against the Holy Spirit commits the unforgiveable sin."

THE SIGN OF JONAH

Some of the Scribes and Pharisees tempting him said, "Master, From You we would like to see a sign from heaven". Now when a crowd came together Jesus started saying, "This is an evil generation, they seek a sign but no sign shall be given except the sign of the Prophet Jonah. In a similar way that Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so shall I also be a sign to this generation.

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a large fish so shall I be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment against this generation and shall condemn it because they repented when Jonah preached to them and I assure you a greater person than Jonah is here.

The Queen of Sheba will rise up in judging the men of this current generation and shall condemn them because she came from a huge distance to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and I assure you a greater person than Solomon is here."

RETURN OF EVIL SPIRITS

"When a demon has left a man the demon goes into a wilderness seeking a resting place. Unable to find one the demon says, 'I am going to return to the house I left'. When he returns and he finds it empty, clean and provisioned, he goes and invites seven more wicked demons and joins them entering back into the house resulting in the man's condition being worse than before the demon left."

While Jesus said these things a woman from the crowd cried out, "Blessed is the womb from which you were born and the breasts that nurtured you". Jesus replied, "Far more blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it."

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

Jesus was speaking to a crowd with His mother and brothers standing outside the building. They could not get into the house because of the huge crowd. They sent a message to Him saying that they wanted to speak with Him. A bystander said to Jesus, "Look, your mother and siblings are outside wishing to see and speak to You".

Jesus replied, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" Then Jesus looked at the crowd and pointed towards His disciples and said, "Look, (these are) my mother and brothers! For anyone who obeys the will of My Heavenly Father, and those that hear the Word of God and obey it, they are My brother, sister and mother."

PRIORITIES IN LIFE

While Jesus was speaking a Pharisee asked Him to have a meal with him so Jesus went in and sat down to the meal. When the Pharisee noticed it, he was very surprised that Jesus had not washed His hands before dinner. Jesus said to him, "You Pharisees make the outside of the cup and the plate clean but your minds are full of jealousy and wicked thoughts. Fools! Didn't God make both the outside and inside as well? Purity is best demonstrated by generosity!"

WOES TO THE PHARISEES AND LAWYERS

Alas you Pharisees! You tithe your mint and every type of herb, but disregard the judgment and the love of God. These are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

Alas you Pharisees! You love the best seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the markets.

Alas you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You have concealed graves and the people that walk over them are not aware of the defilement of them."

One of the experts of religious law replied, "Teacher, when You say this you insult us as well". Jesus said to him, "Alas to you lawyers also because you weigh men down with heavy burdens while you yourself will not touch the burdens with your fingers".

"Woe to you, because you build the prophets' tombs, and it was your fathers who killed them. Consequently you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers, because it was they that killed the Prophets and you built their tombs."

"For that reason the wisdom of God said, I will send to them Prophets and Apostles and some of them they shall kill and persecute in order that the blood of all the Prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be charged against this generation.

From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the Temple I tell you, it shall be required from this generation."

"Woe to you lawyers, for you have taken away the key of knowledge. You didn't enter in yourselves and you hindered those who were entering."

As Jesus said these things to them, the Scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects plotting against Him to catch Him out in something He might say.

HYPOCRISY OF THE PHARISEES

Meanwhile when such a large crowd had gathered to the extent that they jostled and trod on each other, Jesus began to teach His disciples "First of all beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy because there is nothing in secret that shall not be revealed; nor hidden that will not be known. Whatever you have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light and that which you have whispered in secret will be proclaimed from the housetops."

"I say unto you my friends, do not be afraid of those that kill the body and after which they have nothing else that they can do. But I warn you of the One to fear: Fear him who, after He has killed you has authority to throw you into hell; Yes I say to you, Fear Him!"

"Aren't five sparrows sold for a couple of coins yet not one of them is forgotten by God? Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore don't worry about things because you are of more value than many sparrows."

"I also tell you whoever confesses Me before men, the Son of man will also confess before the angels of God, but he who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of man will be forgiven, but he who blasphemes the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven."

"When they bring you to the synagogues, magistrates or powers, do not worry about what answer you will give to the questions because the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you ought to say."

BEWARE OF BEING GREEDY

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Master, speak to my brother to divide the family inheritance with me". Jesus replied "Who appointed Me a judge and arbiter over you?" He then added, "Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed, because a man's life does not consist of the possessions that he may have."

INCLUDE GOD IN YOUR PLANS

Jesus told them a parable saying, "The land of a certain rich man was very productive and he said to himself, 'What shall I do because I have not enough room to store my goods?' 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones and in them store up my goods. I will sit back and say 'My friend you have enough stored away for many years, take it easy, eat drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him 'You fool, tonight you are going to die. Who then will get all these things that you have produced?' This is the fool that gets rich for himself on earth but not rich in heaven".

"Don't worry My little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to charity, make for yourselves bags which do not wear out, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail."

SERVANTS ARE TO BE ALERT

"Be dressed in readiness with your lights burning and be like men awaiting their master's return from the wedding feast so that when he comes and knocks they may open the door to him immediately. Blessed are those servants who the master will find watching when he comes. I assure you, that the master shall put on servants' clothes, gird himself and make them to sit down to a meal which he will come out and serve them himself."

"Whatever time he comes he will find them ready. Those servants are blessed. Know this that if the head of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and avoided the house being ransacked. You must therefore be ready, for the Lord Jesus Christ will return at a time you do not expect." Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, are you speaking this parable to the disciples or everybody?"

PARABLE OF THE STEWARD AND SERVANT

Jesus continued, "Who then is the faithful and wise steward, who his master shall put in charge of his servants to give them their rations at the right time? Blessed is that servant, who his master, when he comes shall find him doing so. I assure you that he will make him in charge of all his possessions.

However the chief servant may believe his master will be a long time returning. As a result he decides to abuse the servants under him eating and drinking to excess so that he becomes drunk. The master of the chief servant will come at a time when he is not expecting him and severely discipline him and demote him as an unreliable servant.

That servant who knew his master's will but did not do what he was supposed to do will be severely beaten. The servant who did not know his master's plan and did commit acts worthy of discipline will be less severely disciplined. Much is required from those to which much is given, for their responsibility is greater."

CHRIST A DIVIDER OF MEN

Jesus said, "I am come to bring fire on the earth and how I wish the task was already completed. There is a terrible baptism ahead for Me and how distressed I am until it is completed. Do you think I have come to bring peace on earth? No I say I am bringing division."

“From now on there shall be five people in a divided house, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”

Jesus said to the crowd, “When you see a cloud rise out of the west, immediately you say, ‘There’s a shower coming;’ and it comes. When you see the south wind blowing you say, ‘It will be a hot day,’ and it happens. You hypocrites, you can analyze the appearance of the earth and sky but how is it that you do not see and recognise the signs of the present time?”

SLAUGHTER OF THE GALILAEANS

On the same occasion some reported to Jesus about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus replied “Do you suppose that these Galileans were the greatest sinners among the Galileans, because they suffered this fate?”

“I say ‘No, they were not,’ but unless you repent, you shall all likewise perish. How about those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them? Do you think that they were the worst sinners of all that dwell in Jerusalem? I say ‘No’ but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

A HUGE CROWD GATHERS TO HEAR JESUS WHO TEACHES THEM IN PARABLES

Later the same day Jesus left the house and sat by the sea side. Great crowds came together from out of every city so that Jesus relocated into a ship and sat while the crowd stood on the shore. He taught them many things by parables in his teaching.

UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES

Jesus said to them, “He who has ears to hear let him hear”. The disciples asked about parables and why He used them when teaching. Jesus answered, “Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not. Whoever has will be given more and he shall have plenty but whoever does not have from him will be taken away even what he has.”

“Therefore I speak to them in parables because they seeing, do not see, and hearing, do not hear, neither do they understand. This fulfils Isaiah’s prophecy, ‘By hearing you shall hear and not understand; and seeing you shall see but not perceive. Their heart is fat and heavy, their ears are dull and they have closed their eyes unless at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand with their heart and should be converted and their sins should be forgiven and I should heal them’.”

“But blessed are your eyes for they see: and your ears for they hear. Many a Prophet and godly man have desired to see those things which you see, and have not seen them; to hear those things which hear, and have not heard them.”

THE PARABLE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Jesus said, “Listen, a sower went out to sow. As he sowed some of the seeds fell by the way side, and it was trodden down and the birds came and ate them. Others fell on stony ground which had only a little depth of soil. Immediately the seeds germinated and grew but because they had no depth of earth when the sun rose they were scorched and because they had no root and lacked moisture they withered away.”

“Some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with the plants and choked them so they produced no fruit. Other seed fell into good ground and produced abundant fruit. Some increased a hundred times while others were sixty and some thirty times.

Now hear the explanation of the parable of the sower. The sower sows the word and the seed is the Word of God. Those who receive the seed by the way side are those who hear the news of the Kingdom and do not understand it. Immediately Satan, the wicked one, comes and snatches away the Word which has been sown in the heart in case they should believe and be saved.”

“The one that receives the seed in rocky and stony places is he that hears the Word, and immediately with joy receives it and believes it for a while.

The Word does not root in him so endures just for a while. Afterwards when testing times or persecution come because of the Word of God he is immediately offended and falls away.”

“The one who receives the seed among the thorns is he that hears the Word and advances but the worries of this life and his longing for money, pleasures and the desire for other things entering his life choke out God’s Word and he becomes unfruitful, failing to bring any fruit to perfection.”

“However he that receives the Word into the good ground is he who has an honest and good heart. Having heard the Word, he keeps it, receives and understands it and patiently yields a lot of fruit, some a hundred times, some sixty and some thirty times.”

PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS

Jesus told them another parable, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field but while his men slept his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left the area. When the blades of wheat grew and the grain formed the weeds also appeared.”

“So the farmer’s men came and said unto him, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ The farmer said to his men, ‘An enemy has done this’. The men said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?’

The farmer replied, ‘No, let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest otherwise while you are pulling the weeds you also root up the wheat. At harvest time I will say to the reapers, Gather first the weeds in bundles and bind them to burn but gather the wheat into my barn’.”

INTERPRETING THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND WEEDS

Jesus now sent the large crowd away and went into the house: together with His disciples who said to Him, “Tell us the meaning of the weeds in the field”. Jesus replied, “The person who sows the good seed is the Messiah, the field is the World and the good seed are the Children of the Kingdom, but the weeds are Satan’s children. The enemy that sowed the weeds is Satan and the harvest is the end of the world with the angels being the reapers.”

“At the end of time the unbelievers are gathered together and burned in the fire. The Messiah will send His angels and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice evil and will throw them into a furnace of fire. There shall be wailing and grinding of teeth. However the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

JESUS USES PARABLES BUT ONLY GIVES HIS DISCIPLES THE SPIRITUAL MEANING

Jesus taught the crowds exclusively by parables but explained them to His disciples only when they were alone with Him so that it might be fulfilled which had been prophesied in the Psalms, “I will open my mouth in parables; I will talk about things that have been kept secret from the foundation of the world”.

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

“What will we compare the Kingdom of Heaven to? The Kingdom is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds on earth but when it is grown it is the largest of the herbs, it becomes a tree and produces large branches allowing birds to perch on them and be sheltered from the sun.”

PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and mixed in three measures of food until the whole mixture was leavened.”

PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which, when a man discovers it he covers it up and in his excitement goes and sells all his possessions and buys that field.”

PARABLE OF THE PEARL

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Pearl Merchant looking for good pearls, who on finding a pearl of great value goes and sells all of his possessions and purchased it.”

GOD’S PROVISION

“The Kingdom of God is like when a man scatters seed in the soil then sleeps at night and rises in the day while the seed sprouts and grows but he does not understand how that happens. The soil produces by itself first the blade, then the head and finally the full grain. When he recognises this he reaps the harvest provided.”

GOOD AND BAD FISH

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a fisherman who casts his net into the water and gathers in fish of every kind, valuable and worthless. When the net is full he drags the net ashore, sits down, and gathers the edible ones into containers but throws the others away”.

“This is how it will be at the end of time. The angels shall come and separate the wicked people from the godly. The wicked will be thrown into the fire and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

THE END OF THE TEACHING SESSION

Jesus said to His disciples, “Have you understood all these things?” “Yes” they replied. Jesus said, “Every teacher therefore who is versed in the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new things and old”. When Jesus had finished these parables he went away from there.

THREE PEOPLE ENQUIRE ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

When Jesus saw the great crowds near Him he ordered that they move to the other side of the lake. As they were leaving, a Scribe came and said to Him, “Master, I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus replied, “The foxes have dens and the birds have nests but the Messiah does not have a place where to sleep”.

Jesus said to another, “Follow Me.” He replied “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father”. Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their dead but you go and preach the Kingdom of God.”

A third enquirer said “Lord, I will follow You but let me first go and say farewell to my relations at my home.” Jesus replied, “No one having started ploughing who looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.”

JESUS AND THE STORM

That very evening Jesus said to His disciples “Let us go to the other side of the lake so, having sent away the crowds, they embarked on a ship and with other small craft set sail.

While they were sailing Jesus fell asleep. A storm arrived with large waves, starting to pound and flood the boat so that it was in danger of sinking. Jesus was still asleep on a pillow at the rear of the boat so the disciples woke Him up saying “Don’t you care if we all die? Save us!”

Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea with its raging waves “Peace, be still”. Immediately the wind ceased and the sea became completely calm. He said to His disciples “Why are you so afraid?” “How is it that you have no faith? Where is your faith?” The disciples were filled with awe and said to one another “Who is this man that even the wind and waves obey Him?”

THE DEMONIACS

They arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee entering the country of the Gadarenes. Immediately after leaving the ship a demon possessed man approached them coming out of from the tombs near the city.

The man was very aggressive so that no one could enter and pass through the area. Continuously, night and day he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

This man had been demon possessed for a long time and had been driven by the demons away from civilisation so that was naked and lived amongst the tombs.

No one could restrain or calm him down although they had tried to do so on many occasions but because of his abnormal strength he had broken the chains.

However when the man saw Jesus from a long way away he ran and fell down before Him and worshipped Him. The demon cried with a loud voice, yelling, "What have I to do with You Jesus, You Son of the Most High God? Have You come here to torment us before the time? I appeal to God that You do not torment me."

Jesus said to the demon, "Come out of the man, you demon. What is your name?" The demon replied, "My name is Legion: for there are many here". The demons constantly asked Jesus that He would not send them away out of the country and into the abyss.

Quite a way from them there was a large herd of pigs who were feeding. So the demons asked Jesus, "If You remove us from this man allow us to go into the herd of pigs so we can indwell them". Jesus said, "Go!", and the demons immediately left the man and went into the pigs. Then the complete herd of about two thousand pigs ran down the steep hill into the Sea of Galilee and drowned.

The people that looked after the pigs ran back to the city and informed them what had happened to the demon possessed man and the means by which he had been healed.

As a result the whole population of the city came out to meet Jesus and to look at the man who had been demon possessed. He was now sitting, clothed and rational. They were afraid and when they saw Jesus they asked Him to go away from their region.

When Jesus arrived at the ship, the cured man asked Jesus if he might go with Him. Jesus said, "No but go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you and how He has shown you mercy". So the man left and started preaching in the ten towns of Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him and all of them were amazed.

FASTING

The disciples of John and of the Pharisees practiced fasting. They came to Jesus asking "Why do the disciples of John often fast and pray as do the disciples of the Pharisees but Your disciples eat and drink and don't fast." Jesus replied "Can you make the friends of the bride chamber fast as long as the bridegroom is with them? However the days will come when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them. In those days they will fast."

JAIRUS APPROACHES JESUS

When Jesus had returned by ship to the other side at the Sea of Galilee a large crowd formed and gladly received Him back because they were all waiting for Him.

One of the leaders of the synagogue, Jairus by name, came and when he saw Jesus he fell at Jesus' feet and worshipped Him, pleading with Him to come to his house. Jairus said, "My darling small daughter is lying down and at the point of death or maybe has already died. Please come and lay Your hands on her so that she might be healed and live." Jesus went with Jairus with a large crowd surrounding Him including His disciples.

THE WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

On the way to Jairus' house there was a diseased woman, who had been suffering bleeding for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors but had not been healed; in fact she was getting worse. Having heard of Jesus she came in the pressing crowd and touched the hem of His clothes. She thought by doing so she would be healed. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt that she had been healed from the disease.

Jesus immediately knew that healing power had gone out from Him and turned around in the pressing crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples said, "Look at the huge crowd milling around You. Why do you say to us 'Who touched Me?'" Jesus replied, "Somebody has touched Me because I know healing power has gone out from Me".

Jesus looked around and saw the woman who had touched Him. The woman saw that her action had been exposed and came in fear and trembling knowing what had happened to her. She came to Jesus and fell on her face, telling Jesus the truth and confessing to everyone around why she had done it and how she had been immediately healed. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, healed from your disease".

THE RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

While Jesus was still speaking to her, news came from Jairus' house telling Him not to trouble Jesus any more because the young girl was dead. As soon as Jesus heard the report He said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid, only believe and she will be made well".

When Jesus came towards the house He told only Peter, James and John together with Jairus, his wife and a servant woman to enter. As Jesus came to the house He saw that the mourning custom of paid mourners had already commenced, with the minstrels and the mourners making a noise, and they were weeping and wailing greatly.

On entering the house Jesus said to the paid mourners, "Why do you make all this noise and weep? The young girl is not dead, but sleeps". They laughed at Him, mocking Him, knowing that the young girl was dead. Jesus asked them all to go out of the house and took Jairus and his wife together with the three disciples and entered the room in which the young girl was lying.

Jesus took the young girl by the hand and said to her, "Young girl I tell you, Arise". Immediately her spirit returned and she arose and walked around. Her parents were totally shocked with amazement. Jesus told them that no one was to be told what had happened in the room and asked that the young girl be given something to eat. News of this miracle spread rapidly across the land.

CURING OF THE BLIND MEN

As Jesus departed from Jairus' house there were two blind men followed Him crying out, "You are the Son of David, have mercy on us." When Jesus entered a house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes Lord we do", they replied. Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith it will happen", and suddenly they could see. Jesus told the men not to share what had happened with anyone else but after leaving they talked widely across the region regarding the miracle.

CURING OF THE DUMB DEMONIAK

As they left the area a demon possessed man who could not speak was brought to Jesus. When the demon was cast out, the healed man talked and the crowds who were amazed at the healing exclaimed, "This has never been seen in Israel!" The Pharisees however maintained, "He casts out demons through the prince of the demons."

REJECTED AGAIN IN NAZARETH

Jesus now returned to Nazareth accompanied by His disciples. On the Sabbath Day He began to teach in the synagogue. Many hearing Him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get these ideas from? What wisdom is given to him so that such mighty works can be done by Him? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon and aren't his sisters here with us?"

They were offended by Him, but Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own countrymen and in his own house". Jesus didn't do many mighty works there due to their unbelief except laying His hands upon a few sick folk and healing them. Jesus was amazed at their unbelief.

JESUS ASSESSES THE LACK OF WORKERS

Jesus travelled around all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every sickness and disease among the people. When He saw the crowds, Jesus had pity for them because they were weak and scattered around like a sheep having no shepherd. Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is very large but the workers are few, therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will provide labourers for His harvest."

THE TWELVE APOSTLES TO ISRAEL

Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them power and authority so that they could cast out demons. He also enabled them to heal and to cure diseases and to preach the Kingdom of God.

The names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

Jesus sent them out in pairs. He commanded them not to go to Gentile areas or to enter any Samaritan cities. They were to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As they went they were to teach that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. They were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons under the concept that they had received freely and were to freely give.

PROVISION FOR THE JOURNEY

Jesus told His disciples "Do not take provisions on your journey apart from a staff and sandals on your feet. You should take no money, food, gold, silver or brass. You should not take extra coats, shoes or staff as the workman is worthy of support.

At every city you enter you are to ask for a godly man and stay in his house while you are in the city. When you ask permission to stay at a house and are welcomed, stay there until you move on to the next city; leave your blessing on the house but if that is not possible you are not to bless a house

ATTITUDE TO REJECTION

"When you leave a house or city where you or your message has been rejected shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them. I assure you that the land of Sodom and Gomorrah will fare better in the Day of Judgment, than for that city."

The disciples departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and that men should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed many with oil that were sick and healed them everywhere.

PERSECUTION BY AUTHORITIES

Jesus continued, "I send you out like sheep in the middle of wolves. You are to be wise as serpents but harmless as doves. Beware of men because they will deliver you up to the courts and they will whip you in their synagogues."

"You will be brought before governors and kings because of Me. This will give you opportunity to give testimony against them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up do not worry how or what you shall speak because you will receive at that time the words you should answer, because it is not you who will speak but the Holy Spirit from your Father who will speak through you."

PERSECUTION BY FAMILIES

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth, I have not come to bring peace but a sword. The source of opposition shall come from within one's own household."

"Brother shall betray brother to death and the father the child. Children shall turn against their parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by everyone on account of My name but he that perseveres to the end shall be saved.

When they persecute you in this city, flee to the next city because I assure you that you will not have gone through all the cities of Israel before the Messiah comes."

"The pupil is not superior to his teacher nor the servant above his master. It is good that the pupil should be like his teacher and the servant as his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?"

PRIORITIES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND TAKING UP YOUR CROSS

“He who loves his father, mother, son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. He who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. If you cling to your life you will lose it but if you give up your life for Me you shall save it.”

REWARDS AND SERVICE TO OTHERS

“Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive the reward of a prophet and those who receive an upright man because he is an upright man shall receive the reward of a righteous man.”

“Whoever shall give to one of these little ones a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple I assure you he will never lose his reward.”

When Jesus had finished His instruction to His twelve disciples He left them to continue His teaching and preaching ministry in their cities.

HEROD IS CONFUSED AND WORRIED ABOUT JESUS

It was at this time that Herod the tetrarch heard of all the events and the works Jesus was doing. He was very confused because there was a rumour circulating that John the Baptist had risen from the dead and that marvellous works were being performed by him.

Others said that Elijah had appeared while others said that it was a prophet or one of the old prophets had risen again. Herod said, “John I have beheaded, but who is this person?”, and he desired to see Him.

THE LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES GO ACROSS LAKE GALILEE

Later the apostles returned and met together with Jesus and told Him everything, both what they had done and what they had taught. Jesus said to them, “Let us all go to the desert area near to the city of Bethsaida and rest for a while as there has been so much going on so that you haven’t had enough time to rest and eat”.

So Jesus went by ship on the Sea of Galilee, which was also known as the Sea of Tiberias, into a secluded desert area. Jesus went up into a mountain and sat with His disciples. It was near to the Jewish Passover feast.

The crowd who had seen His miracles where He cured those suffering from diseases, saw Jesus departing and spread the news. The people of many local cities ran around the lake and arrived to where Jesus was and He received them.

Jesus saw a great crowd and was lovingly concerned for them and healed those who were sick. He saw them also as sheep without a shepherd and began to teach them many things and talked about the Kingdom of God.

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

When the sun was setting and evening coming His disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a desert place and it is late in the day; send the crowd away so that they can find food and lodgings in the villages in this area as they have nothing to eat”.

Jesus looked up at the large crowd and said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread so that the crowds may eat?” He said this to prove that He knew what He was going to do. Philip replied, “It would cost a fortune to go and buy sufficient bread for this crowd even if individually they only took a little”.

Jesus said to them, “Go and check how many loaves you have”. One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two small fish. How is this going to help with feeding such a crowd? We need to go and buy food for all these people”.

Jesus replied, “Bring the crowd closer to Me”, and He told the crowd to sit down on the green grass, so they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

THE LORD MULTIPLIES THE FOOD

Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish and looking upward towards Heaven gave thanks and broke the bread and gave it to the disciples together with the fish to serve the crowd. The whole crowd ate and were filled. When the crowd finished the meal Jesus asked His disciples to gather up the fragments of the food so nothing would be left. The disciples did so and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves and of the two fish that was left after the crowd had finished eating.

The number in the crowd who ate was around five thousand men not counting women and children. Those who had seen this miracle which Jesus had done said, "Surely this is that Prophet we have been expecting". Deuteronomy 18:15-22.

JESUS SENDS THE DISCIPLES TO SAIL BACK TO CAPERNAUM WHILE HE PRAYS

Jesus recognised that the crowd would come as an active group to make Him a king. Immediately Jesus sent His disciples to go to a ship and return without Him to the other side while He sent the crowd away. After Jesus had sent the crowd away He went up by Himself into a mountain to pray.

His disciples meanwhile had gone down to the sea and embarked onto a ship and started sailing towards Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not come to them.

When the crowd who were on the other side of the sea saw that there was no boat there apart from the one His disciples had entered and departed without Jesus they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER DURING THE STORM

In the middle of crossing, the waves became very large due to the gale force winds that were blowing. The ship was being tossed about due to the waves. Early in the morning before dawn the disciples had rowed some six kilometres. They saw Jesus walking on the water and coming near to the ship but He was passing them by. Those in the boat were afraid believing it was a spirit and cried out in fear because they all saw Him and were troubled. However Jesus saw them rowing hard and immediately said to them, "Be encouraged, it is I; don't be afraid".

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

Peter replied to Him, "Lord, if it is You, ask me come to You walking on the water." Jesus said, "Come" and when Peter had left the ship he walked on the water towards Jesus. However when Peter saw how strong the wind was he became afraid and as he was sinking cried out, "Lord, save me". Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Him and said to Peter, "O you of little faith, what were you frightened of?"

JESUS ENTERS THE BOAT AND THE STORM CEASES

When both of them climbed into the ship the wind ceased and they were greatly amazed. The disciples had not remembered the miracle of the loaves as their hearts were hardened. Then those in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, "Very clearly You are the Son of God", and immediately the ship was at their destination.

HEALING MINISTRY AT GENNESARET

They landed at Gennesaret and when they saw Jesus the news of their arrival spread quickly. The local people began to carry those who were bedridden, those that were sick were brought to Him. Wherever Jesus went whether in the villages, cities or in the countryside they laid their sick in the street and implored Him that they might touch the border of His robe, and as many as did so were healed.

MOTIVATION OF THE CROWD AND THE WORK OF GOD

When the crowd had found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they asked Him, "Rabbi, how did you come here?" Jesus answered, "I assure you, you do not seek me because you saw the miracles but because you ate and were filled with the loaves. Do not work for food that perishes but for that which provides everlasting life which I the Messiah can give to you because for this reason God the Father has sent me."

They asked Him, "What shall we do so that we produce God's works? Jesus answered, "This is the work of God that you believe on Him who God has sent".

THE BREAD OF LIFE

The people asked, "What sign are you going to show that we may see and believe in You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate manna in the desert. It is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus replied, "I assure you that Moses did not give you the true bread from heaven but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. This is because the true bread of God is the Messiah who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

The crowd said to Jesus, "Lord, give us this bread evermore", to which He replied, "I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never be hungry and he that believes on Me shall never thirst. Nevertheless I have said to you that you have seen Me and don't believe."

ETERNAL SECURITY

"All those that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me and those that come to Me I will never cast away. For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of the Father that sent Me. This is the Father's will who has sent Me that I will not lose any of all those who He has given Me and that every one who sees the Son and believes on Him may have everlasting life and I shall raise him up at the last day."

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS DISPUTE JESUS' CLAIM THAT HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

The Jewish leaders murmured at Jesus because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven". They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how is it then that He says I came down from heaven?"

Jesus said to the religious leaders, "Don't murmur, for no one can come to Me except the Father which has sent Me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets, that they will all be taught of God."

"Everyone therefore that has listened and has learned from My Father comes to Me. This does not mean that anyone has seen the Father except Him who is from God. He has seen the Father. I assure you, he that believes on Me has everlasting life."

THE BREAD OF LIFE RESTATED

Jesus continued, "I am that bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven that a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eats of this bread he shall live for ever and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP DO NOT UNDERSTAND

These Jews therefore argued with each other saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" Then Jesus replied, "Truly I assure you, except you eat the flesh of the Messiah and drink His blood, you do not have life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is genuine food and my blood is genuine drink. He that eats My flesh and drinks My blood dwells in Me, and I in him."

"Just as the living Father has sent Me, and I live because of the Father so he that eats Me, even he shall live by Me. This is that bread which came down from heaven, not like the bread your ancestors ate who are dead. He that eats of this bread shall live for ever." These things Jesus taught in the synagogue at Capernaum.

SOME ARE OFFENDED

Many of His disciples, when they heard this teaching said, "This is a difficult message; who can bear to listen to it?" Jesus, aware that the disciples were murmuring about it said to them, "Does this offend you?"

“Suppose you were to see the Messiah ascending up to where He was previously? It is the Spirit who is the life giver; the flesh does not profit you at all; the words that I speak to you are spiritual and life. But there are some of you that fail to believe.”

Jesus knew from the beginning whom they were that did not believe and who should betray him. This is why He said that no one can come unto Him unless it is granted him by the Father. From that time on many of his disciples went away and followed Him no more.

PETER’S GREAT AFFIRMATION

Jesus asked the Twelve, “Are you also going to go away?” Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we believe and are certain that You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t I chosen you twelve, yet one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon for, although he was one of the Twelve, Judas would betray Him.

THE ATTACK FROM JERUSALEM ON THE EATING HABITS OF THE DISCIPLES

Pharisees and Scribes came from Jerusalem to Jesus. When they saw some of His disciples eating bread with ceremonially unwashed defiled hands they criticised them because neither the Pharisees nor all of the Jews eat unless they have thoroughly washed their hands according to the traditions of the elders.

There are a large number of other areas in which they are taught extreme measures of hygiene including the washing of cups and pots, bronze vessels and tables. Also when they come from the market they do not eat until they have ritually washed their hands several times in accordance with a prescribed ritual.

Then the Pharisees and Scribes asked Jesus, “Why don’t Your disciples follow the tradition of the elders, for they are eating bread with ritually unwashed hands?”

GOD’S DOCTRINE VERSUS MAN’S TRADITION

Jesus said to them, “How well did Isaiah prophecy of you hypocrites as it is written. “The people honour me with their lips but their hearts are far from Me. In vain they worship me, teaching instead of God’s doctrines the commandments of men so they have made the commandment of God ineffective by promoting traditions.”

Jesus continued, “You reject God’s commandments to cling to the traditions of men such as the multiple washing of pots and cups: and many other regulations you observe. You reject the Commandments of God so that you can keep your own traditions.”

For instance God’s law says, “Honour your father and mother. Anyone who curses father or mother must die”. But you say, “Even if your parents are in need of support, you teach that the things they need that they might get from you are made out to be an offering to God – so you act as if you cannot give them to your poor parents. Therefore you do not need to honour your father or mother, and you do not require your followers to do anything further for their parents.”

He continued, “You hypocrites, Isaiah’s prophecy summed up your situation well. ‘These people honour Me with their lips but their heart is far away from Me’. They fail to worship Me, teaching man made laws instead of those given by God. This makes the Word of God of no relevance through your traditions.”

When Jesus had called the crowd to Him, He said “Listen to Me and understand this. You are not made unholy by eating non kosher food. It is what you say and think that makes you unclean.”

THE DISCIPLES ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING

When Jesus left the crowd and entered the house His disciples said, “Don’t You know that the Pharisees were offended by what you taught?” Jesus answered, “Every plant that My heavenly Father hasn’t planted will be rooted up. Leave those people alone as blind leaders of the blind. Because of their blindness they will all fall into the ditch.”

Then Peter asked Jesus to explain the parable. Jesus replied, "Don't you understand that whatever passes through the digestive system is totally excreted so that it cannot defile the person?" But those things which come out of the heart, they defile a person; evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, lying, slander, greed, deceit, blasphemies, pride and foolishness. All these evil things come from within. These are the things that defile a person, not eating with ritually or ceremonially unwashed hands.

THE SYROPHENICIAN WOMAN

Jesus now travelled to the borders of Tyre and Sidon and in order to be alone entered into a house, but this was unsuccessful because a woman, whose young daughter had a demon, heard where He was and came and fell at His feet.

The woman from Greek and Canaanite background was a Syrophenician, and she came and pleaded with Jesus that He would cast out the demon from her daughter saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, You Son of David, because my daughter is very troubled by this demon".

Jesus did not answer her directly and His disciples came and requested Him to send her away because she disturbed them. Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". Then she approached Jesus and worshipped him, begging, "Lord, help me."

Jesus replied, "Let the children be fed first, it is not fair to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs." The woman answered, "I agree Lord but the little dogs under the table eat crumbs of the children's bread which fall from their masters' table."

"Woman", Jesus said to her, "Great is your faith, your request is granted, the demon has departed from your daughter". Her daughter was cured at that very moment. When the Syrophenician woman reached her house she found the demon gone and her daughter lying on the bed.

FURTHER HEALING BY SEA OF GALILEE

Leaving Tyre and Sidon, Jesus came to the Sea of Galilee passing through the middle of the area of Decapolis. He went up into a mountain and sat down there. A huge crowd came to Him bringing with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, as well as many others and dropped them down at Jesus' feet and he healed them all. The crowd was amazed when they saw the dumb speak, the maimed whole, the lame walking and the blind given sight, and glorified the God of Israel.

They brought a man to Jesus who was deaf and had a speech impediment and asked that he could be healed. Jesus took him aside into a building away from the crowd, put His fingers into his ears and He spat and touched his tongue. Looking heavenward Jesus sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha", meaning, "Be opened". Immediately his ears were opened and the speech impediment removed with the man speaking plainly.

Jesus instructed them that they should not tell others what had happened, but the more Jesus told them greater was the publicity broadcasted. The crowd were amazed and said, "He performs miracles making both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak."

FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND

On this occasion the crowds were very large and didn't have anything to eat so Jesus told His disciples "I am concerned for the crowd because they have been with Me for three days and they have nothing to eat. If I send them away to their own houses without feeding them they will starve on their way home, as many of them have come a great distance.

His disciples replied, "How can we provide enough bread here in the wilderness?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you got?" They said, "Seven and a few little fishes". Jesus commanded the people to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples to distribute it to the crowd and did the same with the few small fish.

The crowd were well fed and the disciples picked up seven baskets full of food that had been left over. The crowd that had been fed was four thousand men not counting women and children. After the meal the Lord sent them on their way.

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS SEEK ANOTHER SIGN

After the crowd departed Jesus and His disciples embarked on a ship, and came to Dalmanutha into the area of Magdala. The Pharisees with the Sadducees came and, testing Him, began to question Jesus seeking that He would show them a sign from heaven.

Jesus replied, "When it is the evening, you say, 'It will be fine weather because the sky is red or in the morning it will be bad weather today because the sky is red and lowering'. You hypocrites, you can understand the signs of the sky but you can't understand the signs of the times?" Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this wicked and adulterous generation look for a sign? I assure you the only sign which will be given to it will be the sign of the prophet Jonah."

WARNING AGAINST LEAVEN

Jesus left them, and embarking again into the ship sailed to the other side. When His disciples came to the other side they had forgotten to take any bread and had only one loaf on board. Jesus instructed them "Listen, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herod". The disciples talked to each other saying "Is Jesus saying this because we have no bread?" Aware of it Jesus said to them "Your faith is small, why are you talking about having a lack of bread" "Don't you understand, are your hearts too hard to take it in and you don't remember."

"Don't you remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full of fragments you took up?" They replied "Twelve." "When the seven loaves among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven."

"How then can't you understand that I spoke to you not concerning bread but you should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?" Then the disciples understood that He was talking about the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees and not physical bread.

A BLIND MAN HEALED

Jesus arrived in Bethsaida and a blind man was brought to Him asking for Jesus to touch him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. When Jesus had spat on his eyes and placed His hands upon him He asked him if he could see anything.

The blind man looked up and said, "I see men as trees, walking". After that Jesus put His hands again upon his eyes and made him look up and his sight was restored and he saw everyone clearly. Jesus sent him away to his house telling him not to go into the town nor publicise the miracle in the town.

PETER IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE MESSIAH

When Jesus came into the towns of Caesarea Philippi He spent time alone, praying. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples replied, "Some say that you are John the Baptist some, Elijah and others, Jeremiah or one of the old prophets who has risen from the dead".

Jesus asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". Jesus answered and said, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, for ordinary people haven't revealed this to you, it has been revealed to you by my Father Who is in heaven."

"I also tell you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever you allow on earth shall be allowed in heaven." Then Jesus warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Messiah.

PETER REBUKES THE LORD

From that time forward Jesus began to teach His disciples openly how that He must go to Jerusalem, must suffer many things, be rejected of the Elders, Chief Priests and Scribes, killed, and after three days be raised from the dead.

Peter took Jesus aside and argued with Him saying, "God forbid it Lord, this will not happen to You". Jesus looked around to His disciples and said to Peter, "Get behind Me Satan; you are a stumbling block to Me because you are thinking from a purely human point of view rather than from God's plan".

After Jesus had called His disciples and the crowd together He said to them, "Whoever will follow Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake the same shall save it."

"What shall a man profit if he controls the whole world and loses his own soul and be a castaway? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whoever shall be ashamed of Me and My Words in these days of unbelief and sin I, the Messiah, will be ashamed of him, when I return in the glory of My Father with the holy angels and reward everyone according to his works."

Jesus said to them, "I assure you that there are some standing here who will not die before they have seen the Messiah coming in the Kingdom of God with power."

CHRIST IS TRANSFIGURED AS A PICTURE OF HIS SECOND COMING IN GLORY

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother by themselves up into a high mountain to pray, As Jesus prayed He was transfigured before them with His face shining like the sun and dressed in dazzling white clothes glistening as light itself.

THE HERALDS OF THE SECOND ADVENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

On the Mount of Transfiguration two men talked with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah who appeared in glory. They conversed with Jesus about His death, resurrection and ascension, which He would accomplish at Jerusalem.

Peter, James and John were very tired and fell asleep. When they awoke they saw His glory, and the two men that stood with Him.

As Moses and Elijah were leaving Jesus, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here: if you are happy let us, the disciples, construct three tents here; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter did this because he did not know what to say as the disciples were very afraid.

GOD CONFIRMS THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS

While Peter was speaking a bright cloud covered them. They were very concerned as they entered the cloud but as they entered it a voice came out of it saying, "This is my Son, this is My Chosen One in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him".

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were very anxious. Jesus came across to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid". When the voice stopped and they looked around they saw nobody except Jesus with them.

As they came down from the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Tell the vision to no one until the Messiah is risen again from the dead". They kept it secret and told no one at that time what they had seen. They kept on wondering what the rising from the dead meant.

JOHN THE BAPTIST AS A TYPE OF ELIJAH

His disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the Scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered, "It is true that Elijah will come first and put everything in order and that it is written of the Messiah that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt."

Jesus added that, "Elijah had indeed already come but the people did not recognise him. They had done to him whatever they pleased just as it had been written of him. In a similar manner, the Messiah would also suffer due to them." Then the disciples understood that Jesus spoke of John the Baptist.

THE CURING OF THE DEMONIAK BOY

The following day, when they had come down from the Mount of Transfiguration, they joined the rest of His disciples. Jesus looked at a great crowd around them with Scribes debating with them. The crowd when they saw Jesus were greatly surprised and running to Him greeted Him. Jesus asked the Scribes, "What are you questioning the disciples about?"

A man came to Jesus out of the crowd. He knelt down before Him and said, "Master, I beg You to look at my son. He is my only child who is tormented by a demon causing him to be dumb. When the demon controls him he suddenly cries out and violently throws him down, he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. He often falls into the fire or into water."

He continued, "I spoke to Your disciples asking them to cast out the demon but they could not cure him". Jesus replied, "Oh unbelieving generation how long shall I put up with you? Bring your son here."

As the boy was brought the demon convulsed the child horribly and he fell to the ground writhing and foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked his father how long ago the demon had entered the boy. His father said, "It was from a very young age. If You can do any thing please have mercy on us and help us."

Jesus replied, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes". Immediately the father cried out with tears "Lord, I believe; help me because of my unbelief." When Jesus saw that the crowd came running together he rebuked the demon saying, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I order you, come out of this child and enter no more into him."

The demon screamed terribly, convulsed the boy again and came out of him. The boy collapsed as if he had died. The collapse was so dramatic that many said, "He is dead". Jesus however took the boy by his hand and lifted him up. The boy got up and was instantly cured and returned to his father. The crowd were all amazed at the mighty power of God.

When Jesus entered into a house with His disciples they asked, "Why couldn't we cast the demon out? Jesus said to them" Because of your unbelief. I assure you if you have faith the size of a grain of mustard seed you shall say to this mountain, 'Go to that place', and it will go. Nothing will be impossible to you but this kind of demon cannot be removed other than by prayer and fasting."

JESUS AGAIN PREDICTS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

While the disciples were considering all these things they left and passed through Galilee secretly. While they stayed in Galilee Jesus taught His disciples that the Messiah would be betrayed into the hands of men who would kill him and on the third day the Messiah would be raised up again. The disciples were very sorry to hear this but didn't really understand this prophecy but were fearful to ask him for clarification.

MONEY FOR THE TAX DEPARTMENT

When the group came to Capernaum the collectors of the half shekel tax came to Peter and said, "Does your master pay the tax?" Peter said, "Yes, of course". When Peter came into the house Jesus asked him, "What do you think Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take toll or tribute; of their own children, or of strangers?" Peter replied, "Of strangers".

Jesus said to Peter "Therefore the children of the king are free. However, to ensure we do not offend them go down to the sea to fish and take the first fish you catch. When you open his mouth, you will find a coin. Take this to the tax collector as payment from us both."

DISPUTATION REGARDING THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

At the time they came to Capernaum, arguments occurred between the disciples about who of them should be greatest. Jesus was in the house and knew of the discussion and what they were arguing about.

The disciples were silent for a while but later came to Jesus saying that the argument was who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. He sat down and called the twelve and told them, "If anyone desires to be first the same shall be last of all, and servant of all."

BECOMING AS A LITTLE CHILD

Jesus called a little child and sat him down next to Him and picked him up. He said to the disciples, "I assure you, except you repent and humble yourself like this small child you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven".

"Whoever shall humble himself like this little child will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives one of such a child in my name, receives me and shall receive My Father, because he who is the least among you all, the same shall be great."

UNAUTHORISED DISCIPLES

John answered Jesus, "Master, we saw a person casting out demons in your name but he does not follow us, so we told him not to do so". Jesus replied, "Don't stop him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name that can really speak badly of Me. He that is not against us is for us."

GOOD AND BAD ATTITUDES TOWARDS BELIEVERS

Jesus continued, "Whoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to the Messiah, I assure you that he shall not lose his reward. But whoever shall make a stumbling block for one of these little ones who believes in Me, it is better for him that a millstone were placed around his neck, and he were thrown into and drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe upon the world for all its evils. Temptation to do evil is inevitable but woe to the person that does the tempting!"

PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones for I say unto you that in heaven their angels have constant access to My Heavenly Father which is in heaven. I the Messiah came to save the lost."

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders off, does he not leave the ninety-nine, and go into the mountains seeking the one that has gone astray? If he happens to find it I assure you he rejoices more about that sheep than of the ninety-nine which did not stray. In the same way, it is not the will of your Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish."

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

"If a brother sins against you, go and discuss it with him privately. If you can resolve it in this way you are reconciled and have regained a brother. However, if he will not discuss the matter take one or two witnesses to ensure that the problem is made clear and verified."

"If again he refuses, take it to the assembly/church and if he refuses again treat him as a pagan and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

"I also tell you this that if two of you shall agree on earth as regarding any thing that they shall ask it shall be done for them by My Heavenly Father, because where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the middle of them." Peter now came to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often shall I forgive a brother who sins against me. Seven times?" Jesus replied, "No, I do not say seven times but seventy times seven."

PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to review the performance of his servants. When he had begun his review, a servant was brought to him who owed him a huge debt. The debtor was unable to pay so the king commanded that the servant together with his wife and children as well as all of his goods be sold and payment be made.

The servant therefore fell down and begged him saying, "Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you all that is owed to you". Then the servant's lord was filled with pity and let him go forgiving him the debt.

The same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a small debt and violently took him by the throat, saying, "Pay me what you owe me". His fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will repay you the whole debt" but he would not agree and went and threw him into prison until he had completely paid the debt.

His fellow servants saw what had been done and they were very sad. They came and told their lord all that had happened. The lord, after he had called him, said to him, "You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you asked me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant in the same way as I had pity on you?" His lord was very angry and delivered him to the torture chamber until he had paid all of his huge debt that was due to the lord.

"In the same way shall my Heavenly Father shall do to you if you do not from your hearts forgive every brother their sins against you."

5. THE LAST JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

FINAL DEPARTURE FROM GALILEE

When the time of His Ascension was coming close He set His face to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers in front of Him and they entered into a Samaritan village to prepare for His arrival but they would not receive Him because He was travelling with purpose towards Jerusalem.

When His disciples James and John saw this they said to Jesus, "Do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them in the same way that Elijah did?" Jesus turned around and rebuked them for their attitude and said, "The Messiah has not come to destroy people but to save them." So they went to another village.

SENDING OUT AND RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTY WITNESSES

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead in pairs to go into every town and place where He would enter.

Jesus said to them, "The harvest is great but the workers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send out labourers into His harvest. Go now and remember I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Do not carry a purse, wallet or shoes and don't greet people formally on the way."

When you enter a house start by saying, "Peace be to this house". If there is a person worthy of this greeting residing there your peace will remain there, but if not it will return to you. In the same house remain, eating and drinking what is provided because the workman deserves his wages".

"Don't go from one house to another. Heal the sick in the town and tell them that the Kingdom of God has come near to you". If however the people in the town do not accept you go out into the streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off in protest against you. Know this however that the Kingdom of God has approached you".

"I assure you that it will be more endurable on that Day for Sodom, than for that town. Alas for you Chorazin!, alas for you Bethsaida!, because, if the miracles that have been done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago sitting in sackcloth and ashes. It will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. You Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No!, You will sink to Hades. Whoever listens to you listens to Me; and he that rejects you rejects Me; and he that rejects Me rejects my Heavenly Father who sent Me."

After this Jesus went to Galilee. He didn't want to go around in Judea because the Jewish leadership were seeking to kill Him. However, the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near so His brothers told Him, "Get away from here and go to Judea so that Your disciples will be able to see the works that You do. For no one acts in secret if he seeks to be openly known. If You are so great prove it to the world." For even His brothers didn't believe in Him.

HATRED BY THE WORLD

Jesus said to them, "It is not My time to go yet but you can go anytime. The world cannot hate you but it hates Me because I accuse it of sin and evil. Go to the Feast yourself. I am not going up to the Feast, for the right time for Me has not come yet." When He had finished speaking to them He remained in Galilee but when His brothers were gone He went up secretly.

The Jews looked for Him at the Feast and said, "Where is He?" There was considerable dispute among the crowds concerning Jesus. Some said He was a good man but others said that He deceived the people but no one spoke openly about Him, being fearful of the Jews.

THE CROWD IN JERUSALEM ARE AMAZED AT THE TEACHING OF THE LORD

About half way through the Feast Jesus went into the Temple and taught. The Jews were amazed saying, "How can this man know the Scriptures so well seeing He hasn't attended any of our schools."

Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not Mine but God that sent Me. If anyone will do His will, he shall certainly know if the teachings are from God or whether I speak of Myself. The person that speaks for himself seeks his own honour but he that seeks God's honour is sincere and there is no unrighteousness in him."

THE LEGALISTS WISH TO KILL JESUS

Jesus continued, "Didn't Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you keep it? Why do you plot to kill Me?" The people replied, "You have a demon, who is seeking to kill You? Jesus answered, "I have done one work, and all of you are amazed."

"Because Moses gave circumcision to you (not because it was from Moses, but from previous ancestors) you will circumcise a person on the Sabbath day. If a man on the Sabbath day receives circumcision so that the Law of Moses should not be broken why are you angry with Me because I have made a person perfectly well on the Sabbath? Think this through and you will see I am right."

Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem said to themselves, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? Here He is preaching boldly in public and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers actually know that this is the Messiah? But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes no one will know where He is from."

Jesus proclaimed as He was teaching in the Temple, "You know Me and know where I am from. I do not represent Myself, but He who sent Me is true, but you do not know Him. But I know Him because I am from Him, and He has sent Me." Then the Jewish leaders wanted to arrest Him but couldn't because God's time had not yet come.

Many among the crowd at the Temple believed on Him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will He do more miracles than what this man has done?" The Pharisees heard what the people were saying concerning Him and together with the Chief Priests sent officers to arrest Jesus.

Jesus continued, "I am with you for a little time longer and then I will go back to the One who sent Me. You will seek Me but not find Me because where I will go you cannot come."

The Jews discussed among themselves, "Where will He go where we will be unable to find Him? Will He go to other areas where Jews have been dispersed among the Gentiles or go to teach the Gentiles Himself?" What does He mean, "You shall seek Me and will not be able to find Me and that we cannot go to where His will be?"

GOD AS THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER

On the last day, the final great day of the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus stood and proclaimed, "If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. He that believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his innermost being'." (Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit, which believers in Him would receive: because the Holy Spirit was not as yet given because Jesus wasn't yet glorified.)

JESUS CHRIST CAUSES DIVISION

When the crowds heard Jesus say this some of them declared, "This really is the Prophet", while others said "This is the Messiah".

Others questioned, "Shall Messiah come out of Galilee? Hasn't the Scripture stated that the Messiah comes from the royal line of David born in the town of Bethlehem where David was?" So there was division among the people because of Jesus.

When the arresting officers returned to the Chief Priests and Pharisees they were asked, "Why haven't you brought Jesus?" The officers replied, "Nobody ever spoke as this man speaks". The Pharisees challenged them, "Are you deceived also? Have any of the authorities or Pharisees believed on Him? But this crowd who do not know the Law are bewitched by Him."

Nicodemus, who had previously come to Jesus at night, being a ruler of the Jews said to them, "Does our Law condemn anyone before it hears them and understands what they do?" They mocked Nicodemus asking him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search the Scriptures and see that no prophet comes out of Galilee", and everybody went home.

THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and returned early in the morning to the Temple. A crowd came to Jesus and He sat down and taught them.

The Scribes and Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery. When they had placed her there in front of Him they said, "Master, this woman was arrested in the very act of adultery. Moses in the Law commanded us that such a person should be stoned, but what do You say?"

These rulers of the people did this to test Jesus so that they might be able to accuse Him, but Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground as though He hadn't heard them.

When they continued asking Him Jesus stood up and replied, "He who is sinless among you let him first throw a stone at her", and he returned to His writing on the ground.

Those who heard that challenge were convicted of their sin by their conscience and left the area one by one beginning at the most senior. This left Jesus alone with the woman standing in the middle of the wider crowd.

When Jesus stood up and saw no one but the woman he said to her, "Woman, where are your accusers? has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one Lord". Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you: go, and sin no more."

JESUS CHRIST AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus spoke again to the crowd saying, "I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life".

The Pharisees said to Jesus, "You are boasting and lying to us!" Jesus replied, "These claims are true even though I make them of Myself because I know where I came from and where I am going to, but you can tell Me neither of these things. You judge from an earthly perspective, however I am not judging anyone. If I did judge my evaluation is true because I am not alone but the One who sent Me is with Me."

THE JEWISH LAW OF EVIDENCE AND CHRIST

Jesus continued, "It is written in your law that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I am one of the witnesses of Myself and the Father that sent Me also bears witness of Me."

The Pharisees said, "Where is your Father?" Jesus replied, "You neither know Me, nor my Father. If you had known Me you would have known My Father as well." Jesus said this in the treasury as He was teaching in the Temple and no one arrested Him for the hour of His arrest was yet to come.

THE INABILITY OF THE UNBELIEVER

Jesus again said to them, "I am leaving and you will seek me and shall die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come." The Jews wondered, "Will He kill Himself?" because he had said, "Where I go, you cannot come".

Jesus said to them, "You are from below; I am from above: you are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore, I said to you that you shall die in your sins; because you don't believe that I am the Messiah, the Son of God you will die in your sins."

They asked Jesus, "Who are You?" Jesus replied, "I am the One I have always claimed to be. I have much to say and to judge about you but He who sent Me is reliable and what I have learned from Him I will tell the world." They did not understand that He was talking to them about the Father.

JESUS CHRIST IS DEPENDANT ON THE FATHER

Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am the Messiah and that I do nothing of My own accord but tell things just as My Father has taught Me. He who sent Me is with Me; the Father has not left Me alone because I always do those things that please Him." As Jesus said these words many believed on Him.

THE SERVANT AND THE SON

Jesus said to the believing Jews, "You are My disciples indeed if you live as I tell you. You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." The unbelieving Jews replied, "We are descended from Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone, how can you say you shall be freed?" Jesus answered, "I assure you whoever commits a sin is the servant of sin. The servant does not live in the house for ever, but the Son abides there forever. If the Son shall make you free, you shall indeed be free."

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SEED OF ABRAHAM

"I know that you are descended from Abraham physically but you seek to kill Me because you have no use for My teaching. I tell you what I have seen at the Father's side and you behave as you have learned from your father."

The unbelievers replied, "Abraham is our father". Jesus replied, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do Abraham's work. Now you seek to kill Me, a man that has told you the truth which I have heard of God. Abraham did not act in this way. You do the work of your father." They said, "We are not born of fornication; our true Father is God."

Jesus continued, "If God were your Father, you would love Me because I came here from God because He sent Me, I did not come of My own accord. Why don't you understand My language? It is because you cannot bear to listen to My message. You have Satan as your father and the lusts of your father you practise. He was a murderer from the beginning and did not live in the truth because there is no truth in him."

"When he tells a lie he speaks naturally because he is a liar and the father of lies. Because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me. Who of you convicts Me of sin? If I say the truth, why don't you believe Me? He who is from God listens to the words of God but because you are not from God you will not listen."

CONTROVERSY WITH THE JEWS

"Do we not say rightly", answered the unbelieving Jewish leadership, "that you are a Samaritan, and have a demon?" Jesus replied, "I don't have a demon but I honour my Father and you dishonour Me. I do not seek My own glory; there is One that investigates that and who judges. I assure you that anyone who observes My teaching will never see death."

The Jewish leaders replied, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham is dead as well as the prophets and yet You say, 'If a man keeps My saying, he shall never see death'. You are not superior to our father Abraham who died. The prophets are dead. Who do You think You are?"

Jesus answered, "If I am purely boasting about Myself it doesn't count but it is My Father whom you claim as your God who is saying these glories of Me. You have not known Him but I know him and if I should say that I do not know Him I would be a liar just like you. I know Him, and keep His commandments."

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad". The Jewish leaders said to Jesus, "You are less than fifty years old and You have seen Abraham?" Jesus replied, "I assure you that before Abraham was, I AM."

Then they took up stones to throw at him but Jesus concealed Himself and left the Temple walking through the middle of the crowd.

THE SEVENTY RETURN

When the seventy returned they were joyful and reported, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use Your name". Jesus told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning. I have given to you power over all the enemy and the ability to tread on serpents and scorpions and nothing by any means will injure you. However, the most important thing to rejoice over is that your names are written in heaven rather than the fact that the spirits are subject to you."

At this point in time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank You Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the intellectuals and worldly wise but have revealed them to those who are like trusting little children."

"Yes, thank you Father; for this is the way you wanted it. Everything has been handed over to Me by My Father and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, nor who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

Turning to His disciples privately Jesus said, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which you see and have not seen them and to hear those things which you hear, and have not heard them."

JESUS TESTED BY A LAWYER GIVES THE GOOD SAMARITAN AS AN ILLUSTRATION

One day a lawyer came and tested Jesus saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the law, how do you understand it?" The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all of your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself". "Right" Jesus said, "Do this and you shall live." The lawyer wanting to justify his lack of showing love to some types of people said, "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus in answering gave this story as an illustration. "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by bandits who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and left leaving him half dead beside the road. By chance a Jewish priest came along but when he saw the injured man he passed by on the other side of the road. In a similar manner, a Levite, when he came to the place, looked at him but passed by on the other side.

Now a Samaritan, as he travelled came to where the injured man was and when he saw him, he felt sorry for him. He went to the injured man, bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and sat him on his own donkey and moved him to an inn and took care of him. The following day when the Samaritan left the inn to travel on he gave money to the innkeeper and said to him "Take care of him and if it costs more than this when I come again I will give you the additional money."

Jesus now asked the lawyer, "Which of these three travellers do you think was neighbour to the man who had been attacked by the brigands?" The lawyer replied, "The Samaritan who showed mercy on him." Jesus then told the lawyer, "Yes, now go and do the same".

MARTHA AND MARY

During their travels, they entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus to her home. Martha had a sister called Mary who sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching. Meanwhile Martha was very busy with work in the kitchen. Martha came to Jesus and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell Mary to help me."

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and concerned about many matters, where there is need only for but one thing. Mary has selected the good part which shall not be taken away from her."

TEACHING THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY

Once after Jesus had been praying one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray in a similar manner as John the Baptist taught his disciples". Jesus replied "When you pray, say, Our Father who is in heaven, Your name be honoured for its holiness, Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins for we have forgiven every one that is indebted to us. Don't allow us to be tested and deliver us from evil."

THE EXAMPLE OF THE LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER

Jesus continued, "Let us say that one of you has a friend to whom you go at midnight saying 'Friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived unexpectedly and I have nothing to feed him with.' The person from inside the house replies, 'Don't disturb me, I have closed the house up for the night and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give food to you'. I tell you even though he will not get up and give him food as his friend, yet because of your persistent asking he will get up and give you as much bread as you need."

I say to you, "Keep on asking and it will be given to you, keep on seeking and you will find, keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you. Everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to he who knocks the door will be opened."

"If as a father your son asks for bread, will you give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish will you give him a snake, or if he asks for an egg, will you offer him a scorpion? Of course not! If you, being sinful know how to give good gifts to your children how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask for Him?"

HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

As Jesus was walking along He saw a man who had been blind since birth. His disciples asked him, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents so that he was born blind"? Jesus answered, "Neither but it is to demonstrate the works of God". I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day because the night comes, when no man is able to work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world."

Having said this Jesus spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and he daubed it on the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam", (which means by interpretation, "Sent"). He left and washed and returned seeing.

The blind man's neighbours who had seen him before said, "Isn't this the person who sat and begged?" Some said, "Yes, it is" but others said, "He looks like him", but the cured man said, "I am him". Therefore, his neighbours said, "How were your eyes opened so you could see?" He answered, "A man called Jesus made clay and daubed it on my eyes and told me to go to the pool of Siloam, and wash. So I went and washed, and I received sight." They said, "Where is he?" The previously blind man said, "I do not know".

THE PHARISEES SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIRACLE OF THE BLIND MAN BEING CURED

They brought the previously blind man to the Pharisees. It was the Sabbath Day when Jesus made the clay and cured his blindness. Again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. The previously blind man said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed and can see".

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not of God, because he doesn't keep the Sabbath Day". Others said, "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" Opinion was divided among them. The Pharisees again asked the man, "Who do you think this man is who made you see?" He replied, "I think He must be a prophet".

The Jews did not believe that he had been born blind and been cured until they called his parents. The Jews asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How is it then that he is able to see?"

His parents replied, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he is now able to see or who performed the miracle. He is old enough to speak for himself." They said this because they feared the Jews and knew that anyone who believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be evicted from the synagogue. That is why they said, "He is old enough to speak for himself".

The Jewish leaders called the man that was blind again and said, "Give the glory to God as we know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "I do not know whether he is a sinner or not but this I do know, that I was blind and now I can see. The Jewish leaders asked him again, "What did he do to you so that He gave you your sight?" The previously blind man answered, "I have told you already, didn't you listen, why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be His disciples?"

Then the Jewish leaders cursed him, and said, "You are His disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses but as for this fellow we do not know where He comes from".

The man answered, "Well that is a marvellous thing, you do not know where He is and yet he has opened my eyes and given me sight. We know that God does not hear sinners but if any man is a worshipper of God and does His will, God hears Him. Since the world began there has never been anyone who has cured a person who was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing." The Jewish leaders answered, "You sinful man, are you trying to teach us?", and they threw him out.

JESUS SEEKS OUT THE CURED BLIND MAN

Jesus heard that the Jews had thrown him out and when He had found him Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Messiah? He answered, "Who is He, Lord, because I want to believe?" Jesus replied, "You have both seen Him and He is talking to you". The man responded, "Lord, I believe and he worshipped Him."

Jesus told him, "I have come into the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind and to show those who think that they can see become blind".

Some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words and asked Jesus, "Are we also blind?" Jesus replied, "If you were blind you would be blameless but now you say, 'We see', your sin remains."

THE SHEEPFOLD

I assure you, "The person who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in another way is a thief and a robber but he who enters by the door is the sheep's shepherd. The gatekeeper opens the door, the sheep, all of whom who are known individually by him, hear the shepherd's voice and he leads them out. They will not follow a stranger but will run away from him because they do not recognise the voice of strangers."

CHRIST AS THE DOOR

Jesus told them this parable but they did not understand what it meant. Jesus again said, "I assure you I am the door of the sheepfold. All that came before me are thieves and robbers but the sheep did not respond to them. If anyone enters in through the door he shall be saved and have freedom and find spiritual food. The thief only comes to steal, kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The hired man who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep leaves the sheep when he sees the wolf approaching and the sheep are caught and scattered. The hired man flees because he is hired and does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and they know Me just as the Father knows Me and I the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep."

"Other sheep I have which do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also. They shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. My Father loves Me because I lay down My life that I might have it back again. No one takes it from Me, I lay down My life voluntarily. I have the right to lay it down, and I have power to take it back again because the Father has given Me the right to do so."

When the leaders of the Jews heard this, they were divided among themselves. Many of them said, "Don't listen to Him, He is demon possessed and is mad?" Others said, "These are not the words of a demon possessed man. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

JESUS AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

It was winter in Jerusalem, the time of the Feast of the Dedication and Jesus was walking in the Temple in Solomon's porch. The Jewish leaders crowded around Jesus asking, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I told you and you didn't believe Me. The works that I do in My Father's name show who I am but you do not believe because you are not of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life; and they shall never die nor will anyone take them away from Me. My Father who gave them to Me is greater than any and no one is able to take them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

RESPONSE OF THE JEWS

Then the Jewish leaders again took up stones to kill Him. Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jewish leaders answered, "We do not stone you because of a good work but for blasphemy because You, being a man, make yourself God".

Jesus replied, "In your own Law it says that men are gods. So if the Scripture, which cannot be untrue, speaks of them as gods to whom the message of God came, do you call it blasphemy when the one set aside and sent into the world by the Father says I am the Son of God?" "If I don't do the works of my Father, do not believe Me, but if I do, even though you do not believe Me believe the works so that you may know, and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

MINISTRY IN PEREA

The Jewish leaders again desired to arrest Him but Jesus escaped and went away again across the Jordan into the place where John at first baptized and stayed there. Many came to Jesus and said, "John didn't perform miracles but all things that John spoke of You were true". Many believed in Jesus there.

PARABLE OF THE UNPRODUCTIVE FIG TREE

Jesus also told this parable, "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and came to look for fruit but there wasn't any. He said to the head gardener 'Look here, for the last three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it take up this space in the vineyard?' In reply the gardener said, 'Master leave it alone for another year till I have dug around it and fertilised it. If after that it produces fruit that will be good, but if it doesn't, then you can cut it down'."

THE HEALING OF THE INFIRM WOMAN ON THE SABBATH

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath when He saw a woman who had been bent double for eighteen years and could not straighten herself up. When Jesus saw her, He asked her to come to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment". Jesus laid His hands on her and immediately she could stand straight and she glorified God.

The Ruler of the synagogue who was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath Day said to the congregation, "There are six days during which people should work and that people who are sick should come for healing but not on a Sabbath Day".

Jesus answered him, "You hypocrite, doesn't every one of you untie his ox or his ass from the stall on the Sabbath and lead it away for watering? Ought not this Jewish woman who Satan has bound for eighteen years be released from this on the Sabbath day?"

When Jesus had finished saying these things, all his opponents were ashamed and the crowd rejoiced for all the glorious things that Jesus was doing.

ARE FEW SAVED?

Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as He headed towards Jerusalem. Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, are only a few saved?" Jesus replied, "Strain every nerve to enter in at the narrow door for many I tell you will try and enter and will be unable to, once the owner of the house is risen up and shut the door".

"You will begin to stand outside and knock on the door saying, Lord, Lord, open the door", and he shall answer you, "I neither know you or where you come from". Then you shall begin to say, "We have eaten and drank in your presence and you have taught in our streets". But he shall say, "I tell you, I do not know from where you come, go away from me all you evildoers".

"There shall be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God and you yourselves thrown outside. And from east, west, north and south they will come and be sitting at the table in the Kingdom of God. Notice this, those who are last will be first and those who are first shall be last."

JESUS TO DIE IN JERUSALEM

On the same day some Pharisees came to Jesus saying, "Get out of this place for Herod intends to kill You". Jesus replied, "Go and tell that fox 'I shall expel demons and perform cures today and tomorrow and the third day I shall complete My work. However I must travel today and tomorrow and the next day for it would no do for a prophet to perish outside Jerusalem.'"

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to you how often would I have gathered your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings but you were not willing! Behold your home is left you desolate. You shall not see Me, until the time comes when you shall say, "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord."

HEALING OF THE MAN ON THE SABBATH

When Jesus entered into the house of one of the Leaders of the Pharisees to have a meal on the Sabbath day they watched him closely to see if He would heal a man who was present and was suffering from dropsy.

Jesus talked to the Lawyers and Pharisees saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" They remained silent. So Jesus took the man, healed him and let him go. Jesus continued, "Which of you shall have an ass or an ox that falls into a pit and will not immediately pull him out of the pit on the Sabbath day?" Again the Lawyers and Pharisees could not answer Him.

SELF PROMOTION

When Jesus saw that all who came to the dinner were trying to sit near the head of the table He gave them the following advice "When you are invited to a wedding do not sit down at the best seat in case a more important person than you has been asked to the feast and the person who had invited you comes and says 'give this person your place', and you be embarrassed by having to take the lowest position. When you are invited, go and sit at the lowest position so if the host comes and invites you to sit at a higher position at the table you will be honoured in front of the other guests. Whoever tries to promote himself shall be humbled but he that humbles himself shall be exalted."

GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY AND THE ULTIMATE MEAL

Jesus said to the host, "When you make a dinner or a supper do not call your friends, brothers, kinsmen, nor your rich neighbours in case they invite you back and repay you. When you make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind. You will be blessed as these people cannot repay you but you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

When one of them that were at the meal with Jesus heard these things he said to him, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God".

Jesus replied, "A certain man made a feast and invited many people sending his servant at supper time to say to those invited 'Come; everything is now ready' but one and all started to make excuses. The first said "I have bought a piece of land and I must go and see it, please excuse me." A second one said "I have bought five pairs of oxen and I go to test them out, please excuse me," while yet another told him "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

"The servant came and told his lord these things. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring here the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind. The servant returned and said to the host 'Master I have done everything that you have commanded but there is still room'."

So the lord said to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I assure you that none of those men which were originally invited shall taste of my supper."

THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

A great crowd followed Jesus and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me, he must love me more than his father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, yes even his own life, otherwise he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

“Which of you, intending to build a tower, doesn’t he sit down first and count the cost to see if he has sufficient money to finish it? If he doesn’t and after having laid the foundation is not able to finish it, he will be mocked by everybody with them saying, ‘This man began to build, and was not able to finish’.”

“Another example is that of a king, going to make war against another king, does he not sit down and examine whether he will be able with ten thousand troops to meet him that comes against him with twenty thousand? Alternatively he may decide while the other king is still a great way off to send an ambassador to discuss conditions for a peace settlement.”

“In a similar manner whoever of you that doesn’t leave all that he has behind cannot be My disciple. Salt is good but if the salt has lost its taste how can it be used as a preservative? It is not fit for spreading on the land or fertilizer but is worthless and must be thrown away. Listen well if you want to understand.”

GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL

All the tax collectors and prostitutes were crowding around Jesus to hear Him. The Pharisees and Scribes complained, “He welcomes prostitutes and eats with them.”

Jesus told them a parable, “Who of you who owns a hundred sheep and loses one of them will not leave the ninety nine alone in the wilderness to go after the lost one until he finds it. When he has found it he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. When he gets home he calls all his friends and neighbours together to rejoice with him because the lost sheep had been found. In the same way there is more rejoicing in heaven over one lost sinner who returns to God than over the ninety nine others who have not strayed away.”

Jesus continued with another illustration and said, “What woman who has ten valuable silver coins and loses one will not get a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds the lost coin? When she has found the coin she calls her friends and neighbours together saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the valuable coin which I had lost’. In a similar way I tell you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

THE PRODIGAL SON

Jesus continued, “A man had two sons. The younger of the two said to his father, ‘Father, give me my inheritance’, so his father did so. A few days later the younger son gathered all his goods together and travelled to a far country where he squandered his inheritance with reckless living.”

“When all of his inheritance was gone a severe famine struck the land and he began to starve, so he went and became a servant of a citizen of that country who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. He became so hungry that the food the pigs were eating looked good to him. No one gave him anything”.

“When he finally came to his senses he said to himself, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough food while I am dying of hunger? I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you and am no longer worthy to be called your son; please take me back as one of your hired servants’. So he returned home to his father.”

“When he was a long way from home his father saw him and was deeply moved, running, he embraced and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and you and am not worthy to be called your son’. However the father said to his servants, ‘Bring me the finest robe and put it on him, put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Kill the best fattened calf so that we can feast and be joyful for my son who was dead is alive again; he was lost and is found’, and they began to rejoice.”

“Now his older brother was in the fields and when he came close to the house he heard music and dancing. He enquired from one of the servants as to what the celebration was about. The servant said, “Your brother has come and your father has killed the fattened calf because of your brother’s safe return. The older brother became very angry and would not enter the house.”

“His father therefore came out of the house and pleaded with him to come into the feast. The older brother answered ‘For these many years I have worked for you without ever refusing any of your requests but you have not ever given me one young goat so that I could have a dinner with my friends. Now as soon as your son has come who has wasted his inheritance living with prostitutes, you have killed the fattened calf for him.”

“The father said to the older son, ‘Son, you are always here and all that I have is yours. It was appropriate that we should be joyful for your brother was dead and has come back to life, he was lost and now is found’.”

THE UNJUST STEWARD

Jesus said to His disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager and the manager was reported to him for fraud, as wasting his belongings. He called the manager to him and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Hand in a report of your management because you are likely going to be dismissed’.”

“Then the manager thought, ‘What shall I do, as my employer is about to deprive me of my job? I cannot dig, I am too proud to beg. I know what I am going to do so that when I am dismissed, others may welcome me into their homes’.”

“So the manager called every one of his lord's debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He replied, ‘A hundred barrels of oil’. So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly and write fifty’. Then he said to another debtor, ‘How much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred sacks of wheat’. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty’.”

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly because the children of this world are more astute than the children of light in their generation. I say to you, “Use the material wealth of the world so that when you die those who have believed but died before you may greet you as you enter heaven. The person who is faithful in small matters is faithful also in large ones and he that is not reliable in the small things is unreliable in the great things. If you have not been faithful in matters of earthly wealth, then who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”

“And if you have not been faithful in that which is someone else's, who will give you anything for your personal possession? No one can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

When the Pharisees, who were greedy for wealth, heard all these things they scoffed at Him. Jesus said to them, “You are those who justify themselves before men but God knows your hearts because that which is highly esteemed by the world is an abomination in the sight of God”.

“Until the time of John the Baptist the Law and the Prophets were your guide. Since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every one forces his way into it. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than even the smallest piece of the law to fail. Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and lived every day in luxury. In front of his gate a beggar named Lazarus who was full of sores was placed, longing to feed on the scraps from the rich man's table. The dogs came to Lazarus and licked his sores.”

“In time the beggar Lazarus died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's Bosom [Paradise]. The rich man also died and was buried. In torments he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham a long way off and Lazarus in his company. The rich man cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in these flames’.”

“Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted and Lazarus had nothing but now he is comforted and you are tormented. Beside all this there is a huge chasm separating us, so that those who would like to come to you are unable to do so nor those who desire to come over to this side’.”

“The rich man answered, ‘I beg you therefore, father Abraham, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house as I have five brothers there. If that were possible Lazarus may testify to them to prevent them also coming to this place of torment’.” “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them’. The rich man said, ‘No, father Abraham but if one went to them from the dead then they will turn from their sins’. Abraham replied, ‘If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded even though a person rose from the dead’.”

DO NOT CAUSE OR TAKE OFFENCE

Jesus said to the disciples, "Obstacles must inevitably come but woe to him that causes them! It would be better for him if a millstone was hanged around his neck and he is thrown into the sea than he should become an obstacle to one of these little ones. Be on your guard. If your brother sins against you rebuke him; and if he asks forgiveness forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day and on each occasion turns to you asking forgiveness you shall forgive him."

THE APOSTLES ASK HOW TO INCREASE FAITH

His apostles said to Jesus, "Increase our faith". He replied, "If you had faith as large as a grain of mustard seed you might say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it would obey you."

"Which of you, having a farmhand ploughing or feeding cattle will say to him eventually, when he has come in from the field, 'Go and sit down at the table for a meal'? Will you not rather say to him, 'Make something ready for my supper, put your belt on and serve me until I have completely finished eating and drinking. After this you shall eat and drink?' Is he thankful to the servant for doing the things he was told to do? I don't think so."

"In a similar manner when you will have done all those things which are commanded for you to do, you should acknowledge that you are just humble servants and have simply done your duty."

THE TEN LEPERS

As Jesus went to Jerusalem he passed through the middle of Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a village, He was met by ten men who were lepers, who stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us". When Jesus saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests".

As they left they were cured and one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. He fell down on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, "Were there not ten lepers cured? Where are the other nine? They have disappeared and have not returned to give glory to God like this foreigner". Jesus said to the Samaritan, "Get up and depart, your faith has made you healthy".

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God does not come by looking for it, neither shall people say 'Look here it is!' or 'There it is!' because the Kingdom of God is within you."

Jesus said to the disciples, "The time is coming when you will long for Me to be with you for even a single day but I won't be here. Reports will reach you that I have returned and I am in one place or another but do not believe the report and go out searching for Me."

"For when I return you will know without any doubt for as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to another so will be the evidence of My return. But first I must suffer terribly and be rejected by this generation."

THE SWIFTNESS OF HIS RETURN

Jesus continued, "When I return the situation on earth will be like it was at the time of Noah. Everybody was eating and drinking, they were getting married, everything was just as usual until the very day that Noah entered the Ark and the flood came and destroyed them all."

"In a similar way it will be the same as in Lot's days where they ate, drank, bought and sold, planted and built but the very day that Lot left Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all."

"It will be the same on the day when I am revealed. A person on the roof of his house must not go down to get his possessions and if he is in the field he should not return to his house. Remember Lot's wife!"

“Whoever seeks to preserve his life for himself will lose it and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you in that night there will be two people asleep in one bed; one shall be taken, the other left. Two women shall be working together; one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; one shall be taken, the other left.”

The disciples replied, “Where, Lord?” Jesus said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Jesus gave the following guidance about being persistent in prayer. He said, “In a city there was a judge who had no reverence for God and general contempt for people. Also in that city was a widow who kept approaching the judge asking him for justice against a man who had harmed her.”

“The judge ignored her for a while but eventually came to the conclusion that, even though he had no reverence for God or man, because the widow kept on asking him he would make sure that the widow would get justice so that she would stop coming to him.”

Jesus said, “Listen to what the unfair judge said. Don’t you think that God will surely give justice to His own people who day and night plead with Him? Will He delay long over them? I tell you that God will quickly avenge them speedily. When the Son of man comes will He find faith on the earth?”

THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR OR PUBLICAN

Jesus now gave a parable to those who considered themselves righteous and had contempt for others. He said “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and recited this prayer to himself. “God, I thank You that I am not as other men are, robbers, cheats, adulterers or even as this tax collector. I fast twice in the week and give tithes of all that I possess.”

“However the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes heavenwards, but struck his chest saying, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” “I tell you, this man, the tax collector, went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee for every one that exalts himself will be humbled; and he who humbles himself will be honoured.”

LAZARUS IS SICK

Lazarus was sick. He was the brother of Mary and Martha and lived in the same city of Bethany. (Mary was the woman who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair). Because the illness was bad his sisters sent a message to Jesus saying that His friend Lazarus was sick.

When Jesus heard the news He said, “This illness is not going to end in death but is for the glory of God so that the Son of God might be glorified by it.” Jesus loved Martha, Mary her sister and Lazarus. However when Jesus heard the news, He remained where He was for another two days.

After that delay Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us go into Judea again”. His disciples replied, “Master, the Jewish leaders have recently been plotting to stone You to death. Are You still going back there?” Jesus answered, “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day he doesn’t stumble because he sees the world’s light but if he walks at night he stumbles because in him there is no light.”

LAZARUS DIES AND JESUS ARRIVES IN BETHANY

Jesus then said, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep but I am going that I may awake him out of his sleep.” His disciples commented “Lord, if Lazarus is asleep it will help him”. However Jesus was speaking of Lazarus’ death, not that he was taking a rest which was what the disciples had thought. Then Jesus clarified the situation saying, “Lazarus is dead and I am glad for your sakes that I was not present so that you may believe. But let us go to him”. Then Thomas, who is called the twin said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

When Jesus came to Bethany he found that Lazarus had already been lying in the grave for four days. Now Bethany was only about three kilometres from Jerusalem and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them on the passing of their brother.

As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went and met him but Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would have not died. But I know, that even now, whatever You will ask of God, He will grant it to You." Jesus replied, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said, "I know that Lazarus will rise again in the resurrection at the last day". Jesus replied, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me will live even when he dies. Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Martha said to Him, "Yes, Lord: I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was expected to come into the world."

JESUS MEETS MARY

Martha now went and told Mary, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you". Mary got up quickly and came to Jesus. He however had not continued His walk into town but was still at the place where He had met Martha. When the people in the house who had come to comfort Mary saw her leave the house they followed her saying, "She is going to the grave to weep there". When Mary saw Jesus she fell down at his feet and said, "Master Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died".

When Jesus saw Mary and the group of Jews accompanying her weeping He was deeply moved and asked, "Where is Lazarus buried"? They replied, "Lord, come and see". Jesus wept. "See how much He loved him!", said the Jewish people present. Some of them also said, "Couldn't this man who has cured blindness have prevented Lazarus dying?"

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

Deeply moved Jesus approached the tomb which was a cave with a stone across the access to it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone". Martha, said to him, "Lord, by now the smell will be terrible because he has been dead four days". Jesus replied, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

They removed the stone from the tomb and Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know that You always do but for the benefit of those here I confirm it so that they may believe that You have sent Me." Immediately after this Jesus shouted, "Lazarus come out". Lazarus emerged from the cave, bound up with the grave clothes and with his face covered by a towel. Jesus said, "Unwrap him quickly and let him go!" Many of the Jewish people who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus had done believed in Him, but others went to the Pharisees and told them what had happened.

THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND PHARISEES PLOT TO KILL JESUS

The Chief Priests and the Pharisees convened a council and debated, "What shall we do? This man performs many miracles. If we let Him alone everybody will believe in Him and the Romans shall come and take away both our position and nation."

One of the Chief Priests named Caiaphas, being the High Priest that year said to them, "You fools, let this one man die for the people. Why should the whole nation perish?" He said that not from his own initiative but being High Priest that year he foretold how Jesus would die for that nation and not for that nation only but to gather together all the scattered children of God.

From that day onwards this group laid plans to put Jesus to death. Jesus therefore didn't go around openly among the general population, but went together with His disciples from there to a city called Ephraim near to the wilderness.

The Jewish Passover Feast was approaching and many people headed from the country up to Jerusalem before the Feast to purify themselves. They searched for Jesus and discussed Him as they stood in the temple saying, "Do you think He will not come to the Feast?" Both the Chief Priests and the Pharisees had given an order that if anyone knew where Jesus was they should inform them so that they might arrest Him.

MINISTRY IN PEREA

Eventually Jesus departed from Galilee, and came to the coasts of Judea from the other side of Jordan: and the crowds returned and followed Him. Jesus healed them there and as was His practice He taught them again.

THE QUESTION OF DIVORCE

The Pharisees tested Jesus asking Him, "Is it right to divorce your wife for every given reason?" Jesus replied, "What did Moses command you? And they said, "Moses permitted the writing of a divorce certificate and to divorce her." "And why did He say that?" Jesus answered. "I tell you why; it was a concession to your hard hearted wickedness. But it is certainly not God's way from the beginning. Haven't you read that from the very beginning God made them man and woman to be joined together permanently in marriage. For this reason a man leaves his parents and is united to his wife and they are no longer two but one. Therefore whatever God has united let no one divide."

REMARRIAGE

Jesus continued, "Whoever shall divorce his wife, except for unfaithfulness, and marries another commits adultery and whoever marries one who has been divorced also commits adultery."

His disciples said to Jesus, "If this is the case for a married couple it is best to remain unmarried" "Not everyone can accept this saying" Jesus replied, "except those who God helps because there are born eunuchs and there are some who are made eunuchs and there are who have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake. Whoever is able to accept it, let him accept it."

JESUS BLESSES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Then young children were brought to Jesus so that He might lay His hands on them and pray but when His disciples saw this they scolded those who brought them. When Jesus saw this happening He was not pleased and said to the disciples, "Allow the little children to come to Me, don't prevent them coming for the Kingdom of God is composed of this kind of people. I assure you, whoever will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it at all." Jesus then took them up in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them and then he left the area.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

As Jesus had started on His journey a rich young ruler came running and knelt before Him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Why do you call Me good? There is no one good except God. But if you want to enter into life keep the commandments."

The rich young ruler asked Jesus, "Which ones?" Jesus replied, "You know the commandments, don't kill, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't defraud, honour your parents and love your neighbour as you love yourself." The young man said to Jesus, "All these things I have done from my youth, what do I still need to do?"

Jesus felt genuine love for the young ruler and said to him, "You lack only one thing. Go and sell whatever you have and give the money to the poor and come, take up the cross, and follow me and you shall have treasure in heaven." But when the young man heard this requirement he was appalled and went away saddened for he possessed great wealth.

When Jesus saw that the rich young ruler was going away very sorrowful, He looked at His disciples and said, "I assure you that it is almost impossible for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were astonished at these words. Jesus continued speaking to them, "Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

His disciples heard this and were totally amazed, discussing among themselves "Who then can be saved?" Jesus observing them said, "Without God it is utterly impossible. But with God everything is possible."

Peter began to say to Jesus, "Look, we have given up everything and followed You. What then shall we have?" Jesus replied, "I assure you there is no one of you who has left house, brothers, sisters, parents, family or lands for My and the gospel's sake and followed me that will not receive repayment many times over now and in the age to come. You shall inherit eternal life."

"When the Messiah shall sit on the throne of His glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

THE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven resembles the owner of an estate who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. When they had agreed on the wages for the day to be paid he sent them out to work. At 9 in the morning the owner saw others without work in the marketplace and said to them, 'Go and work in the vineyard and whatever is the right payment I will give it to you', so they went off to work."

"He went out again at 12 noon and at 3 in the afternoon and made the same offer. At 5 in the afternoon he went out and found yet more and asked them, 'Why have you been here all day doing nothing?' They replied, 'Because no one has hired us'. The owner said to them, 'Go into the vineyard also and you will receive whatever is the right payment'."

"When the evening had come the owner of the vineyard said to his servant, 'Call the labourers and give them their wages starting from those hired at 5 in the afternoon and finishing with the early morning group'."

When those hired at 5 in the afternoon came they received a full day's wage. When those hired at 6 in the morning came they expected to have received more but they also were given the day's wage. This early group protested against the owner saying, 'The last group has only worked an hour and you have made them equal to us who have worked through the heat of the day'."

"The owner replied to one of them and said, 'Friend, I am not wronging you, didn't you agree to work for me for a day's wage? Take your wages and go. I will give to this last group the same as I gave to you. Is it illegal for me to do what I want to with my own resources? Should you be angry because I am kind'? So the last shall be first, and the first last, for many are called, but few chosen."

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As they were going up to Jerusalem Jesus went ahead of them. The disciples as they followed Him were in a daze and were apprehensive.

Jesus took the twelve disciples aside on the journey and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him. Jesus said to them "See we are going up to Jerusalem where all the things that are written by the prophets concerning the Messiah will be fulfilled".

"The Messiah will be betrayed to the Chief Priests and the Scribes and they shall condemn Him to death. They will deliver Him to the Gentiles and they will mock Him, spit on Him, scourge Him, crucify Him and shall kill Him and on the third day He shall rise again." The disciples didn't understand a thing He said. He seemed to be talking in riddles.

SEEKING POSITIONS OF GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM

Then the mother of James and John, Zebedee's sons came with them and kneeling in front of Jesus requested something from Him. "What do you want?" asked Jesus. She answered, "We want you to allow that these my two sons may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left in Your kingdom".

Jesus answered, "You do not know what you ask for. Are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink from and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able".

Jesus said to them, "You will drink of My cup, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptized with, but it is for the Father, not Me to say who will be given the right to sit on my right and left hand as it shall be given to those for whom My Father has prepared it."

GRACE AND SERVICE AS THE BASIS OF GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

When the other ten disciples heard this request they were indignant and angry with James and John but Jesus called them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles exercise powerful control over those who are subject to them and their great ones exercise authority upon them but it will be different among you."

"Whoever will be great among you will be your servant and whoever will be chief among you, let him serve you in exactly the same way, as the Messiah came not to be ministered to but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many."

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

As Jesus with His disciples in a crowd were approaching the city of Jericho, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus was one of two blind men sitting by the side of the road, begging.

On hearing the noise of the crowd passing by, Bartimaeus asked what it meant. He was told that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by so both shouted out, "Lord Jesus, son of David have mercy on me, have mercy on us". The crowd rebuked them telling them to be quiet but they continued crying out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, You son of David."

Jesus stopped and ordered them to be called and brought to Him. So they called them. They said to Bartimaeus, "You lucky fellow, get up He is calling you". Bartimaeus threw off his coat, got up and came to Jesus who said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Lord, I want to be able to see."

So Jesus took pity on both of them and touched their eyes and said, "Receive your sight, leave, your faith has cured you". Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus as He continued on His journey giving glory to God. The crowd when they saw it, praised God. Jesus now entered and passed through Jericho.

CONVERSION OF ZACCHAEUS

Zacchaeus, who was the town's chief tax collector was rich and wished to see who Jesus was but couldn't do so because he was a short man and the crowd was milling around Jesus. He ran in front of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see him for Jesus was to pass the tree on His way.

When Jesus came to the tree He looked up and saw him and said, "Zacchaeus, be quick and come down because today I must stay at your house". Zacchaeus quickly climbed down from the tree and joyfully greeted Him. When the crowd saw this happen they grumbled that Jesus was going to be a guest with a tax collector.

Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and said, "See Lord, I will give half of my goods to the poor and if I have defrauded any one of anything I will pay back to him four times". Jesus pointed to him and said, "Today salvation has come to this house since this man too is a son of Abraham. For the Messiah has come to seek and to save the lost."

PARABLE OF THE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO YOU

Jesus told another parable as they were approaching Jerusalem with the crowd expecting the Kingdom of God would soon be coming. Jesus said, "A nobleman went into a distant place to receive a kingdom and to return. He called his ten servants and gave each of them three months wages and said to them 'Look after my place until I return'". But a number of his citizens hated him and sent a message after him, saying, "We will not have you to reign over us as king."

"After receiving the kingdom the nobleman returned and ordered these servants to whom money had been given to be called so that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. The first one came to him saying, 'Lord I have multiplied the amount ten times'. The nobleman said to him, 'Well done my good servant, because you have been faithful over a little I am going to give you rulership over ten cities'. A second servant came giving a five fold profit and was promised control over five cities."

"Another servant came offering back the money he had received saying he had kept it safe and hid it. He explained, 'I was afraid of you because you are a harsh man, you take up that which you haven't laid down, and reap what you did not sow'."

"The nobleman said to him, 'You good for nothing servant, I will judge you out of your own mouth. You knew that I was a harsh man taking up that which I hadn't laid down and reaping that which I didn't sow. Why didn't you give my money to the bank so that on my return I might have received it back with interest?'"

"The nobleman said to the bystanders, 'Take from him the funds and give it to the servant who has made a ten fold gain'. The bystanders replied, 'Lord, he already has ten fold'."

"I tell you that to everyone which has, shall be given more and from him that doesn't have that little that he has will be taken away from him. Now for these enemies of mine who would not want me to reign over them bring them out here and kill them in front of me.'" When Jesus had finished speaking he continued up to Jerusalem.

6. THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE CROSS

JESUS ARRIVES AT BETHANY AND IS ANOINTED BY MARY

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home town of Lazarus who had died and had been raised from the dead by Him. Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper. They made Him a supper; Martha served while Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him.

As Jesus reclined at the table, Mary, who had an alabaster flask containing a large amount of very costly perfume, broke the flask and poured the ointment on his head and anointed his feet. She wiped his feet with her hair and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

THE DISCIPLES ARE ANGRY AND JESUS TELLS OF THE MEANING BEHIND HIS ANOINTING

When His disciples saw this happen they were angry saying, "Why was this perfume wasted?" Then Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His disciples who would betray Jesus added, "Why wasn't this perfume sold at a good price and given to the poor?" Judas didn't say this because he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief and the treasurer for the group so looked after the funds. The disciples criticised her.

When Jesus became aware of it He said to the disciples, "Leave her alone, why do you trouble this woman? Mary has performed a noble act on me. She has done what she could by pouring the perfume on my body for burial. I assure you that wherever this gospel will be preached throughout the whole world the act that she has done shall be remembered and praised. You will always have the poor with you to help whenever you desire to do so, but you will not always have Me."

THE PHARISEES CONSPIRE TO MURDER LAZARUS

Many of the Jews therefore knew that Jesus was there and they came not purely to see Jesus but that they might also see Lazarus who He had raised from the dead. As a result the Chief Priests plotted together how they might kill Lazarus as it was due to him that many of the Jewish people believed in Jesus.

ENTRY INTO BETHPHAGE AND THE PROVISION OF THE COLT

When Jesus and the disciples came close to Jerusalem near Bethphage and Bethany at the mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples into a nearby village saying, "Immediately you enter you will find an ass tied together with a colt which has never been ridden, loose the ass and colt and bring them to Me and if anyone asks you why are you doing this tell them that the Lord requires them and immediately he will release them."

The two disciples that had been sent went away and found the colt tied outside a door in the street and as they were loosing the colt the colt's owners that stood there said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied to them as Jesus had told them saying, "The Lord has need of him", so they let them go. The disciples brought the ass together with the colt and put their clothes on the colt and sat Jesus on him.

PROPHECY FULFILLED BY THIS EVENT

This was done so that the prophecy of Zechariah might be fulfilled, "Tell the daughter of Zion 'Look, Your King comes to you meek and sitting upon an asses' colt'". The disciples didn't understand this at this time but when Jesus was glorified then they remembered that these things were written of the Lord Jesus Christ and that they had done these things for him.

RESPONSE OF THE CROWDS

Large crowds who were on their way to celebrate the Passover Feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. A huge crowd spread their clothes on the road, others cut down branches from the palm trees and came to meet Jesus and laid the clothes on the road.

The crowds, both which went ahead and which followed Him from the descent from the Mount of Olives, and a crowd of his followers began to rejoice and praise God with loud voices because of all the mighty works that they had seen. All the crowds shouted, "Blessed is the King of Israel, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven, Hosanna and glory in the highest!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was intrigued, "Who is this?" the multitude said. "This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee". The people who were with Jesus when he raised Lazarus from the dead witnessed about Him. Because of this the people also met Him as they heard that He had done this miracle.

The Pharisees discussed among themselves, "Look we can do nothing as the whole world is following Him". Some of the Pharisees from among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke Your followers". Jesus replied, "I tell you if they would be silent these stones would immediately cry out".

JESUS WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM

When Jesus was approaching Jerusalem He looked at the city and wept. He said, "Eternal peace was within your reach and you turned it down and now it is too late. The time will come when your enemies will surround you and keep you under siege. They will kill or enslave the inhabitants, demolish the city so that not one stone stands upon another because you rejected the opportunity God offered you."

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE A SECOND TIME

When they arrived in Jerusalem Jesus went into the Temple and began to throw out all the people who traded in the Temple, overthrowing the money changers' tables and the seats of those who sold doves. He did not allow any one to carry any vessel through the Temple.

Jesus said "Isn't it written, My house shall be called by all nations the house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves?" He continued to teach daily in the Temple. The blind and the lame came to Jesus in the Temple and He healed them.

THE REACTION OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

When the Chief Priests and Scribes saw the marvellous works that Jesus did and the young people shouting in the Temple "Hosanna to the son of David!", they were very angry and said to Him, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes", Jesus replied. "Haven't you read the Scriptures? For they say, "Even little babies will praise Him!"

The Chief Priests and Scribes discussed how they might destroy Jesus because they feared Him, seeing that all the people were amazed at His teachings. However the Rulers were not able to resolve this dilemma because the crowd were listening very attentively to what Jesus had to say.

When evening came Jesus left Jerusalem with his twelve disciples and went and stayed overnight at Bethany.

THE CURSING OF THE FIG TREE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRAYER

The following morning they returned to Jerusalem from Bethany and Jesus was hungry. When He saw a fig tree with leaves on it in the distance He came to it hoping to find some fruit but found only leaves because it was not the season for fruit. Jesus said to the tree, "No fruit will ever grow on you again".

The disciples heard this and in the morning they saw that the fig tree had dried up from the roots and had died. The disciples were amazed when they saw how quickly the fig tree had died. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, look how quickly the fig tree You cursed has withered away!"

Jesus replied, "Have faith in God. I assure you that if you have faith and do not doubt you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree but also if you shall say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be thrown into the sea', it will happen.

Everything you ask in prayer believing you will receive. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone who you are holding a grudge against so that your Father in Heaven will forgive your sins too."

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS QUESTION CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

On one of these days Jesus and the disciples returned to Jerusalem. As Jesus was walking in the Temple, He taught the people preaching the gospel. The Chief Priests, the Scribes and the Elders came across Him and asked, "Tell us, by what authority do You do these things and who gave You this authority?" Jesus answered, "I will also ask you one question which, if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? Answer me."

The Rulers discussed His question saying, "If we shall say "From heaven"; He will say unto us, "Why then didn't you believe him? But if we say, "Of men" all the people will stone us because they believe that John was a prophet". The Rulers replied, "We cannot tell where it was from". Jesus answered, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

Jesus said to them "What do you think?" "A man had two sons. He spoke to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in my vineyard', and the son answered, 'I will not', but afterward he changed his mind and went. He then spoke to the second son who answered, 'I will go', but didn't. Which of the two obeyed the request of his father?"

The Rulers answered, "The first." Jesus replied, "I assure you that the tax collectors and prostitutes enter the Kingdom of God before you because John came to you on a mission of righteousness and you didn't believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did and you, when you had seen it, did not afterwards change your minds that you might believe him."

PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

Jesus then gave another parable. "There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, planted a protective hedge around it and constructed a winepress in it and built a tower. He rented it out to farmers and left on a long term visit to a distant country. When harvest time approached he sent his servants to the farmers that they might enjoy the fruit from the vineyard. The farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another and stoned another, wounding him in the head and sent him away badly treated and empty handed. Again, the landowner sent a larger number of servants and the farmers treated them in the same way."

"The landowner wondered, "What shall I do?" He decided that last of all, having one son who he loved dearly, he decided to send him to them thinking that the farmers would respect his son when they saw him. But when those farmers saw him they said to each other, "This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance shall be ours." They took hold of the son, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What therefore will the landowner do to the farmers? He will come and destroy these farmers and will give the vineyard unto others."

When the religious leaders heard this they said to him, "He will put these wicked men to death and lease out his vineyard to other farmers who will provide the fruits at harvest times." Jesus looked at them and said "Didn't you ever read in the Scriptures 'The very stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? As a result I tell you that the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation providing the necessary fruits thereof and whoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken but on whoever it falls it will grind him to powder."

When the Chief Priests, Scribes and Pharisees heard His parables they understood that Jesus spoke of them. Immediately they sought a way of arresting Jesus but they feared the people because the crowd saw Jesus as a prophet, so while knowing that He had spoken the parable against them they went their way.

PARABLE OF THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

Jesus again taught them again by a parable and said "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a King who arranged a marriage for his son and sent out his servants to call those that were invited to the wedding, but they would not come. He again sent other servants out telling the invited guests, 'Look, I have prepared my dinner with the best of foods prepared, everything is ready, come to the marriage'."

"The invited guests ignored the invitation and continued with their everyday life, one going to his farm, another to his business. The rest took the King's servants and treated them badly and killed them. When the King heard of this he was angry and sent his armies destroying those murderers and burned their city."

“The King said to his servants, “The wedding is ready but those who were invited acted badly. Therefore go out to the highways and as many as you shall find invite them to the marriage. The servants departed and brought together all they found, both bad and good and the guest list for the wedding was full.”

“When the King came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who didn’t have a wedding robe and said to him, Friend, how did you come here not having a wedding robe? And the man was speechless. Then the King said to the servants “Bind him hand and foot and take him away and throw him into outer darkness where there will be great weeping and anguish, for many are called, but few are chosen.”

THE QUESTION OF THE TRIBUTE MONEY

The Pharisees watched Jesus and sent out their agents in collusion with servants from Herod, to infiltrate the crowds to spy on what the Lord was saying in order to find evidence which might allow them to bring Jesus to the Roman Governor.

They said to Jesus, “Teacher we know that You are true and teach God’s plan accurately and with impartiality as You are not trying to impress anybody. What do You think? Is it lawful to give tribute money to Caesar, or not? Shall we give it or not?”

Jesus, understanding the cunning reason behind their questions replied, “Why are you hypocrites testing Me? Show me the tribute money so that I can see it”. They brought to him a coin. Jesus said to them, “Whose image and what writing is on this coin?”, to which they replied, “Caesar’s”. Jesus continued, “Give to Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s”.

When the Pharisees and Herodians heard this answer they realised that they could not arrest him in front of the people. They were amazed at Jesus’ answer and, remaining silent, left him and went on their way.

THE QUESTION OF MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN

On the same day the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, came to Jesus and asked Him, “Teacher, Moses teaches us that if a man dies having had no children his brother shall marry his widow to provide descendants for his brother. Now there were in our area seven brothers, the first of whom had married a wife, and died leaving no descendants and leaving his widow to his second brother. Eventually the second, third and all including the seventh son all predeceased the widow who eventually died. In the resurrection when they will all be resurrected, whose wife of the seven brothers will she be, for they had all been married to her?”

Jesus replied, “You are wrong as you don’t understand the Scriptures, nor the power of God. People on earth marry, but those found worthy to go to heaven do not marry, neither do they die anymore, but are like the angels and are children of God being children of the resurrection”.

“In relation to the resurrection of the dead haven’t you read in the book of Moses how at the burning bush God spoke to him saying, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living because they all live forever due to Him. You are therefore in serious error.”

When the crowd heard this they were amazed at Jesus’ teaching, with some of the Scribes saying, “Teacher that was well said!” After that these leaders dared not ask Him any more questions.

THE QUESTION OF THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

When the Pharisees had heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they gathered together and discussed the matter and understood that He had answered them well. One of the Scribes who was a lawyer now asked Jesus a question to test Him, “Teacher which is the first and greatest commandment in the law?”

Jesus answered the Scribe, “The greatest of all the commandments is, ‘Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second one is like it, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. There are no other commandments greater than these.”

A Scribe approached Jesus and said to Him, "Well said Teacher, You have spoken truthfully because there is one God; and there is no other. To love God with all the heart, all the understanding, all the soul, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices combined." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely He said to the Scribe, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God". After that no one else asked Jesus a further question.

THE CONUNDRUM OF KING DAVID AND THE MESSIAH

When the Pharisees were gathered together as Jesus taught in the Temple He asked them, "Why do the Scribes say that the Messiah is the Son of David? What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is He? The Pharisees replied, "The Son of David."

Jesus then asked them, "How then does David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, say in the book of Psalms "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit down on my right hand side until I make your enemies your footstool? If David then called the Messiah 'Lord,' how is He his son?" No one was able to answer that question, nor from that day forward asked Him any further questions. The general populace in the crowd heard Jesus' comments with joy.

EVALUATION OF THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES

Jesus said to the crowds and to His disciples, "The Scribes and the Pharisees are occupying Moses seat therefore do what they require you to obey even though they do not obey these laws themselves."

"All their works they do for are for public display. They attach portions of the Scriptures to their head and arms and add additional tassels to their flowing robes. They love the uppermost rooms at feasts and the main seats in the synagogue as well as by being openly greeted in the market place by shouts of Rabbi, Rabbi!"

"Even as they are making pretences of praying long prayers they are planning schemes to cheat widows out of their property. Therefore God's heaviest condemnation awaits these men."

THE TRUE SERVANT

"Don't be called Teacher for the one who is your Master is the Messiah and all of you are brothers. Don't call anyone on earth Father for there is only one Father who is in Heaven. The most important among you shall be your servant. Whoever promotes himself shall be humbled but he that humbles himself shall be exalted."

CONDEMNATION OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF ISRAEL

"Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven for men. You do not allow them to go into heaven, for you do not go in yourselves."

"Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You go to all lengths to make one disciple and when he is made, you make him twice more the child of hell than yourselves."

"Alas to you blind guides who say, "Whoever swears by the Temple means nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! You blind fools - what is greater, the gold, or the Temple that sanctifies the gold?"

You say "Whoever swears by the altar means nothing but whosoever swears by the gift that is upon the altar is binding. You blind fools, for what is more important, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift?"

"Whoever therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things on it and whoever swears by the Temple, swears by it, and by God who dwells there. He that swears by Heaven, swears by the Throne of God, and by Him that sits on it."

"Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!, for you pay a tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have ignored the far more important matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith which you should have considered and not left them aside. You blind guides who strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

“Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!, because you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but internally you are full of extortion and malice. You blind Pharisees, first clean what is inside you so that the outside may be clean also.”

“Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!, for you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate their monuments. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead men's bones and are totally unclean. Outwardly you appear righteous and holy to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

“Alas to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!, because you build the tombs of the prophets, and decorate the monuments of the righteous and say, ‘If we had been in the days of our fathers we would not have had a part with them in the shedding of the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you testify against yourself for you are the sons of the prophets’, murderers filling up the full measure of their evil. You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the sentence of hell?”

“Take notice therefore that I will send you prophets, wise men, and writers. Some of them you will kill and crucify and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute them from city to city so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, who you murdered between the Temple and the altar. I assure you all this judgment shall come upon this generation.”

JESUS LAMENTS OVER JERUSALEM

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, forever murdering the prophets and stoning those who were sent to you, how often would I have wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling! See, your house is left forsaken, for I tell you that you will not see Me again until you shall say, ‘Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord’.”

JESUS FORETELLS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

As Jesus left the Temple one of His disciples came forward and said to Him, “Look Teacher what wonderful stones and wonderful buildings are here”. “Do you see these great buildings?”, Jesus replied. “The days will come when there will not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

THE WIDOWS OFFERING

Taking a seat opposite the Treasury, Jesus watched how people put money into the Treasure Chest. Many of the rich put in much. One poor widow came and put in two of the smallest coins. Summoning His disciples He said to them, “I assure you that this poor widow has put more in than everybody contributing to the Treasury for they have all put in from what they had over but she has put in all she has.”

VISIT OF THE GREEKS

Among those that came up to Jerusalem to worship at the Feast of Passover were a number of Greeks. They came to Philip who was from Bethsaida of Galilee and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus”. Philip went and told Andrew before both of them went to speak to Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Messiah to be glorified. I assure you that unless a seed of wheat falls into the ground it remains alone but if it dies it produces a rich yield. He that loves his life shall lose it but the one who hates his life in this world will preserve it until eternal life. If a person serves Me, let him follow Me and where I am there will my servant be also. If any one serves Me, My Father will honour him.”

“Now My soul is disturbed and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour, but for this reason I came to this particular time. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The people that stood and heard it said that it thundered, others said, “An angel spoke to Him.” Jesus said, “This voice didn't come for My benefit but for your sakes. The time of judgment of this world has come, now will the prince of this world be expelled.”

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

“And I when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw every one to me”. This Jesus said, indicating what kind of death He was to die. The people replied “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah lives forever so why do You say, ‘The Messiah must be lifted up? Who is this Messiah?’”

Jesus answered, “For a little while the light is with you. Walk while you have the light in case darkness comes upon you: for the one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may be the children of light.” Jesus departed, and hid Himself from them.

Although Jesus had performed many miracles in their presence they didn’t believe Him. This was so that the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, “Lord, who has believed our report and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah also prophesied, “He has blinded their eyes, and hardened their hearts that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.” These things said Isaiah when he saw His glory, and spoke of Him.

THE EVIL OF UNBELIEF

Among the Chief Rulers many believed in Jesus, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess their belief in Jesus in case they would be put out of the synagogue, as they loved public approval more than worship of God.

Jesus proclaimed, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me, but in Him who sent Me. And he that sees Me sees Him that sent Me. I am a light which has come into the world so that whoever believes in Me should not remain in darkness.”

“If anyone hears My teachings and fails to observe them, I pass no sentence on him as I didn’t come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, doesn’t accept My teachings has his judge as My spoken words will judge him on the last day.”

“For I have not spoken on My own accord, but the Father who sent Me. He has given Me a command as to what I should say and what I should speak. I know too that His commandment is everlasting life so what I say is just what the Father has told Me to speak.”

THE THREE QUESTIONS ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

As Jesus was seated on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Him privately, “Tell us when shall these things happen; what shall be the sign of Your coming when all these things shall be fulfilled and of the end of the age?”

DECEPTION BY THE ENEMIES OF BELIEVERS AND THE RETURN OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Jesus replied, “Take care that no one deceive you, because many shall come in My name as the time draws near, saying, ‘I am the Messiah’ and shall deceive many. Don’t go after them. If anyone says to you, ‘Look, here or there is the Messiah’, don’t believe them because false Messiahs will appear showing great signs and wonders that even believers will be tricked into believing them. If they say the Messiah is in the desert or in a secret cave do not go out, do not believe them. I have forewarned you of this deceit.”

SIGNS OF THE TRIBULATION

Jesus continued, “You will hear of wars, rumours of wars and instability. Do not be worried or scared for all these things must occur but that is not the end. Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, great earthquakes will occur in many places, there shall be famines and plagues in many places, troubles, fearful sights and great signs will be from heaven. All these are the beginning of the horrors of the age of sorrows.”

PERSECUTION OF BELIEVERS AND RESPONSES INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Before all these events you need to understand that they shall arrest you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the councils, prisons and synagogues in which you will be beaten. You will be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for evidence against them. Brother shall betray his brother to death and the father the

son. Children shall rise up against their parents and some of you will they cause to be put to death. You will be hated of all humanity for my name's sake."

"When they shall arrest you, lead you and deliver you up, do not think beforehand what you will answer because I will give you wisdom as it will be the Holy Spirit that will speak through you. Whatever shall be given to you at that time you are to say, because none of your enemies will be able to speak against you or resist what you say. Because of the amount of evil in society the love of many shall grow cold, but anyone who shall endure to the end shall be secure."

SIGNS OF THE FALL OF JERUSALEM TO THE ROMANS

"You will know that destruction is imminent when you shall see Jerusalem surrounded with troops. Those who are in Judea need to flee to the mountains and those in the middle of it leave. Don't allow those from rural areas to come into the city because these are the days of vengeance that the prophecies will be fulfilled."

"There will be great distress in the land and judgment on this people. They shall be slaughtered and survivors will be led away as captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be subject to the Gentiles until the 'Times of the Gentiles' (spoken of by Daniel) are completed."

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place in the Temple as prophesied by Daniel the prophet then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains. Those on the roof of the house should not go back down into the house or enter it to take any thing out of his house. Those in the field, don't return to the house to take their clothes with them. Alas for those who are pregnant or have young babies in those days! Pray that your journey is not in the winter, nor on the Sabbath Day."

A TIME OF GREATEST DISASTER

"In these days there will be the worst troubles that have occurred from the beginning of the creation which God created to this time, neither shall be and unless the time of affliction is reduced by the Lord, life will cease to exist on earth, but for the sake of the believers the Lord has shortened the period. When these things begin to occur look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption is drawing close."

NATURAL DISTURBANCES AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days there shall be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars. On the earth there will be great distress and confusion among the nations, the sea and the waves roaring. The sun shall be darkened, the moon shall not give light and the stars shall fall from heaven. People will be totally overcome with fear as they look at the things which are coming on the earth because the powers that are in heaven will be shaken."

SIGN OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

"Then the sign of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will be seen and the people on earth will cry out in terror as they see Him coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be accompanied by light across the whole sky which everyone will see."

"Then the Lord Jesus Christ will send His angels with a very loud trumpet call and the angels shall gather together His elect from throughout the earth to the most distant part of heaven. Wherever there is a carcass the vultures will flock and there will the eagles be gathered together."

THE SUDDEN OCCURRENCE OF THE SECOND ADVENT

"No one knows the actual time, the day or the hour of my return to the earth in glory. No one, man, the heavenly angels nor the Son knows the time, only My Father knows."

"However the situation at the time of the return of the Messiah will be the same as it was at the time of Noah. Throughout the days before the Flood everybody was eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day when Noah entered the Ark. They were totally unaware of the situation until the flood came and swept them all away. This is how it will be with My return, the second coming of the Messiah."

“Of two people in the field one shall be taken, the other will remain. Of two women working at the mill one shall be taken and the other remain. Therefore be vigilant because you don’t know at what time Your Lord will return.”

PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL GLOBALLY BEFORE THE SECOND ADVENT

“Before the end the gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come.”

PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

Jesus said to the disciples, “Learn a parable from the fig tree. Look at the fig tree as well as all the other trees. Now in spring time when you see the new leaves appearing you are aware that summer is coming shortly. In the same way when you shall see all these things come to pass you will know that the Kingdom of God is coming in the very near future. I assure you that this generation shall not die out before all these prophecies are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away but My teachings shall never pass away.”

VIGILANCE IN YOUR DAILY WALK

“Understand this, that if the owner of a house had known at what time the thief would come he would have watched intently and wouldn’t have been subject to a break in. Therefore you also should be vigilant because at an unexpected time the Messiah returns.”

“Watch out! Don’t let My sudden coming catch you unawares. Don’t let Me find you living in a careless way weighed down with drunkenness and worldly cares so that the day of My return catches you by surprise, like a trap because it will affect the population of the whole world. Be on your guard!”

“Be keenly watching so that you may be considered worthy to escape all these events that will occur and to stand before the Messiah.”

THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS AWAITING THE BRIDEGROOM

Jesus continued, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise whilst the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but took no oil with them while the wise ones took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”

“While the bridegroom delayed his arrival all ten of them slumbered and slept. At midnight there was a shout ‘Look the bridegroom is coming, go out to meet him’. Then all ten virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish virgins said to the wise virgins, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps have gone out’. The wise virgins replied, ‘We cannot in case there is not enough oil for us. Go off and buy some oil for yourselves’. They went off to buy some oil.”

“While they were away trying to buy oil the bridegroom came and only those who were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door to the wedding hall was shut. Afterward the foolish virgins returned and cried out saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us’, but the bridegroom replied, ‘I assure you I do not know you’. Watch therefore because you do not know the day or the hour at which the Messiah returns.”

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

“When the Messiah shall return in His glory together with all of the holy angels, then He shall sit on His glorious throne. In front of Him shall be gathered everybody and He shall separate them individually one from another, in the same way as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. He shall place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on the left.”

“Then shall the King say unto the sheep on his right hand, ‘Come, you blessed ones of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, because I was hungry and you gave Me a meal, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in and gave Me shelter, naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me’.”

“The righteous will ask Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? or thirsty, and give You a drink? When did we see You as a stranger, and take You in? or naked, and clothe You? Or when did we see

You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King shall answer and say to them, 'I assure you, because you have done these things to the lowest of my brothers you have done it to Me'."

"Then shall He say to them on His left hand, 'Depart from me, accursed ones, into everlasting fire prepared for Satan and his angels, because I was hungry and you didn't give Me food, I was thirsty, and you didn't give Me a drink, I was a stranger and you didn't offer Me a place to stay, naked, and you didn't clothe Me, sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit Me'."

"They shall ask Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison and didn't minister to You?' Then will He reply, 'I assure you because you didn't do it to one of the lowest of these you did not do it to Me'. Those on the left hand will go away into everlasting punishment but those on the right hand to life eternal."

RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUR SERVICE TO THE LORD

"Watch and pray because you do not know the timing of the Messiah's return. The Messiah is like a person taking a long journey who left His house and gave authority to His servants. He gave each person the work that they should do and a servant in charge to keep watch. Therefore watch because you don't know when the owner of the house returns. It may be in the evening, at midnight, early or mid morning. Watch in case He finds you sleeping. I say this not only to you My disciples, but to everybody who will hear my words."

THE GOOD SERVANT

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant? He is the one whom the master has made the overseer of his household, and set to provide the servant's meals at the proper times. That servant will be blessed when the master returns and finds his servant working well doing his duties. I assure you that the master will make him overseer of all his goods."

THE BAD SERVANT

"However if the servant is unreliable and evil he may think, 'My master has delayed his return'. As a result he will start to assault his fellow servants and to eat and drink with bad characters. If the master of that servant shall come home unexpectedly and find out what the bad servant has been doing, he shall deal with him with great severity, dismiss him and this will be a cause of great anguish with weeping and grinding of the teeth."

THE GOOD AND EVIL SERVANTS

Jesus told another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and gave them his goods. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; according to their abilities and immediately left on his journey."

"The servant that had received the five talents went and traded with them and earned another five talents. In the same way the one who had received two, earned another two but he that had received only one went and dug a hole in the ground and buried his lord's money."

"After a long time the lord of those servants returned and questioned them. The servant who had received five talents came and brought another five saying, Lord, you gave me five talents and I have earned another five."

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you responsible over many things; enter into the joy of your lord'. In exactly the same way the servant who had doubled the value of the talents was received and praised by the lord."

"Then the servant who had received just one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you haven't sown and gathering where you haven't fertilised. I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in a hole in the earth. Here is your talent back'."

"His lord replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant. You knew what I was like so you should have placed it in the care of the money changers so that on my return I could receive it back with interest'."

“Take the talent from him, and give it to the servant who has ten talents because to everyone who has it shall be given abundantly but from him that has nothing shall be taken away even what he has. Throw the lazy servant into outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

PREDICTION OF THE CRUCIFIXION

When Jesus had finished all of these sayings, He said to His disciples, “You know that in two days time it is the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread, and the Messiah is to be betrayed and crucified”.

CONSPIRACY BY THE SANHEDRIN AND JUDAS MAKES THEM AN OFFER

At that time assembled together The Chief Priests, Scribes, and the Elders of the people. They came together to the palace of Caiaphas the high priest. They discussed how they might arrest Jesus by cunning means and put Him to death. They concluded that it could not be on a Feast Day in case there developed a riot among the people.

At that time Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples. Judas came and discussed plans with the Chief Priests and Rulers, how he might betray Jesus to them. Judas asked them, “What will you give to me to deliver Jesus to you?” When the Chief Priests and Captains heard this they were glad and agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver. Judas promised that he would seek opportunity to betray Jesus into their hands avoiding the presence of a crowd.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE PASSOVER

The first day of Unleavened Bread came which is the time when they must kill the Passover lamb. His disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to go so that we can prepare for You a place for You to eat the Passover?”

Jesus sent Peter and John out telling them, “Go into the city and after you have entered it you will meet a man carrying a pot of water. Follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the owner of the house that, ‘the Master says to you, My time is at hand and I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples’. Ask him, ‘where is the guest chamber where I shall eat the Passover with My disciples’? And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared. There make ready for us.” His disciples went off and following Jesus’ instructions came into the city and found the man just as Jesus had predicted and prepared the Passover.

THE LAST PASSOVER MEAL

When it was evening Jesus sat down with the twelve disciples and said to them, “I have longingly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, because I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God”. Jesus took the cup and gave thanks saying, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves, for I say to you that I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes”.

As they sat and ate Jesus was under pressure and said, “I assure you one of you who is eating with Me shall betray me”. Then the disciples looked at one another concerned about whom He was speaking. There was also a controversy among the disciples as to which of them was going to be the most important.

As a result Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men order their slaves around and the slaves have no choice but to obey but you will not be like that. Let the greatest among you be like the youngest and the chief act as your servant. Who is greater, the person who sits at the meal or the one who serves at the table? Isn’t it the one seated? My position among you is one of a servant.”

“You have been standing with Me through My trials and just as My Father has given to Me the Kingdom I will appoint you to eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and you will be sitting on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

JUDAS AND THE DEVIL

At the supper Satan put betrayal into the heart of Simon’s son Judas Iscariot, to betray Him.

THE LORD WASHES THE FEET OF THE DISCIPLES

Before the Passover Feast Jesus, aware that the time had come for Him to leave the world to return to the Father, showed His own who were in the world that He loved them to the end.

Jesus, conscious that His Father had placed all things into His hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God, got up from the table, laid aside His robe and wrapped a towel around his waist as the lowliest of slaves would dress.

He poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel.

When He came to Simon Peter, Peter said to Jesus "Lord, are You going wash my feet? Jesus answered him, "At this time you do not understand what I am doing but you will know later on". Peter replied, "You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash your feet, you are not sharing this with Me. (I think this rather weakens the thrust of the usual text) Simon Peter replied, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head". Jesus said to Peter, "He who has been washed does not need to have other than his feet washed to be completely cleansed, and you are cleansed, but not all of you". This is because Jesus knew who would betray Him, This is why He said, "Not all of you are cleansed"

THE SERVANT AND THE MASTER

After Jesus had washed their feet and dressed again He sat down and said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and that is true for that is what I am. If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet; you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example so that what I have done, you should also do. I assure you that the slave is not greater than his master, neither he the one that is sent greater than the person sending him. If you understand these things you will be happy if you practise them."

"I am not speaking of you all for I know those I have chosen. However the Scripture is to be fulfilled, 'The one eating my bread has raised his heel against me'. I tell you before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe that I am He. I assure you that whoever welcomes the one I send welcomes Me, and he that welcomes Me welcomes the Father who sent Me."

THE DEPARTURE OF JUDAS

Jesus was in great anguish of spirit and exclaimed, "Yes it is true, one of you will betray Me, It is one of the twelve". At this His disciples began to say to Jesus one after another, "Lord, Is it I?" John was reclining next to Jesus. Simon Peter beckoned to him that John should ask Jesus who it was that He was speaking about so John asked Jesus, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "It is the one who will receive the bread when I have dipped it and when he had dipped the bread He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. The Messiah indeed goes as it was prophesied in the Scriptures but alas for the man by whom He is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born". Then Judas, who betrayed Him, asked, "Master, is it I?" Jesus replied, "You have said so". After Judas had eaten the bread Satan entered into him. Jesus said to Judas, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

Now none of those at the table knew why Jesus said this to Judas. Some of them thought that because Judas was the group's treasurer that Jesus had told Judas to buy the things that were required for the Feast or that he should give something to the poor. Judas left immediately: and it was night.

FURTHER INSTRUCTION TO THE REMAINING DISCIPLES

As soon as Judas had left the room Jesus said "My time has come; the glory of God will soon surround Me and God shall receive great praise because of all that happens to Me. God shall give Me His own glory and this so very soon".

"Little children, I am with you for but a short time. You will seek me, and as I said to the Jewish nation in the past now I say to you, 'Where I go you cannot come'. A new commandment I give to you that, 'you love one another; as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this will everyone know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another'."

THE LORD'S SUPPER

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you, this do in remembrance of Me". He also took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "All you drink it; for this cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins".

"I assure you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom".

PREDICTION OF PETER'S DENIAL OF THE LORD

Simon Peter said, "Lord, where are You going? Jesus replied "Where I am going you cannot follow me at this time but you shall follow Me later."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, Simon, Satan has desired to test you, that you might be put under tremendous pressure but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail, and when you have repented strengthen your brothers".

Then Jesus said to all His disciples, "Tonight all of you shall be offended because of Me, for it is written 'I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.' But after I have risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

Peter said unto Him, "Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will die for You. I am ready to go with You both into prison, and to death. Even though everybody shall be offended because of You I will never be offended."

Jesus replied, "Will you die for Me? I assure you that this very night, before the cock crows two times you will deny Me three times". Peter answered angrily, "Even though I should die with You I will not deny You". All the other disciples replied in a similar way.

THE PROMISED RETURN OF CHRIST

"Do not worry, believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If that was not so I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready I will come and get you so that you can always be with Me where I am. You know where I am going and know how to get there."

CHRIST ANSWERS THOMAS

Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where You are going so how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known who I am you would also have known who My Father is and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

CHRIST ANSWERS PHILIP

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will satisfy us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the work. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments."

THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER COMFORTER

"I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. He is the Holy Spirit of truth who the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a short time the world will no longer see Me any more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

JESUS ANSWERS JUDAS NOT ISCARIOT

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) replied, "Lord, how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words. The word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you, but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

CHRIST'S RETURN TO THE FATHER

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give it to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father, for My Father is greater than I.'

"I have told you before it occurs so that when it does occur you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you because the ruler of this world is coming, and he has no power over Me. I have told you so that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment which I am now going to do. Get up, let us go from here."

RELATIONSHIP OF BELIEVERS WITH CHRIST

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He removes, and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch, dies and is gathered, thrown into the fire and they are burnt. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

GLORIFICATION OF GOD

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

RELATIONSHIP OF BELIEVERS WITH EACH OTHER

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another."

RELATIONSHIP OF BELIEVERS TO THE WORLD

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause'."

THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE OTHER COMFORTER

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Holy Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

PERSECUTION OF BELIEVERS

"These things I have spoken to you so that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he is offering God a service. These things they will do to you because they have not known the Father or Me."

"But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you."

"But now I go away to the Father who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart."

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. When the Holy Spirit comes He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more, and of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I say that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

PREDICTION OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."

Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying."

Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy."

"A woman, when she is in labour, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy of knowing that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will ever take from you."

PRAYER TO THE FATHER THROUGH CHRIST

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

"These things I have spoken to you in figures of speech but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray to the Father for you; because the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

THE DISCIPLES UNDERSTAND BUT WILL FAIL

His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came here from God." Jesus replied, "Do you now believe?"

"Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own house and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

CHRIST PRAYS FOR HIMSELF

Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all mankind, so that He might give eternal life to all whom You have given Him."

"This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ the one You have sent to earth. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. Now Father reveal My glory as I stand in your presence, the glory we shared before the world began."

CHRIST PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

"I have made Your name known to the people You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have realized that all things which You have given Me are from You.

I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those who You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them."

THE LORD PRAYS FOR HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE

"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name."

"Those who You gave Me I have kept; and none is lost except Judas, the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

PROTECTION FOR THE DISCIPLES

“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Set them apart by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

CHRIST PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS

“For their sakes I set apart Myself, that they also may be set apart by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

“The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may see My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father!”

“The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

PROVISION FOR FUTURE MINISTRY

Jesus said to the disciples, “When I sent you out without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” They replied “Nothing”. Then Jesus said to them “But now, he who has a purse should take it and a bag as well. He who hasn’t a sword let him sell his coat and buy one. For I say to you what was prophesied about Me must be fulfilled in Me, ‘He was classified among the criminals’, for what is written about Me is nearing the end.” They replied, “Lord, look here are two swords”, to which Jesus answered, “It is enough.”

7. THE TRIALS AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

JESUS ARRIVES AT THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

After Jesus had said this and they had sung a hymn, Jesus went as usual over the Kidron Brook to the Mount of Olives and entered the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go a little further to pray”.

JESUS PRAYS ABOUT THE CROSS

Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and be deeply distressed. He said to His disciples, “My soul is crushed with horror and sadness even to the point of death, stay here and keep watch with Me”.

And he went a short distance further, kneeled down and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You, O my Father, if You are willing take away this cup from Me, nevertheless not what I will, but what You will be done”.

Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him for He was in such agony that He broke into a sweat of blood, with great drops of blood falling down to the ground as He prayed with even more intensity.

THE DISCIPLES FAIL HIM

He returned to the three disciples and found them asleep. Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, couldn’t you even watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you might not fall into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.”

Jesus went away and prayed a second time, "My Father, if this cup cannot go away unless I drink it all, Your will be done." Jesus returned again to His disciples and found them sound asleep for they were very tired and they did not know how to answer Him.

Now, for a third time, He left the disciples and again prayed the same prayer. After praying He returned to His disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? The hour has come when the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of evil men. Get up, let us be going, Look, My betrayer is coming."

JUDAS LEADS A MOB TO JESUS AND HE APPROACHES THEM

Judas, one of His twelve disciples, who betrayed Jesus, knew of the place because Jesus often went there with His disciples. Judas had received a cohort of men and officers from the Chief Priests so he headed up a great multitude including Pharisees, Scribes and Elders of the people with lanterns, torches, swords and staves.

Judas gave them a sign saying that the person that he would kiss was Jesus. They were to hold Him secure and escort Him away. Judas walked immediately to Jesus, and said "Greetings Rabbi" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend why are you here? Do you betray the Messiah with a kiss?"

Jesus realized everything that was going to happen and approached the mob and asked, "Who do you seek?" They answered "Jesus of Nazareth". Jesus replied "I AM". Immediately as he had said to them, "I AM" they all crashed backwards and fell to the ground.

Then asking them again who they were seeking, He confirmed that He was Jesus of Nazareth and asked the mob to allow His disciples to leave. This request fulfilled the prophecy which stated, "I have not lost any of those whom You gave Me".

Jesus now said to the large group of Chief Priests, Captains of the Temple and the Elders, who had come to Him, "Why have you come out as you would against a thief with swords and staves in order to take Me? Why didn't you make a move against Me while I was teaching daily in the Temple? However this is your moment motivated by the power of darkness."

A young man, Mark, who followed Jesus was wearing only a linen cloth was grabbed by the arresting group. He left the linen cloth behind fleeing from the area naked.

PETER ATTACKS THE COHORTS

When His disciples saw what was occurring they said, "Lord, shall we fight them with the sword?" Then Simon Peter who had brought along a sword drew it and hit the High Priest's servant cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back in the sheath because all those that use the sword will die by the sword." Jesus then touched Malchus' ear and immediately healed him.

Jesus said, "Do you think that I am unable to pray to my Father, and He will immediately give Me more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the prophetic Scriptures be fulfilled because it must be fulfilled in this way? Shall I not drink the cup which my Father has given me?" All this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled.

JESUS IS BOUND AND TAKEN TO ANNAS WHO QUESTIONS HIM

Then the detachment of soldiers and their commander and officers of the Jews took Jesus bound, and led Him first to Annas. Now Annas was the father in law of Caiaphas, who was the High Priest that year. Caiaphas was the same person who had told the Jews that the death of one man would benefit the people.

Annas asked Jesus regarding His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered Annas, "I spoke openly to the world; I constantly taught in the synagogue and in the Temple, where the Jewish people are always present and I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask them who heard me what I have said to them because they know what I said."

After Jesus had said this to Annas one of the attendants standing nearby struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Is this the way to answer the High Priest?" Jesus replied, "If I have spoken wrongly tell me but if not why do you hit me?"

FALSE WITNESSES IN THE SANHEDRIN COURT IN CAIAPHAS' HOUSE

Those that had arrested Jesus led him away from Annas to the house of Caiaphas the High Priest, where all the Chief Priests, the Scribes and the Elders were assembled. Peter followed a long way off. Now the Chief Priests, and Elders and all the council looked for false witnesses against Jesus, to put him to death but didn't find any although many false witnesses came and testified.

At the end two false witnesses came. One said, "This fellow said I am able to destroy the Temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days", while the other said, "I will destroy this Temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands". But even here their testimony did not agree.

The High Priest stood up in the middle of the court and said to Jesus, "Have you no answers to this evidence?" Jesus was silent. The High Priest said to Jesus, "I command you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said to him "I AM. I tell you that later you shall see the Messiah sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Then the High Priest ripped his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? You now have heard His blasphemy." They all condemned Him to be worthy of death. The men that constrained Jesus mocked Him, they spat in His face, repeatedly pushed Him; and others hit Him with the palms of their hands. When they had blindfolded Him, they hit Him on the face, and mockingly asked Him, saying, "Prophecy, you Messiah, who is it that just hit you?" In addition many other blasphemous things were spoken against Him.

PETER DENIES THE LORD

Simon Peter followed Jesus from a distance to the High Priest's Palace, and so did John the disciple who was personally known by the High Priest. John went in with Jesus into the Palace of the High Priest but Peter stood at the outside door.

John spoke to the girl at the door and brought Peter in. The girl at the door asked Peter, "Aren't you also one of this man's disciples?" Peter answered, "I am not".

The servants and officers stood in the Palace Courtyard and had made a coal fire because it was cold and they warmed themselves. Peter stood with them and warmed himself. When those who had made the fire sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

As Peter was there one of the female servants of the High Priest saw Peter as he sat by the fire and looked closely at him and said, "This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth" but Peter denied it in front of them all saying, "Woman I do not know Him and I do not understand what you are saying". Peter left the fire and went out into the porch and the cock crowed.

Shortly after another person saw him, and said, "You are also associated with them". Peter said, "Man, I am not".

One of the servants of the High Priest who was a relative of Malchus whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Him?" Peter again denied it.

When he was in the porch area another woman saw him again and started to say to those close by, "This is one of them. This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." Peter again denied it this time with an oath saying, "I do not know the Man".

Later other people came close up to him and said to Peter, "You certainly are one of them; for your Galilaeen accent betrays you". Then Peter began he to curse and to swear, saying, "I don't know the Man whom you speak of".

Another person confidently confirmed saying, "I am sure that this fellow was with him: for he is a Galilaeen", and Peter said, "I don't know what you are talking about". While Peter was speaking these words the cock crowed.

The Lord Jesus Christ turned and looked at Peter and Peter remembered how Jesus had told him, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times. Peter went out and wept bitterly.

THE DEATH OF JUDAS

Then Judas who had betrayed Him when he saw that He was condemned felt great remorse and brought the thirty pieces of silver back to the Chief Priests and Elders saying to them, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood". They replied, "We don't care, it was your fault". Judas then threw down the thirty pieces of silver in the Temple, left and went and hanged himself.

The Chief Priests picked up the silver pieces, and said, "It is not lawful for us to put these pieces of silver back into the Treasury, because they have been used for betrayal". They discussed the matter and as a result bought the potter's field with the thirty pieces of silver to use as a cemetery for strangers. That field is called, "The field of blood" even today.

This fulfilled the prophecy spoken by Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me".

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

When morning had come, all the Chief Priests and Elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. The whole multitude of the Sanhedrin arose and when they had bound Him led Jesus away from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor.

They did not go into the Judgment Hall in case they should become religiously unclean so that they might not be able to eat the Passover.

Pilate the governor went out to the group and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow corrupting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He himself is Christ a King". Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said unto him, "Yes".

Jesus was accused of many things by the Chief Priests and Elders but answered nothing. Then said Pilate to Him, "Do you hear how many things they accuse you of? You do not reply?" But Jesus did not answer; so that Pilate was very surprised.

Then Pilate said to the Chief Priests and to the people, "I find no fault in this man." The Chief Priests answered and said to Pilate, "If this man was not a villain we would not have delivered Him up to you." They became more aggressive saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place".

Then Pilate said to them, "Take Him, and judge Him according to your law". The Jews replied, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death". This confirmed what Jesus had said when He spoke of how He would die.

Pilate now entered into the Judgment Hall again, and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus asked him, "Do you ask this yourself or did others tell you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the Chief Priests have delivered You to me: what have You done?" Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world my servants would fight so that I should not be brought bound to the authorities".

Pilate therefore said to Jesus, "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "Yes, I was born a king. This is the reason I came into the world so that I could bear witness to the truth. All those who are of the truth hear my voice". Pilate said to Jesus, "What is truth?" Having said this Pilate went out again to the Jewish leaders and said to them, "In Him I find no fault at all."

APPEARANCE OF JESUS BEFORE HEROD

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether Jesus was a Galilean and as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who also was at Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad because he had desired to see Him for a long time as he had heard many things of Jesus and hoped to have seen Him perform a miracle. Herod now questioned Jesus with many words; but He answered him nothing. The Chief Priests and Scribes stood there and strongly accused Jesus.

Herod with his men of war ridiculed and mocked Jesus, dressing Him in a gorgeous robe and returned Him again to Pilate. That same day Pilate and Herod became friends together, having previously been at odds with each other.

PILATE TRIES BUT FAILS TO RELEASE JESUS

Pilate, when he had called together the Chief Priests and the Rulers of the people said to them, "You have brought Jesus to me accusing Him as a person that perverts the people. I have examined Him before you and have found Him not guilty regarding those accusations. Also I sent Him to Herod. Nothing worthy of capital punishment has been found. I will therefore flog Him and then release Him."

While Pilate was seated on the Judgment Seat his wife sent a message to him. She said, "Do not have anything to do with this just man because for I have been greatly troubled today in a dream because of Him".

The Romans had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas [Son of the Father] who because he had caused an uprising in the city, including murder in the insurrection, was imprisoned with fellow terrorists. In those days there was a custom that the Governor should release one prisoner at the Feast of the Passover based on the popular vote of the crowd. So when the populace was gathered together, knowing that Jesus had been sent to him out of envy and the multitude were shouting for Pilate to do what he had done in previous years, he said to them, "Who do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

The Chief Priests and Elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. The multitude cried out with one voice, shouting, "Release Barabbas". Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spoke again to them, "Do you wish that I release to you the King of the Jews?" But the chief priests worked the crowd and persuaded them to demand that Pilate should release Barabbas to them.

Pilate said again to them, "What do you want me to do to Him whom you call the King of the Jews, this Jesus who is called Messiah?" They shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him, away with this man, let him be crucified."

Then Pilate said unto them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason to execute Him, I will therefore flog Him, and let him go". The multitude was ranting with loud voices and cried out far louder that Jesus be crucified. Their demands and those of the Chief Priests prevailed!

When Pilate saw that he could not win but a riot was starting to develop he took water and washed his hands before the crowd saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person, you crucify Him". All the people replied, "His blood be on us and on our children".

So Pilate, willing to please the crowd passed sentence as they had demanded and released Barabbas to them but delivered Jesus to be condemned.

ABUSE BY THE ROMAN GUARD

The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall called the Praetorium and gathered unto Him the whole band of soldiers, and Pilate scourged Him.

The soldiers stripped Him, and put on him a purple robe and when they had platted a crown of thorns they put it upon His head, and a reed in his right hand; and mocked Him and began to salute Him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

THE JOURNEY TO GOLGOTHA

After they had mocked Jesus they took the purple robe off and put His own clothes back on and led Him away to crucify Him. When they were on their way they came across a man of Cyrene called Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus and forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

A huge crowd followed Jesus including women who were wailing and lamenting what was happening. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me but weep for yourselves and your children, because the days are coming when people will say it is blessed to be barren and have no children. In those terrible future days they will begin to say to the mountains 'Fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us'. If they do these things in prosperity what shall be done in adversity?"

There were also two others, terrorists and murderers, who accompanied Jesus to be crucified. When the crowd had arrived to the place of crucifixion called Calvary or Golgotha in the Hebrew language, which means the place of a skull, they offered Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall, but having tasted it he would not drink it.

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus with the two terrorists, one on His right side, the other on His left. This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, "And He was numbered with the transgressors".

THE FIRST WORDS OF OUR LORD FROM THE CROSS

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people because they do not know what they are doing".

THE SUPERScription

Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross and set it up over his head. This title was read by many of the Jews: because the place where Jesus was crucified was close to the city. The words were written in three languages, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. It said 'THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.'

The Chief Priests of the Jews came to Pilate saying, "Do not write "The King of the Jews", but that, "He said, I am King of the Jews." Pilate replied, "What I have written I have written".

PARTING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S CLOTHES

When they had crucified Jesus the soldiers took his garments and made four piles giving a pile to each soldier but His robe was seamless woven all the way from top to bottom.

They discussed this and decided not to tear the robe but to cast dice for ownership of the robe. This fulfilled the prophecy from the Psalms which said, "They divide my garments but for my robe they cast lots".

MOCKING OF OUR LORD BY ALL

The people stood looking. Those that passed by the foot of the cross mocked Him, wagging their heads, and saying, [fulfilling another prophecy from the Psalms] "Look at You now, You who destroys the Temple and rebuilds it in three days, save Yourself and come down from the cross".

In a similar way also the Chief Priests, mocking among themselves, and the Scribes and Elders said, "He saved others; Himself he cannot save, let Him save himself, if He is the Messiah, the Chosen of God. Let Messiah, the King of Israel come down from the cross that we may see and believe! He trusted in God; let God deliver Him now, if God will have Him: for he said, 'I am the Son of God'."

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering him rough wine saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself". Both of the terrorists who were crucified with Him mocked Him with the same words.

THE REPENTANT TERRORIST AND THE SECOND WORDS OF OUR LORD

Later one of the terrorists who were crucified with Jesus shouted to Him, "If you are the Messiah save Yourself and us". However the other one challenged him, saying, "Don't you fear God, seeing you are also condemned to die? We justly deserve crucifixion for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong".

And he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. Jesus said to him, I assure you that you will be with Me in Paradise today".

THE THIRD WORDS OF OUR LORD

Standing near the Cross were a number of women named Mary, Jesus' mother, His aunt, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and John the disciple there He said to His mother, "Woman here is your son" and to John, "There is your mother". From that time on John the disciple looked after Mary in his own home.

DARKNESS OVER THE WORLD DURING THE DEATH OF CHRIST

From noon there was darkness over the whole land until three o'clock in the afternoon and the sun did not give its light.

THE FOURTH WORDS OF OUR LORD

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those standing there heard the shout and said, "This man calls for Elijah".

THE FIFTH WORDS OF OUR LORD

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now completed, said so that a prophecy would be fulfilled, "I thirst." Immediately one of the bystanders ran, took a sponge and filled it with rough wine, put it on a reed. He put it to His mouth and gave it to Him to drink. The rest of them said, "No more, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down".

THE SIXTH WORDS OF OUR LORD

When Jesus therefore had received the rough wine He said, "It is finished": and he bowed his head

THE SEVENTH WORDS OF OUR LORD

When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into Your hands I dismiss My spirit", and having said that He died.

ACTIVITY AT THE DEATH OF CHRIST

At the time of His death the veil of the Temple was split in two from the top to the bottom; and there was an earthquake causing rocks to split.

When the centurion, who was close to Jesus and others nearby, saw Him cry out and die followed by the earthquake and other events he was amazed and was greatly moved, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God", and glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man".

There were also many women looking from far away. Those who ministered to Him included Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and Salome mother of Zebedee's children.

There were those who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; as well as many other women which journeyed up with Him to Jerusalem. All the people that came together saw the things which had happened. They beat their breasts in anguish and left the area with all His acquaintances. Graves were opened and dead saints were resuscitated after His resurrection and they went into Jerusalem appearing to many people.

THE DEATH OF THOSE CRUCIFIED INCLUDING THE PIERCING OF JESUS' SIDE

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation for the Passover required that the bodies should not remain upon the Cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was a sacred day). They requested Pilate that the legs of those crucified be broken so that they might be taken away before sundown.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first terrorist and then the other one who was crucified with Jesus, but when they came to Jesus they saw that He was already dead and did not break His legs.

One of the soldiers armed with a spear pierced Jesus' side causing a flow of blood and water. John who saw this confirms it as a true record of this event because he knows that it is accurate so that you may believe.

THERE WAS NOT A BONE BROKEN IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PASSOVER LAMB REQUIREMENTS

All these things were done so that the Scripture from the Psalms should be fulfilled, "A bone of Him shall not be broken", and another by the Prophet Zechariah, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced".

THE BURIAL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN A RICH MAN'S TOMB FULFILLS PROPHECY

When the evening came, because it was the Preparation, the day before the Sabbath which was drawing near, a rich man named Joseph came boldly to Pilate and begged from him the body of Jesus.

Joseph was of the Jewish city of Arimathaea who had not voted for the action of the council regarding Jesus. He was a secret follower of Jesus because as a member of the council he was concerned about the Jews. He was a good and just man who also was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Pilate was amazed that Jesus was already dead. He called the centurion to come to him and asked him whether Jesus had been dead for a while. When he confirmed with the centurion that Jesus was dead, Pilate commanded the body of Jesus be given to Joseph. Nicodemus also came. He was the ruler who had met Jesus at first by night. He brought a large amount of a mixture of myrrh and aloes.

Nearby to the place where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb. Joseph bought fine linen and when he had taken the body of Jesus down he wrapped it in the clean cloth with the spices as was the burial custom of the Jews. Joseph laid the body of Jesus in his own new tomb where no one had ever been buried before. The tomb had been hewn out of the rock. Joseph rolled a great stone to close the door of the tomb and departed.

The women who came with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and Nicodemus. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary the mother of Jesus sat close to the tomb looking at where Jesus was laid in the tomb. They returned and prepared spices and ointments and as required, rested for the Sabbath day.

8. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**THE TEMPLE GUARD AT THE TOMB**

On the day after the Day of the Preparation, the Chief Priests and Pharisees came as a group to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember that the deceiver said, while He was alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Command therefore that the tomb be made secure until the third day, in case His disciples come by night and steal the body away and say to the people, 'He is risen from the dead' as this would make things even worse". Pilate said to them, "You have the Temple guard, go your way and make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

THE EARTHQUAKE, THE ANGEL AND THE TEMPLE GUARD

There occurred a great earthquake because the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the entrance and sat upon the stone. His face was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. Because of the arrival of the angel the Temple Guard shook with fear and became unconscious.

THE WOMEN GO TO THE SEPULCHRE TO ANOINT THE BODY OF JESUS WITH SPICES

Early on the Sunday morning Mary Magdalene came with Mary the mother of James, Salome and others, heading out to the tomb while it was still dark. They brought the spices which they had prepared so that they might come and anoint His body. They arrived at the tomb just as the sun was rising. They talked among themselves asking, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" However they found on arrival the stone was rolled away from the entrance to the tomb.

THE ANGEL INVITES THE WOMEN TO SEE INTO THE TOMB

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid for I know that you are seeking Jesus who was crucified. He is not here because He is risen". The angel invited them to come and see the place where the Lord lay and then go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and that Jesus goes ahead of them all into Galilee where you will see Him.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE TOMB

On entering into the tomb and not finding the body of the Lord Jesus, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were afraid.

He said to them, "Do not be not be frightened, You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, He is risen; He is not here, look at the place where they laid Him. Leave here and tell His disciples and Peter that He goes ahead of you into Galilee where you shall see Him, as He said to you."

They became very anxious and confused about these two angels, appearing to be men, who stood before them in shining garments and as they were afraid they bowed down their faces to the earth.

The angels said to the women, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen. Remember how he told you when He was still in Galilee". "The Messiah must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again". They then remembered His words.

MARY MAGDALENE CAME TO PETER AND JOHN

Then Mary Magdalene running came to Simon Peter and John, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him".

PETER AND JOHN VISIT THE TOMB

Peter therefore went out with John and came to the tomb. They ran together but John outran Peter, arriving first to the tomb and stooping down looked in and saw the linen clothes lying there but did not enter into the tomb.

Simon Peter arrived after John and went into the tomb and stooping down saw the linen clothes laid by themselves and the cloth that was around His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but folded in a place by itself. Peter left the tomb wondering about what had happened.

Now John went in and saw and believed even though he didn't remember the Scripture, that Jesus must rise again from the dead. The disciples now left and returned to their own home.

JESUS APPEARS FIRST OF ALL TO MARY MAGDALENE

Jesus had risen early on Sunday, and now He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils.

After the departure of Peter and John, Mary stood outside the tomb weeping and as she cried she stooped down and looked into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him".

After this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there but did not know that it was Him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who do you seek?" Mary, assuming Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away tell me where you have laid Him so that I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary". She turned around and said to Him, "Rabboni", which means My Master. Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me because I have not yet ascended to My Father: but go to my brothers and say to them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God".

Mary Magdalene came as the disciples were mourning and weeping and told them that she had seen the Lord and that she had been with Him and what He had told her. The disciples, when they had heard that He was alive and had been seen by Mary, did not believe her.

THE LORD APPEARS TO THE OTHER WOMEN

The Lord appeared to other women and they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy. They also ran to tell His disciples.

As they went to tell His disciples, Jesus met them, and said "Greetings". The women came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them "Don't be afraid, go tell My brethren so that they will go to Galilee where they shall see Me".

They did not say anything to anyone on the way because they were afraid but they told all these things to the eleven disciples and to all the rest.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCIPLES UNBELIEF

Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them told these things to the apostles and their words seemed to them as fables and the disciples did not believe them.

THE REPORT OF THE TEMPLE GUARD

Having recovered, some of the Temple Guard came into the city, and shared with the Chief Priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the Elders, and had discussed the matter, then the guard was given a large sum of money.

The guard was told, "You are to say that His disciples came at night and stole Him away while you were sleeping. If this situation comes to the governor's notice we will persuade him and protect you". So they took the money and did as they were told and this story is still commonly circulated among the Jews until now.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS INCIDENT

Now on the same day two of them travelled to the village of Emmaus which was about 12 kilometres from Jerusalem. On this long walk they talked together of all the things that had happened. While they were discussing these matters in depth, Jesus himself came near and joined them but they did not recognise Him.

Jesus asked them "What are you discussing so deeply with each other and why are you sad?" One of them, whose name was Cleopas replied, "Are you a stranger in Jerusalem and not aware of the things which have happened there in recent days?"

Jesus said to them "What things?" They replied, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mightily used in deed and word by God for all the people and how the Chief Priests and our Rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death and have crucified Him. We trusted that He was the promised Messiah. Today is the third day since all these things have occurred."

"Some women of our group who visited the tomb early astonished us when they could not find His body. These women returned, telling us that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive. Some other women from the group went to the tomb and found it was as the first women had described but they did not see Him."

Then Jesus said to them, "O you ignorant people, and slow to believe the large number of prophecies spoken in the Scriptures pointing out that the Messiah was to have suffered these things before entering into His glory." Then beginning with the books of Moses and all the prophets, Jesus went through all the Scriptures involving things concerning Himself.

They now approached the village of Emmaus. Jesus looked as if he would have gone further but His companions pleaded with him saying, "Stay with us as it is getting late."

So Jesus stopped with them. While Jesus was seated having a meal with them, He took bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave to them, and their eyes were opened, and they knew it was Jesus. Jesus then vanished out of their sight. They said to one another, "Didn't our hearts burn within us, while He talked with us on our walk and while He explained the scriptures to us"?

They immediately left and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven disciples gathered together with others and told them, "The Lord is risen and has appeared to Simon". They then told the group what things had happened on their walk and how they had recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE APOSTLES

The same Sunday evening, with the doors being shut by the disciples because they feared the Jews, they were having a meal. As they were eating, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you". Jesus criticised them regarding their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He was risen. They were terrified and fearful thinking that they had seen a spirit.

JESUS REASSURES THE DISCIPLES

Jesus said to them, "Why are you concerned? Why do such thoughts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands, My feet and My side. See that it is Me, handle Me for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." Having said this He showed them His hands and His feet.

While they still did not yet joyfully believe but wondered, Jesus said to them, "Have you any food?" They gave him a piece of a grilled fish and part of a honeycomb which Jesus took and ate in front of them. Then the disciples were glad when they recognised the Lord.

JESUS REMINDS THEM OF GOD'S PLAN

Jesus said to them, "These are the words which I told you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which have been written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me.

Then Jesus explained so that they might understand the Scriptures. Jesus said to them, "This is how it is written and it is required of the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

THE DISCIPLES RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

I will send the promise of My Father upon you. All of you are to stay in the city of Jerusalem, until you are given the power from on high. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you, as my Father has sent Me, even so send I you". When Jesus had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven and whosoever's sins you do not forgive remain."

CHRIST APPEARS TO THOMAS

However Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto Thomas, "We have seen the Lord". But Thomas said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe".

Eight days later His disciples were inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus arrived though the doors, which were shut. He stood in the middle and said, "Peace be to you". Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger and look at My hands and reach here with your hand and thrust it into My side. Be not faithless, but believing". Thomas answered saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed: blessed are those that have not seen, and yet have believed."

THE DISCIPLES GO FISHING

After this Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias. There were together Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, as well as two other of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing". They said to Him, "We will go with you". They went off and immediately embarked on a ship but that night they caught nothing at all.

JESUS APPEARS ON THE BEACH

As it dawned Jesus came and stood on the shore, but the disciples did not recognise that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any food?" They replied "No". Jesus said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and you shall be successful. So they cast their net and now they were not able to draw it in because of the large amount of fish!"

THE DISCIPLES HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS

John said to Peter, "It is the Lord". When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his coat because he was naked, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in a little ship. They were only 100 metres from the shore, dragging the net full of fish.

As soon as they had landed they saw a fire of coals there with fish cooking and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring the fish which you have caught". Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of 153 fish but the net was not broken even with the huge size of the catch.

Jesus said to them, "Come and eat". None of the disciples dared to ask Him, Who are you? As they knew it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them together with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to His disciples, after he rose from the dead.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LORD AND PETER

When they had finished the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" Peter replied "Yes Lord; You know that I love You". He said to him, "Feed my lambs". He asked a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter replied to Him, "Yes Lord, You know that I love You". Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep".

Jesus said to him a third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, Do you love Me?" Peter was saddened because Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love Me?" Peter replied, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep". (There is a different word used in Jesus' response to Peter – feeding and tending/caring for. Might be good to vary it from feeding for one of these)

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S CONDITION IN OLD AGE

Jesus said to Peter, "Truly Peter I tell you that when you were young you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted to go but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another person will clothe you and carry you to a place you do not wish to go." Jesus said this indicating how Peter would glorify God in his death. When Jesus had said this He said to Peter, "Follow me".

PETER'S CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OTHERS

Then Peter, turning about, saw John the disciple following. He was the disciple who had reclined near Jesus at the Last Supper, and asked "Lord, which is he that betrays you?" Peter seeing John said to Jesus, Lord "What shall this man do?" Jesus said to Peter, "If I want him to live until I come back, what is that of concern to you? Follow Me." As a result this was talked about by the disciples thinking that John would not die. However Jesus had not said, "He will not die" but, "If I want him to live until I return what is that of concern to you?"

JESUS INSTRUCTS HIS DISCIPLES REGARDING EVANGELISM

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had instructed them and when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, but some doubted. Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth."

"As a result go and preach the gospel and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned." I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

"These signs shall follow those that believe. In My name they will cast out demons, they shall speak with new languages, they shall pick up serpents and if they drink any poisonous thing it shall not harm them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and the sick shall recover."

THE ASCENSION AND THE JOY OF THE DISCIPLES

Jesus led them out as far as Bethany and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now, after the Lord had spoken to them and while He blessed them He left them and was carried up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God.

They worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God. They went out and preached everywhere, with the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

FINAL WORDS OF JOHN

Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: However these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name.

I, John the disciple, confirm these things and have recorded them and know that His testimony is true. There are many other things which Jesus did which, if they were all written, I believe that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

APPENDICES**50 BIBLICAL PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AT HIS FIRST ADVENT**

PROPHECY	TEXT	FULFILLED BY CHRIST
Jesus born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:5,6
Presented with gifts	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1,11
Massacre of children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:17,18
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22,23
A Nazarene	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
Speaking in parables	Psalms 78:1,2	Matthew 13:34,35
Healing ministry	Isaiah 35:4-6	Luke 7:22
Come out of Galilee	Isaiah 9:1,2	Matthew 4:13-16
Cleansing of the Temple	Isaiah 56:7	Luke 19:45,46
Prophecy of 1 st Advent Ministry	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:16-21
Manner of Teaching	Isaiah 42:1-3	Matthew 12:17-20
Teachings rejected	Isaiah 6:9,10	Acts 28:25-27
Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Hebrews 5:2
Son of Man	Psalms 8:4-6	Hebrews 2:6-9
Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Acts 3:22,23
Priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 7:17-21
King	Psalms 45:6,7	Hebrews 1:8,9
I Am	Exodus 3:14	John 8:58
Saviour	Isaiah 40:6-8	Hebrews 10:5-10
Spirit controlled life	Isaiah 11:1,2	Mark 1:10,11
Meekness	Isaiah 53:7-8	Acts 8:32-35
Creator	Psalms 102:25-27	Hebrews 1:10-12
His Pre-existence	Micah 5:2	John 8:58
Sinlessness	Isaiah 53:9-10	1 Peter 2:21-22
Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22-23	1 Thessalonians 5:24
The Rejected Stone	Psalms 118:22-23	Acts 4:10-11
Rejected by the Jews	Isaiah 8:14	Romans 9:32-33
Entry into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:4,5
Welcome as the King	Psalms 118:25,26	John 12:12,13
Abandoned by his disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:27
Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18-27
False Witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59-61
Moses lifting up the serpent	Numbers 21:7-9	John 3:14,15
30 pieces of silver & potters field	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 27:3-10
Spit in His face	Isaiah 50:6	Mark 14:65
Silence in front of Accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14
Cry from the Cross	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
Pierced hands and feet	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
Convicted with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:28
Sign of Jonah and resurrection	Matthew 12:40	1 Corinthians 15:4
Crown of Thorns	Jonah 2:5	Matthew 27:29
Dividing his garments	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23,24
No bones broken	Exodus 12:46	John 19:31-33, 36
Thirst on the Cross	Psalms 69:21	John 19:28-30
He dies for others	Daniel 9:25-26a	Hebrews 1:3
Darkness at the cross	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Tomb with the Rich	Isaiah 53:9	Luke 23:50-53
Resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:25-31
Ascension	Psalms 68:18	Ephesians 4:8-10
Session	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:13

COMMENT - Looking at 50 prophecies and excluding the virgin birth and resurrection of Christ you find that the chance of Jesus Christ being who He claimed to be is absolute. Scientists generally accept a standard that anything with a probability of less than 1 chance in 10⁵⁰ is regarded as totally impossible and discarded from consideration. The chance of an individual in history fulfilling these prophecies and more by chance is far slighter than 1 chance in 10⁵⁰. It is absolute. It would not happen by chance!

CHRIST – RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

Recorded appearances after His resurrection:-

1. Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-18)
2. Women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10)
3. Emmaus couple (Luke 24:13-31)
4. Peter (Luke 24:34)
5. Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43)
6. Disciples including Thomas (John 20:24-29)
7. Lake Tiberias appearance (John 21:1-23)
8. To the 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6)
9. James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
10. Disciples at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12)
11. Stephen (Acts 7:55)
12. Paul on Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-6)
13. Paul in the Temple (Acts 22:17-21)
14. Paul at night (Acts 23:11)
15. John on Patmos (Revelation 1:10-19).

CHRIST – ASCENSION AND SESSION

1. The resurrection body of Christ was capable of 'space travel', The humanity of Christ in resurrection travelled through all three heavens. (John 20:17). (1st Heaven - the atmosphere, 2nd Heaven - Stellar Space, 3rd Heaven - the Throne Room of God).

2. The purpose of this space travel was to arrive in a human body at the throne room of God the Father. Although covered with no protective space suit, the resurrection body did not burn up as it travelled through the universe, it did not suffer fatigue but arrived in perfect condition (Romans 8:34, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2).

Upon his arrival, the Father said "sit down at my right hand" (Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 1:13). Deity does not sit, only Christ's humanity sat down. This indicated the acceptability of the humanity of Christ (Ephesians 1:20) and guarantees the acceptability of regenerate mankind (Ephesians 2:6)-

The seating or session of Christ shows Him superior to angels, elect or fallen (1 Peter 3:22). Today believers are positionally higher than angels in the resurrection body believers will be physically superior to angels.

This is why God gives every believer at least one angelic servant - to some many more - a down payment that we will be one day superior to them (Hebrews 1:14). Who made this possible? Jesus Christ through ascension and session.

3. The ascension and session of the humanity of Christ gives victory in the angelic conflict. Hebrews 1:3-13.
4. The ascension begins a new stage of the angelic conflict (Ephesians 1:20-22, 4:7-10). Hence the believer of the Church age is involved in the intensification of the angelic conflict.
5. The ascension and session begins the subjection of his enemies (Psalm 110:1) as quoted in (Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:33-34, Hebrews 1:13).
6. The second advent of Christ will conclude the subjection process (Daniel 7:13, 14, Zechariah 13:2, Colossians 2:15, Revelation 20:1-3)
7. The ascension and session completes the glorification of Christ. (Acts 2:33, Philippians 2:9, 1 Peter 3:22)
8. The ascension explains the uniqueness of the Church Age. (John 7:37-39)
9. With Jesus Christ now in heaven, He has given His Spirit to indwell us on earth. (John 7:37-39)
10. Seated at the right hand of the Father, Jesus now ministers as our great high priest (Hebrews 7:23-25).

GOSPELS – HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS

INCIDENT	MATT	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
1. Introductory Verses			1:1-4	
2. Prologue to the 4th Gospel				1:1-18
3. Genealogy of Christ	1:1-17		3:23b-38	
4. Zacharias, of John the Baptist's Birth			1:5-25	
5. Annunciation to Mary of Christ's Birth			1:26-38	
6. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth			1:39-56	
7. Birth of John the Baptist			1:57-58	
8. Circumcision and Naming of John			1:59-80	
9. Annunciation to Joseph of Christ's Birth	1:18-23			
10. The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem	1:24-25		2:1-7	
11. Annunciation to the Shepherds			2:8-14	
12. Visit of the Shepherds To Adore Christ			2:15-20	
13. Circumcision of Jesus at Bethlehem			2:21	
14. Temple, Prophecies of Simeon & Anna			2:22-38	
15. Visit of the Magi	2:1-12			
16. Flight into Egypt	2:13-15			
17. Slaughter of the Children By Herod	2:16-18			
18. Return From Egypt to Nazareth	2:19,23		2:39	
19. Life of Jesus at Nazareth	2:23		2:40-52	
20. The Public Ministry of John the Baptist	3:1-12	1:1-8	3:1-18	1:19-28
21. Jesus Baptised and Witnessed to by John	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-23	1:15,29-34
22. The Temptation of Jesus	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
23. Andrew and Peter Meet Jesus				1:43-51
24. The First Miracle - Water Into Wine				2:1-11
25. Christ Goes to Capernaum				2:12
EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY				
26. 1st Passover - Moneychangers in Temple				2:13-25
27. Instructions of Nicodemus				3:1-21
28. Jesus Preaches in Judea				3:22
29. Renewed Testimony of John to Jesus				3:23-36
30. Jesus Goes to Galilee	4:12	1:14	4:14	4:1-5
31. Interview With Woman From Samaria				4:6-42
32. Cure of Nobleman's Son				4:43-54
33. Imprisonment of John the Baptist	14:3-5	6:17-20	3:19-20	
EARLY GALILEAN MINISTRY				
34. Start of Christ's Ministry in Galilee	4:12-17	1:14,15	4:14,15	
35. First Rejection at Nazareth				4:16-30
36. Call of Simon, Andrew, James and John	4:18-22	1:16-20	5:1-11	
37. Cure of Dementiac in the Synagogue		1:21-28	4:31-37	
38. Cure of Peter's Wife's Mother	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
39. Cure of Many on the Same Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
40. Circuit Through Galilee	4:23-25	1:35-39	4:42-44	
41. Cure of a Leper	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
42. Healing of a Paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
43. Call of Matthew (Levi):His Feast	9:9-13	2:13-17	5:27-32	
44. 2nd Passover; Healing at Bethesda Pool				5:1-47
45. Picking corn on Sabbath	12:1-8	2:23-28	6:1-5	
46. Cure on Sabbath, withered hand	12:9-13	3:1-5	6:6-10	
47. Plot against Jesus	12:14-21	3:6-12	6:11,17-19	
48. Selection of Twelve Apostles		3:13-19	6:12-16	
49. Sermon on the Mount	5:1-7:29		6:20-49	
50. Healing of the Centurion's Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
51. Circuit Through Galilee	11:1			
52. Raising of Widow's Son at Nain			7:11-17	
53. Inquiry of John the Baptist	11:2-19		7:18-35	
54. Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman			7:36-50	
55. Circuit through Galilee with Disciples			8:1-3	
56. Curse against Bethsaida and Capernaum	11:20-30			
57. Cure of Dementiac: Pharisees Reproved	12:22-37	3:20-30	11:14,15,17-28	
58. Pharisees' Desire For a Sign	12:38-45		11:16,29-32	6:29-36

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INCIDENT	MATT	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
59. Christ's Mother and Brothers	12:46-50	3:31-35	8:19-21	
60. Woes Against Pharisees			11:37-54	
61. Trusting God, Against Worldliness			12:1-59	
62. Remarks on Slaughter of the Galileans			13:1-5	
63. Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven	13:1-53	4:1-34	13:18-21;8:4-18	
64. The Three Inquirers	8:18-22		9:57-62	
65. The Tempest Stilled on Galilee	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
66. The Demoniacs of Gadara	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
67. John's Disciples & Pharisees re Fasting	9:4-17	2:18-22	5:33-39	
68. Raising of Jairus' Daughter,	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
69. Cure of Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
70. Cure of Dumb Demoniak	9:32-34			
71. Second Rejection at Nazareth	13:54-58	6:1-6a		
72. The Twelve Sent Out	9:35-11:1	6:6b-13	9:1-6	
73. Herod About John the Baptist's Death	14:1,2,6-12	6:14-16,21-29	9:7-9	
74. The Twelve Return, Feeding of 5,000	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-14
75. Jesus Walks on Water at Galilee	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:15-21
76. Triumphal March Through Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
77. Discourse of the Bread of Life				6:22-71
78. Reproof of Pharisaic Traditions	15:1-20	7:1-23		
79. Daughter of Syro-Phoenician Healed	15:21-28	7:24-30	7:31-37	
80. Lame, Deaf and Dumb Man Healed	15:29-31	7:31-37		
81. The 4,000 Fed at the Decapolis	15:32-38	8:1-9		
82. Pharisees and Sadducees Signs	15:39-16:4	8:10-12		
83. Warned Against the Leaven of Pharisees	16:5-12	8:13-21		
84. Blind Man Healed		8:22-26		
85. Peter's Confession	16:13-20	8:27-30	9:18-21	
86. Christ Foretells Death & Resurrection	16:21-28	8:31-9:1	9:22-27	
87. The Transfiguration	17:1-13	9:2-13	9:28-36	
88. Healing of the Demoniak Boy	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-43a	
89. Christ Again Foretells The Crucifixion	17:22-23	9:30-32	9:43b-45	
90. The Tribute Money	17:24-27			
91. Instructions to Disciples on Humility	18:1-35	9:33-50	9:46-50	
THE LAST JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM (JUDEAN AND PEREAN MINISTRY)				
92. Final Departure From Galilee	19:1a	10:1a	9:51-56	7:1
93. The 72 Instructed and Sent out			10:1-16	
94. Christ Attends The Feast of Tabernacles				7:2-52
95. Woman Taken in Adultery				7:53-8:11
96. Discussion With Jews During Feast				8:12-59
97. Jesus goes from Jerusalem - Return of 70			10:17-24	
98. Lawyer Instructed, Good Samaritan			10:25-37	
99. Jesus At the House of Martha and Mary			10:38-42	
100. Disciples Taught How To Pray			11:1-13	
101. Feast of Dedication				9:1-10:38
102. Ministry in Perea	19:1b,2	10:1b		10:39-42
103. Parable of Barren Fig Tree			13:6-9	
104. Healing Infirm Woman on Sabbath			13:10-17	
105. Journeying Toward Jerusalem			13:22-35	
106. Dines With Pharisee, Heals Dropsy			14:1-24	
107. Requirements of a True Disciple			14:25-35	
108. Parables: Lost Sheep, Coin, Prodigal Son			15:1-32	
109. Parable of Unjust Steward			16:1-18	
110. The Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
111. Instructs in Forbearance, Faith			17:1-10	
112. The Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
113. The Suddenness of His Advent			17:20-37	
114. Parable of Importunate Widow			18:1-8	
115. Parable of Pharisee and Publican			18:9-14	
116. The Raising of Lazarus at Bethany				11:1-46
117. Counsel of Caiaphas - Jesus Retires				11:47-54
118. Precepts Concerning Divorce	19:3-12	10:2-12		
119. Christ Blesses Little Children	19:13-15	10:13-16	18:15-17	
120. The Rich Young Ruler	19:16-30	10:17-31	18:18-30	
121. Parable of Vineyard	20:1-16			

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INCIDENT	MATT	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
122. Third Prediction of Death & Resurrection	20:17-19	10:32-34	18:31-34	
123. The Ambition of James and John	20:20-28	10:35-45		
124. Two Blind Men Healed at Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
125. Conversion of Zacchaeus			19:1-10	
126. Parable of the Pounds			19:11-28	
127. Arrival At Bethany				11:55-12:1
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129. Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19
130. Cursing of Fig Tree, Temple Cleansing	21:12-16	11:12-18	19:45-48	
131. Lesson of the Fig Tree	21:17-22	11:19-26		
132. The Sanhedrin Demands Jesus' Authority	21:23-22:14	11:27-12:12	20:1-19	
133. Question of Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes	22:15-46	12:13-37	20:20-44	
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136. Visit of the Greeks				12:20-50
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138. Parable Ten Virgins, Talents	24:32-25:46	13:28-37	21:29-38	
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145. Prediction of Peter's Fall			22:31-34	13:36-38
146. Last Discourse with Disciples, Prayer				14:1-17:26
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GOSPEL OF MATTHEW	4 VOLUMES
GOSPEL OF MARK	4 VOLUMES
GOSPEL OF LUKE	4 VOLUMES
GOSPEL OF JOHN	4 VOLUMES
HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS	26 VOLUMES

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