

THE GOSPEL OF

# MARK





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**ST PAUL'S**  
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## **I WOULD LIKE TO LOOK INTO JESUS TO SEE IF HE IS WHO YOU SAY HE IS**

Excellent! The best way to do this is to start reading the Bible. A really good place to begin is Mark's Gospel which you are now holding in your hands. You will also find Mark about 2/3 of the way through the Bible (The Table of Contents will give you the exact page number.)

Take your time to read through Mark. I always have a pen in my hand when I read my Bible. I use it to underline words and sentences that stand out to me; put question marks in the margin where something doesn't make sense or something is said I don't understand; I even put ticks in the margin when I read something that captures my imagination. As you read Mark, do the same thing.

As you read, let us know if you would like to talk to someone about questions you have. We would like nothing more than to answer your questions over email, phone or, better yet, a coffee. You do not have to finish Mark before you contact us! You are more than welcome to ask all your questions along the way. In fact, this is the best way to look into Jesus.

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## I SAID “YES” TO JESUS

Welcome to his family! You have begun the most significant journey a man or woman can take. You have begun to walk with the God of all Heaven and Earth.

When I began the Inka Trek in Peru a few years back I needed assistance with all kinds of things: what to take on the Trek, what to wear, what info did I need to know before I got there. I thought I was fit (for my age – because, as my doctor is now in the habit of saying, I am of an age), but the trek was a challenge. Trekking at altitude meant I needed coaching.

Same thing when it comes to walking with Jesus. I needed help when I began over 40 years ago. I still need coaching. Ask your questions – ask all of them. Come to St Paul’s – or go to a local church where you live. Grab a minister and let us know you said “Yes!” to Jesus and would like some help. We would be absolutely delighted to coach you. In the meantime, begin to read Mark’s gospel.

Thank you for taking this copy of Mark. I look forward to journeying with you.

John Gray  
Senior Minister, St Paul’s Castle Hill



## 1

## THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet; “Behold! I send forth my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way! <sup>3</sup>The voice of a man crying out in the desert, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his trodden paths.’” <sup>4</sup>And so there came a man named John, baptising in the desert and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>All the Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem came out to meet him and as they confessed their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan river. <sup>6</sup>Now this was the John who dressed himself with camel’s hair, wore a leather belt around his waist and would eat locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He would preach, saying, “After me comes one far stronger than me, whose sandals I am not

fit to bend down and untie! <sup>8</sup>I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit!”

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

<sup>9</sup>Now it happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was baptised by John in the Jordan and <sup>10</sup>immediately, as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens split apart and the Spirit descend upon him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased”.

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

<sup>12</sup>Immediately, the Spirit drove him into the desert and <sup>13</sup>in the desert he was tested by Satan for forty days. He was with the wild animals and angels attended to him.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee preaching the Gospel of God <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time has come, and the Kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe the Gospel!”

## THE CALLING OF THE FOUR FISHERMAN

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus travelled along the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon, and Andrew the brother of Simon, fishing in the sea, for they were fisherman. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come! Follow me and I will make you into fishers of people!” <sup>18</sup>Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>Having travelled a little further along the sea he saw James the son of Zebedee, John his brother and those preparing their nets in the boat. <sup>20</sup>Immediately, he summoned them and having left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired servants they came and followed him.



## THE MAN WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

<sup>21</sup>They travelled into Capernaum and, immediately, he went into the synagogue and began teaching on the Sabbath.

<sup>22</sup>They were amazed at this teaching, for he taught them like a man with authority and not like the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Suddenly, there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. He began to shout,

<sup>24</sup>saying, “What is there between you and us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, you’re the Holy One of God!” <sup>25</sup>Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>The unclean spirit shook the man violently and with a loud cry it shrieked and came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, so much so that they began to question among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching? With authority? He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” <sup>28</sup>Reports about him spread immediately, in all directions, into the whole surrounding region of Galilee.

The synagogue: A Jewish place of worship

The Sabbath: The seventh day of the week set aside for people to rest from work and worship God.

## THE HEALING OF MANY PEOPLE

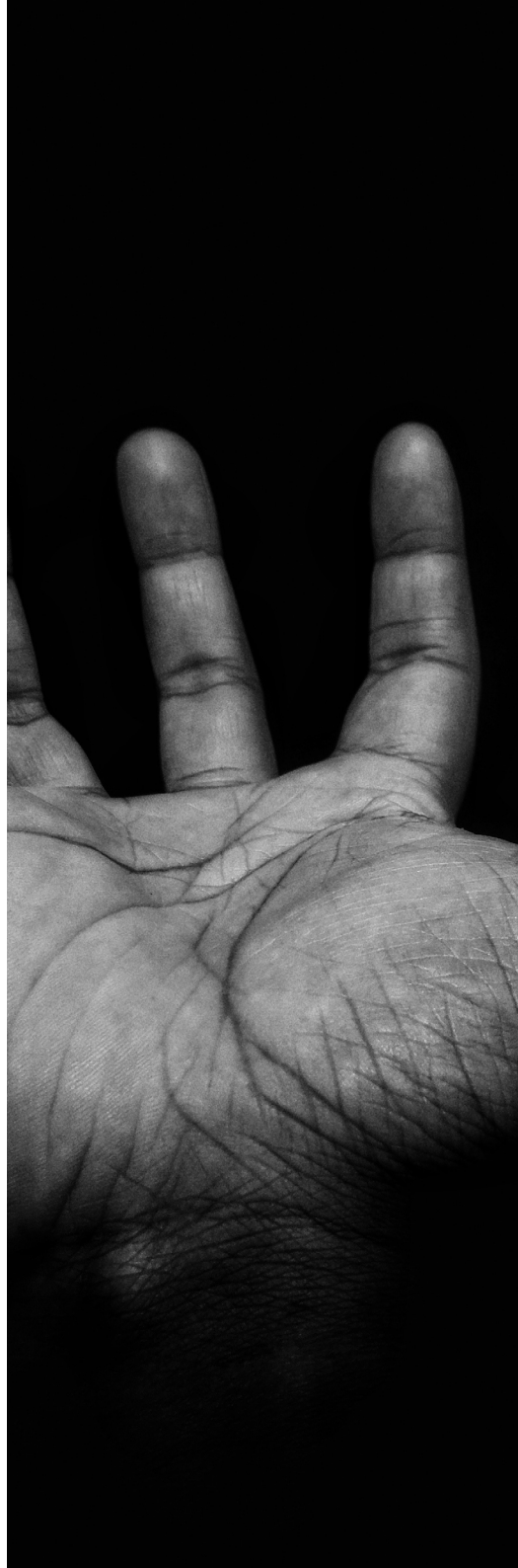
<sup>29</sup>Immediately, they left the synagogue and went into the house of Simon and Andrew along with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay in bed with a fever. Immediately, they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>Jesus approached her and after taking her by the hand he lifted her up. The fever left her, and she began to offer hospitality to them. <sup>32</sup>Later that evening, when the sun had gone down, they brought to him all the sick and demon possessed. <sup>33</sup>The whole city was gathered together at their door and <sup>34</sup>he healed many of those who were suffering with various illnesses and drove out many demons. But he would not permit the demons to speak for they knew who he was.

## A PREACHING TOUR

<sup>35</sup>Early the next morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus arose and travelled to a deserted place, and there, began praying. <sup>36</sup>Simon and his companions searched intently for Jesus and <sup>37</sup>when they found him they said to him, "Everyone is looking for you!" <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Let's move on to somewhere else, to the neighbouring cities so that I may preach to them as well. It is for this reason that I have come." <sup>39</sup>And so, he went, preaching in the synagogues throughout the whole of Galilee and casting out demons.

## THE CLEANSING OF A LEPER

<sup>40</sup>Now a leper came up to him desperately crying out for him. He fell on his knees and said, "If you are willing, you are able to cleanse me!" <sup>41</sup>Filled with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. He said to him, "I am willing, be clean!" <sup>42</sup>Immediately, the leprosy left him. He was cleansed and, <sup>43</sup>after giving him a stern warning, Jesus cast him out of their presence, <sup>44</sup>"See to it that you don't tell this to anybody! But go, show yourself to the priest and offer what Moses commanded for your purification." <sup>45</sup>Instead, he went out and began preaching, and spread the word so much so that Jesus was no longer able to travel openly to the city. Rather, he stayed in deserted places, but people would come to him from everywhere.



## 2

### THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

Once more Jesus entered Capernaum, and in time people found out that he was home. <sup>2</sup>So many people gathered around that there was no longer any room, not even by the door, and he began speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Men came to Jesus bearing a paralytic, lifted by four of them, <sup>4</sup>and, because they couldn't bring him before Jesus on account of the crowd, they uncovered a spot on the roof above Jesus. After digging a hole through the roof, they began lowering the mat on which the paralytic was lying. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw the faith of these men he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now there were some scribes present, sitting back and arguing in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?" <sup>8</sup>Jesus, having understood immediately in his spirit that they were arguing like this among themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing about this in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>What is easier? To say to the paralytic, 'your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins upon earth..." Jesus said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup>"I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go home!" <sup>12</sup>He got up and immediately he took his mat and walked out before them all. They were all amazed and began glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen things like this!"



## THE CALLING OF LEVI

<sup>13</sup>Once more Jesus went out by the sea. The entire crowd came to him and he began teaching them. <sup>14</sup>As he was passing by he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus sitting at the money table. “Follow me!”, he said. And Levi got up and followed him. <sup>15</sup>Now it happened that Jesus was dining at Levi’s house. Many tax collectors and sinners were seated at the table with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who also followed him. <sup>16</sup>The scribes among the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with these sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>17</sup>Having heard what they were saying, Jesus said to them, “The strong have no need for a doctor but the suffering do. I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners.”

Pharisees: A religious group. “Pharisee” means “separated ones”. These men distanced themselves from those considered unclean: people of the land, sinners and tax collectors. Often held in high esteem. Their distancing in the end distanced them from Jesus





## THE QUESTION ABOUT FASTING

<sup>18</sup>Now the Pharisees and John's disciples were fasting. They came and said to Jesus, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus said to them, "Are the guests of the bridegroom able to fast while he is with them? No. So long as they have the bridegroom with them they are not able to fast. <sup>20</sup>But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken from them and then, on that day, they will fast. <sup>21</sup>Nobody sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If they do, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and creates an even bigger tear. <sup>22</sup>Also, nobody pours new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the new wine bursts the wineskins and both the wine, and the wineskins are ruined. No, new wine goes into new wineskins."

## PLUCKING GRAIN ON THE SABBATH

<sup>23</sup>Now it happened that on the Sabbath, Jesus was passing through the grain fields and his disciples started out on the road by picking grain heads. The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look! Why are they doing what is not permitted on the Sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to them, “Did you never read what David did when he was in a time of need? When he himself and those with him were hungry? <sup>26</sup>How he went into the house of God during the time of Abiathar, the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful except for the priests to eat? Also, how he gave it to those who were with him?” <sup>27</sup>And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for the sake of humanity, not humanity for the sake of the Sabbath! <sup>28</sup>Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”





## 3

**THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND**

Again, Jesus entered the synagogue and there was a man there with a decrepit hand. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees were watching closely to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath so that they could arrest him. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the decrepit hand, “Come, stand here in front of everyone.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus then said to the Pharisees, “On the Sabbath, is it lawful to do good or to do bad? To save a life or to kill it?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>Jesus looked around at them with anger, grieving over the hardness of their hearts. He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” The man stretched out his hand and it was restored. <sup>6</sup>Immediately, the Pharisees made a pact with the Herodians that they would kill him.

**A MULTITUDE AT THE SEASIDE**

<sup>7</sup>Now Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples and a great multitude from Galilee, from Judea, <sup>8</sup>from Jerusalem, from beyond the Jordan, and from around Tyre and Sidon, came out to him. For a great multitude had heard of all that Jesus was doing. <sup>9</sup>Jesus asked his disciples to prepare a boat for him because of the crowd, so that it wouldn’t crush him. <sup>10</sup>For he had healed so many that all who had diseases were now trying to press up against him so that they could touch him. <sup>11</sup>And whenever unclean spirits saw Jesus they would fall before him and start screaming, “You are the Son of God!” <sup>12</sup>But Jesus strongly impressed upon them to not make him known.



## CHOOSING OF THE TWELVE

<sup>13</sup>Jesus then went up onto a mountain and summoned to himself those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup>He appointed twelve whom he also named apostles, so that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup>He appointed twelve; Simon, to him he gave the name Peter, <sup>17</sup>James, the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, to them Jesus gave the name “Boanerges”, which means “Sons of Thunder”, <sup>18</sup>also, there was Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup>and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

## JESUS AND BEELZEBUB

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus entered a house and again a crowd gathered, such that it wasn't even possible for them to eat bread. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard about this they came to lay hold of him for they said he was out of his mind. <sup>22</sup>Now, the scribes from Jerusalem had come down and started saying that he was possessed by Beelzebub and that he was casting out demons by the prince of demons. <sup>23</sup>Jesus summoned them to himself and started speaking to them in parables; "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, how can that kingdom stand? <sup>25</sup>If a household is divided against itself, that household will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan stands against himself and is divided, he cannot stand. No, his end has come! <sup>27</sup>Indeed, nobody can enter the household of the strong man to plunder his property without first tying up the strong man. Only then will he plunder his property. <sup>28</sup>I tell you the truth, for humans all will be forgiven, their sinful acts and whatever blasphemy they may utter, <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes the Holy Spirit, he has no forgiveness for all eternity. No, he is guilty of an eternal sin." <sup>30</sup>He said this because they were saying, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

## THE MOTHER AND BROTHERS OF JESUS

<sup>31</sup>His mother and his brothers arrived and because they were standing outside they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was seated around him, and they said to Jesus, "Look! Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." <sup>33</sup>In reply Jesus said to them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus then cast his gaze out over those seated in a circle around him and said to them, "Behold. My mother and my brothers. <sup>35</sup>He who does the will of God, he is my brother, my sister and my mother."

## 4

**THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

Jesus again began to teach beside the sea. A crowd gathered around him, so big that he got up into a boat and sat out on the sea while the whole crowd remained on land by the sea. <sup>2</sup>Jesus began to teach them many things in parables and in his teaching, he said, <sup>3</sup>“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was sowing, some fell by the road and birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup>Others fell upon the rocks where there wasn’t much soil. Because the soil was shallow, the seed shot up immediately <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose the plant was scorched and because it had no root it withered. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among the thorns. The thorn bushes grew up alongside the seed and choked it. It did not produce fruit. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell upon the good soil and when it

came up and grew it produced fruit. One seed multiplied thirty times, another sixty times and another, one hundred times.”

<sup>9</sup>He then said to them, “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES**

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus was alone, the people around him, along with the twelve, asked him about the meaning of the parables.

<sup>11</sup>He said to them, “The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything happens in parables <sup>12</sup>so that, ‘Though they look, they may look and not perceive, Though they hear, they may hear and not believe, Lest they turn and be forgiven.’”

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER EXPLAINED

<sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup>The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup>Some are like the seed by the road where the word is sown. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and snatches away the word sown among them. <sup>16</sup>Some are like the seed sown upon the rocks who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy! <sup>17</sup>But they have no root in themselves and last only a moment. When pressure or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away. <sup>18</sup>Others are like the seed sown among the thorns. These are the people who hear the word <sup>19</sup>but the worries of the world, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for future things come and choke the word and make it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup>But there are those like seed sown upon the good soil, who hear the word, accept it and produce fruit – one seed multiplies thirty times, one sixty times and another one hundred times!”



## **PAY ATTENTION**

<sup>21</sup>And he said to them, “Is a lamp really brought out just to be put under a basket or a bed? And not to be put on a lampstand? <sup>22</sup>For nothing is concealed unless it’s meant to be revealed. Nor hidden away save that it might come back into the light! <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Pay attention to what you hear! With the measure you use to measure others it will be measured and applied to you. <sup>25</sup>Because, for the man who has, to him it will be given. The man who does not have, even what he does have, it will be taken from him.”

## **THE PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED**

<sup>26</sup>And he said, “The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts his seed upon the earth. <sup>27</sup>He might sleep, or he might get up each day and night, but the seed still sprouts and grows regardless, though he doesn’t understand how. <sup>28</sup>All on its own the earth produces fruit. First, it grows a stalk, then a head, then a full head of corn. <sup>29</sup>And when the fruit is ripe, immediately, the man sends out the sickle because the harvest is ready.”

## **THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED**

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like? What parable would we use to speak of it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a seed of mustard. Which, when sown upon the earth, though it is the smallest of all the seeds sown upon the earth, when sown, <sup>32</sup>it grows and becomes larger than all the garden vegetables and produces large branches such that the birds of the sky can perch in its shade.”



## THE USE OF PARABLES

<sup>33</sup>With many parables like these, Jesus would speak the word to them, as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He would not speak to them without the use of a parable. But in private he would explain everything to his disciples.

## THE CALMING OF THE STORM

<sup>35</sup>When evening came that day, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us cross over to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>After dismissing the crowd, the disciples took him along with them since he was in the boat. There were other boats with him. <sup>37</sup>Now, a great storm arose, and waves crashed over into the boat such that the boat was already filling up. <sup>38</sup>But Jesus was in the stern, on a pillow, asleep. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher! Do you not care that we’re dying?!” <sup>39</sup>Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Shut up!” The wind grew weary and a great stillness arose. <sup>40</sup>And he said to them, “Why are you such cowards? Do you not yet have faith?” <sup>41</sup>The disciples were filled with incredible fear and said to each other, “Who is this man that even the sea and the wind obey him?”

Parables: Stories and illustrations used to teach truth. They often exercise and engage the minds of hearers/readers in order to ponder truth.

## THE HEALING OF THE GERASENE DEMONIAK

They then came to the other side of the sea into the region of the Gerasenes.

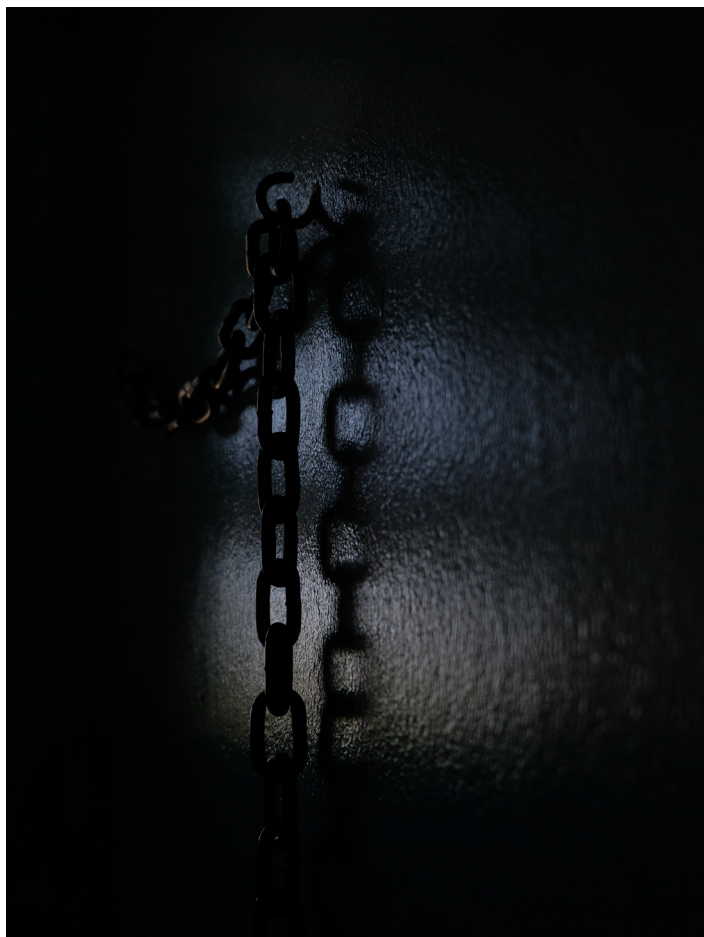
<sup>2</sup>Jesus got up out of the boat and immediately a man with an unclean spirit from the tombs confronted him.

<sup>3</sup>This man lived among the tombs and nobody, not even with a chain, could tie him up any longer. For on more than one occasion, though bound with chains and shackles, he ripped off the chains and crushed his shackles. Nobody was strong enough to tame him. <sup>5</sup>Day and night, he would cry out among the tombs and mountain places and cut himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>And when he saw Jesus from afar he ran and fell before him. <sup>7</sup>He cried out with a loud voice and said, “What is there between you and me, Jesus, Son of the most high God!? Swear to me, by God, that you will not torture me!” <sup>8</sup>This is because Jesus said to the man, “Come out of him, you unclean spirit!” And he asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” <sup>10</sup>He then began pleading earnestly with Jesus for him to not send him out from the region. <sup>11</sup>Now there was a great herd of pigs nearby grazing by

the mountain <sup>12</sup>and the unclean spirits pleaded with Jesus, saying, “Send us into the pigs so that we might possess them!”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus allowed them, and the unclean spirits came out from the man, entered the pigs and then the herd rushed down the embankment into the sea! About two thousand of them! Where they were strangled by the sea. <sup>14</sup>Those tending to the pigs fled and reported this to the city and the countryside. People came to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup>They approached Jesus and when they saw the demon possessed man seated, dressed and in his right mind, the man who had a legion of demons in him, they were terrified!

<sup>16</sup>Those who witnessed the event shared with them what had happened to the demon possessed man – also what had happened to the pigs. <sup>17</sup>And they began to plead with Jesus to leave their vicinity. <sup>18</sup>As Jesus was boarding his boat to leave, the demon possessed man pleaded to stay with Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Jesus did not allow him. Instead he said, “Go home to your family and tell them of what the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you.” <sup>20</sup>He went out and began to declare what Jesus had done for him in the Decapolis and everyone was amazed.



## **JAIRUS' DAUGHTER AND THE WOMAN WHO TOUCHED JESUS' GARMENT**

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had again crossed to the other side a large crowd gathered around him. Jesus was beside the sea <sup>22</sup>and one of the Synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and pleaded earnestly with him, saying that, "My little daughter is about to die! Please, come and lay your hands on her so that she may be saved and live." <sup>24</sup>Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed and began pressing up against him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who was in a state of bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had suffered much at the hands of many "doctors", had spent all that she owned on treatment and achieved nothing but become worse. <sup>27</sup>Having heard about Jesus, she approached him from behind in the crowd and touched his cloak. <sup>28</sup>For she reasoned that, "If I touch him, even if it's just his cloak, I will be saved." <sup>29</sup>Immediately, the source of her bleeding dried up and she felt in her body that she was cured of her affliction. <sup>30</sup>Jesus immediately recognized in himself as well, that power had come out of him. He turned around amongst the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" <sup>31</sup>His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing up against you and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup>Jesus looked around to see the



woman who did this. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, afraid and trembling, having understood what had happened to her, came and fell before him, and she told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>But he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you! Go in peace and be free from your affliction." <sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, men came from the house of the synagogue ruler, saying that, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher any longer?" <sup>36</sup>But when Jesus overheard this message as it was being relayed, he said to the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." <sup>37</sup>Jesus did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James and John, the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>They came into the house of the synagogue ruler and saw a commotion, people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>Jesus entered and said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and crying? The child is not dead but sleeping." <sup>40</sup>The people started laughing at him, but he cast them all out. He took hold of the child's father, mother and those with him and went into where the child was laying. <sup>41</sup>He then took hold of the child's hand and said to her, "Talitha cumi." Which, when interpreted, means, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up'. <sup>42</sup>Immediately, the little girl got up and started walking about. She was twelve years old. The people were absolutely shocked out of their minds. <sup>42</sup>Jesus then gave them stern orders that nobody was to know about this. He then said to give the girl something to eat.

6

## THE REJECTION OF JESUS AT NAZARETH

<sup>1</sup>Jesus left from there and came to his hometown. And his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>Because it was the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue and many who heard him were amazed. They said, “Where did this man get this? What wisdom is this given to him and what kind of miracles are these being done by his hand? <sup>3</sup>Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Justus, Judas and Simon? And are not these here his sisters with us?” And the people took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, “No prophet is dishonored except in his hometown. Among his own people and in his own household!” <sup>5</sup>And Jesus was not able to perform any miracle there except to place his hands on a few and save them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

## THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE

Now, Jesus went teaching around the villages. <sup>7</sup>He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave authority to them over unclean spirits and <sup>8</sup>he commanded them to take nothing on the road except a staff alone. No bread, no bag and no money in their belt. Only that they wear sandals and to not wear two tunics. And he said to them, “Whenever you enter into a household, stay there until you have to leave that place, <sup>11</sup>and if any place does not welcome you or doesn’t listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust out from under your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>And so, they went out and preached that they might repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, many sick people they anointed with oil and he healed them.



## THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

<sup>14</sup>Now King Herod had heard reports about Jesus, for his name had become famous and people were saying that John the Baptist had got up from the dead and that it was for this reason miracles were at work in him. <sup>15</sup>But others were saying that he was Elijah. Others that he was a prophet like one of the prophets of old. <sup>16</sup>When Herod heard of this he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has got up from the dead?!" <sup>17</sup>For this was the Herod who sent for and apprehended John and then bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, the wife of his brother, Philip, because he had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John used to tell Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife. <sup>19</sup>Now, Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him but was not able to <sup>20</sup>because Herod was afraid of him. He knew him to be a righteous and holy man and would protect him. And when he listened to John, he was very confused but enjoyed listening to him. <sup>21</sup>At last, the opportune day arrived. On his birthday Herod prepared a feast for his distinguished officials, his commanders and the prominent men of Galilee, <sup>22</sup>and the daughter of Herodias just so happened to enter, dance and please Herod and those seated with him at the banquet. The king said to the young girl, "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you." <sup>23</sup>And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give it to you, up to half my kingdom!" <sup>24</sup>The girl left and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John, the one who baptises." <sup>25</sup>In haste, the girl went immediately to the king and asked, saying, "I want you give me right now, on a silver platter, the head of John the Baptist." <sup>26</sup>Though the king was overwhelmed with grief, because of the oaths he took and his guests at the dinner table, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>And so immediately, the king sent for an executioner and ordered him to bring his head in. The executioner then went away and beheaded John in prison. <sup>28</sup>He brought his head on a platter and presented it to the girl and the girl then gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard the news, they came and carried away his body and buried it in a tomb.

## THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported back to him everything that they had done and all that they had taught. <sup>31</sup>And he said to them, “Come away, by yourselves, to a deserted place and rest for a little.” For there were many people coming and going and they hadn’t found time to eat. <sup>32</sup>And so, they went away by boat to a desert place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>But the people saw them as they withdrew, and many recognized them. On foot, the people ran out together from all the cities and arrived there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When Jesus got off the boat, he saw a great crowd and he felt compassion for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And so, he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>The hour was now late when his disciples came and told him that the place was deserted and that a lot of time had passed. <sup>36</sup>They tried to dismiss the people that they might go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy for themselves something to eat <sup>37</sup>but in response Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy twenty Denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup>But he said to them, “How much bread do you have? Go and see.” They found out and said, “Five loaves and two fish.” <sup>39</sup>He ordered them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So, they sat down into groups of one hundred and five hundred. <sup>41</sup>Jesus then took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples for them to hand out to the people and divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>Everyone ate and had their fill of food. <sup>43</sup>And there were twelve baskets full of leftover bread - also from the fish. <sup>44</sup>There were five thousand men who had eaten.



## WALKING ON THE WATER

<sup>45</sup>Immediately, Jesus made his disciples get on a boat and travel to the other side to Bethsaida while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>Once he had ordered them away, he went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup>Evening came, and the boat was out in the middle of the sea while he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup>When Jesus saw them straining at the oars at around the fourth vigil of the night, for the wind was against them, he came out to them, walking on the lake. He intended to pass by them, <sup>49</sup>but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and screamed out! <sup>50</sup>For they all saw him and were shaken to the core. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them and said to them, “Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.” <sup>51</sup>Jesus got up onto the boat with them and the wind died down. They were absolutely amazed. <sup>52</sup>For they had not understood about the bread. Rather their hearts had been hardened.

## THE HEALING OF THE SICK IN THE GENNESARET

<sup>53</sup>Once they had crossed over to land, they came to Gennesaret and made anchor. <sup>54</sup>They got off the boat and immediately, the crowds recognized him. <sup>55</sup>They ran around that whole area and began to carry those who lay sick upon mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>Wherever he went, whether to villages, to cities or to the countryside, people would place their sick in the marketplace and plead that they might have the chance to touch even the edge of his cloak.



## THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS

Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes, having come down from Jerusalem, gathered around Jesus, <sup>2</sup>and because they saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean, that is unwashed, hands, <sup>3</sup>(for the Pharisees and all the Jewish people, in order to maintain their elders' traditions, do not eat anything unless they have washed their hands in a fist, <sup>4</sup>and if they don't wash their hands when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat, and many other traditions which they have undertaken to maintain, the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles...) <sup>5</sup>the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples walk in line with the tradition of our elders, but instead, eat their bread with unclean hands?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to them, "Isaiah prophesied well about you, you hypocrites! As it is written, 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain, teaching doctrine as though "rules" laid out by men.'

<sup>8</sup>Having forsaken the command of God, you now maintain human traditions!"

<sup>9</sup>And he said to them, "You do a good job of setting aside the command of God so that you may establish your traditions! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother' and 'let the man who slanders his father or mother be put to death.' <sup>11</sup>But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever I owe you is now Korban! That is a gift dedicated to God"' <sup>12</sup>then you allow him to do nothing for his father and mother and <sup>13</sup>thus nullify the word of God by traditions you pass down. And you teach many things like this!" <sup>14</sup>Jesus again summoned the crowd and said to them. "Listen to me, all of you! And understand! <sup>15</sup>Nothing that goes into a person from outside can make them unclean. Rather it's what comes out of a person that makes them unclean."<sup>[16]</sup> <sup>17</sup>When Jesus had moved from the crowd and into the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>He said to them, "Are you so stupid as well? Don't you understand that nothing that goes into a person from the outside is able to make them unclean?"



<sup>19</sup>Simply because it doesn't go into the heart but into the stomach and then out to the sewer!" He said this to declare all foods clean. <sup>20</sup>And he said, "It's what comes out of people, that is what makes them unclean. <sup>21</sup>Because, from within, out of their hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, evil, deceit, indecency, the evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>Every wicked thing comes from within a person. That is what makes them unclean!" <sup>24</sup>From there he got up and went into the mountain regions of Tyre, where, having entered a household, he intended for no one to find out where he was. However, he was unable to escape the people's notice. <sup>25</sup>In fact, a woman who had a daughter with an unclean spirit heard about him immediately. She came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was a Greek, Syrophoenician in origin, and she asked for him to cast out the demon from her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "First let the children have their feed, for it is not good to take the bread of the children and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But the woman replied and said, "Lord, even the dogs from under the table eat the crumbs left by the children." <sup>29</sup>And he said to her, "For this answer, go! The demon has come out from your daughter." <sup>30</sup>She then went into her house and found her child lying on her bed and the demon cast out from her.

**Syrophoenician:** Someone who came from the region of Tyre and Sidon located north west of Galilee.



## A DEAF AND DUMB MAN HEALED

<sup>31</sup>Again, Jesus went out from the vicinity of Tyre and travelled through Sidon to the sea of Galilee, up into the regions of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>The people brought to him a deaf man, who also couldn't talk properly. They pleaded earnestly for Jesus to place his hand upon him. <sup>33</sup>Jesus, having taken the man privately aside from the crowd, placed his fingers into his ears, spat on him and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Looking up to heaven he let out a groan and said, "Ephphatha!" Which means, "Be opened!". <sup>35</sup>Immediately, his ears were opened, and the bind on his tongue loosened and he began to speak normally. <sup>36</sup>He then commanded them to tell no one. But no matter how much he ordered them, they would announce it all the more. <sup>37</sup>And the people were completely amazed, saying, "He does everything well! He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

## 8

**JESUS FEEDS FOUR THOUSAND**

Again, during those days, a large crowd formed, but they did not have anything to eat. Summoning his disciples Jesus said to them, <sup>2</sup>“I feel compassion for this crowd, because they have been here for three days now with me and don’t have anything to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them away to their homes hungry they will faint on the way. Some of them have come from afar.” <sup>4</sup>And his disciples replied to him, “Where will anyone be able to get the bread to satisfy these people here in the desert?” <sup>5</sup>He asked them, “How many loaves of bread do you have?” “Seven”, they replied. <sup>6</sup>He then instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground. Taking the seven loaves of bread, Jesus gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples for them to hand out. They placed it before

the crowd. <sup>7</sup>They also had a few small fish. After blessing the fish, he told his disciples to hand them out as well. <sup>8</sup>The people ate and were satisfied and there were seven baskets full of leftover pieces. <sup>9</sup>There were about four thousand people there. <sup>10</sup>He then dismissed the crowd, immediately got into a boat with his disciples and went into the parts of Dalmanutha.

**THE DEMAND FOR A SIGN**

<sup>11</sup>Now Pharisees came out and began to argue with Jesus, for they were seeking a heavenly sign. But they were trying to test him. <sup>12</sup>Sighing deeply in his spirit he said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it!” <sup>13</sup>He dismissed the crowd and again, boarded his boat and went to the other side.

## THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES

<sup>14</sup>Now they forgot to take bread and they had nothing on the boat with them except for the one loaf of bread. <sup>15</sup>He gave a stern warning to them saying, “Watch and look out for the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of the Herodians.” <sup>16</sup>They decided amongst themselves that it was because they had no bread. <sup>17</sup>Knowing this, Jesus said to them, “Why do you think that it’s about having no bread? Do you still not understand or comprehend? Have your hearts become hardened? <sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes but not see? Ears but not hear? Do you not remember? <sup>19</sup>When I broke the five loaves into five thousand, how many baskets full of leftovers did you pick up?” “Twelve”, They replied. <sup>20</sup>“When I made the seven loaves into four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Seven”. <sup>21</sup>And he said to them, “Do you not understand?”

## THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA

<sup>22</sup>They came to Bethsaida and the people brought to Jesus a blind man and pleaded for him to touch the man. <sup>23</sup>Taking hold of the blind man’s hand he led him outside the town and after spitting into his eyes and placing his hands upon him Jesus asked him, “Do you see anything?” <sup>24</sup>Looking up he said, “I see men that look like trees walking about.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus once again placed his hands upon his eyes. The man looked intently, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup>Jesus then sent him home saying, “Do not go into the village!”

## PETER'S DECLARATION ABOUT JESUS

<sup>27</sup>Jesus and his disciples went out into the villages of Caesarea Philippi and on the road, he asked his disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say I am?" <sup>28</sup>Some replied to him by saying, "John the Baptist." Others, "Elijah" And still others, that he was one of the prophets. <sup>29</sup>But he asked them, "Who do you say I am?" In reply Peter said, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup>Jesus then ordered them not to speak to anyone about him.

## JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

<sup>31</sup>And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man is bound to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be put to death, and after three days, "get up again". <sup>32</sup>He spoke his message plainly, but Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But Jesus turned around, looked at his disciples and rebuked Peter. He said, "Get behind me Satan! For you do not have in mind the things of God but the things of people." <sup>34</sup>Jesus then summoned the crowd along with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow behind me, let him deny himself, let him take up his cross and let him follow me! <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup>What might a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with his holy angels."



## 9

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come in power!”

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

<sup>2</sup>After six days Jesus took Peter and James along with him and led them privately up a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured before them and <sup>3</sup>his outer garments dazzled, an exquisite white, of a sort that an earthly tanner can’t bleach. <sup>4</sup>And Elijah, along with Moses, appeared before them and began speaking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Peter replied and motioned to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents. One for you, and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He didn’t understand what to say for they were overcome with fear.

<sup>7</sup>Then a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud.

“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>That very moment, though they

looked around, they could no longer see anyone but Jesus with them. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down from the mountain, he commanded them to tell no one the story of what they saw until the Son of Man got up from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So, they kept the story to themselves, debating what it meant “to get up from the dead”.

<sup>11</sup>They asked him, saying, “Is it because our scribes say that Elijah must come first?” <sup>12</sup>Jesus affirmed, “Yes, Elijah does come first and restores all things and how it is written for the Son of Man - that he must suffer many things and be brought to nothing. <sup>13</sup>But I tell you that even Elijah came, and they did to him what they wanted. Just how it was written for him.”

## THE HEALING OF A BOY WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

<sup>14</sup>And having come to his disciples, they saw a large crowd gathering around them and scribes debating with them.

<sup>15</sup>Immediately, the entire crowd saw Jesus and were astounded. They ran towards him and tried to grab hold of him. <sup>16</sup>He asked them, "What are you debating with them?" <sup>17</sup>One from the crowd responded,

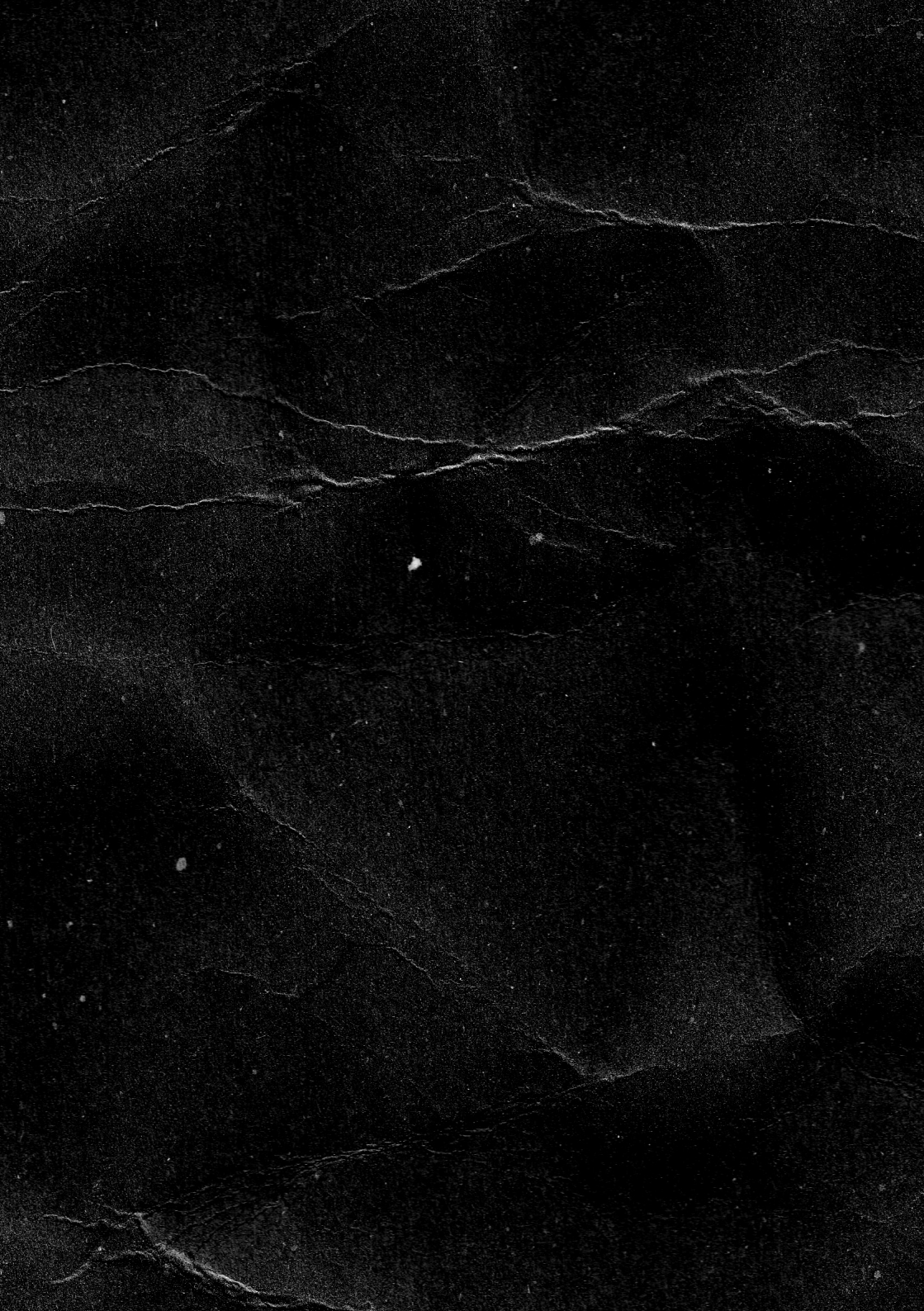
"Teacher! I have brought my son to you! He has a spirit that robs him of his speech. <sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him it beats him to the ground. He froths at the mouth, he grinds his teeth and shrivels up. I told your disciples, so they would cast it out and they couldn't do it." <sup>19</sup>Jesus responded and said, "You unbelieving generation! For how long will

I be with you? For how long will I put up with you? Bring him to me." <sup>20</sup>They brought the boy to him and when the spirit saw Jesus it immediately threw him into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and began rolling around frothing at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>He asked the father, "For how long has this happened to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. <sup>22</sup>Often it tries to throw him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But, if you are able, help us. Have compassion on us!" <sup>23</sup>"If you are able?" Jesus said to him,

"Everything is possible for the one who believes." <sup>24</sup>Immediately, the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe! Help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out from him! And never again enter into him!" <sup>26</sup>The boy cried out, convulsed violently and the unclean spirit came out of him. He became like a corpse so much so that the crowds thought that he was dead. <sup>27</sup>Jesus then took hold of the boy's hand and lifted him up. And the boy got up! <sup>28</sup>After he had gone home Jesus' disciples asked him privately, "Why were we not able to cast it out?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to them, "It's not possible to cast this sort out with anything except prayer."

## JESUS AGAIN FORETELLS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

<sup>30</sup>After leaving that place they travelled on through the region of Galilee and Jesus did not want anyone to recognize him, <sup>31</sup>for he had been teaching his disciples and telling them that the Son of Man is going to be given over into the hands of men. They will kill him and once dead, after three days, he will be lifted up! <sup>32</sup>But they didn't understand his meaning and were afraid to ask.



## WHO IS THE GREATEST?

<sup>33</sup>They then came to Capernaum and when they were at home he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” <sup>34</sup>They were silent, for on the road they had argued with each other about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>Jesus sat down and called for the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he will be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>He then took a child and stood it before them. He put his arm around the child and said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but he who sent me.” <sup>38</sup>John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and stopped him because he didn’t follow us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him. For no one who does a miracle in my name will be able to speak evil of me soon after. <sup>40</sup>For whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For whoever gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Christ, I tell you the truth, he will not lose his reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever causes one of these little ones, to stumble, who believe in me, it is better for him to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It’s a fine thing to enter life as a cripple than to have two hands and go to hell, into the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It’s a fine thing to enter life maimed, much more than to be thrown into hell with two feet. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out. It’s a fine thing to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two eyes, <sup>48</sup>where the worm dies not, and the fire is unextinguished. <sup>49</sup>For all will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is a fine thing but if it loses its saltiness, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with each other.”



## TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE

From there he got up and went into the mountain regions of Judea across the Jordan. But the crowds again gathered around Jesus and, as was his custom, he began to teach them once more. <sup>2</sup>When the Pharisees arrived, they questioned him about whether it was lawful for a husband to divorce his wife. <sup>3</sup>In reply he said, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They replied, “Moses permitted the husband to ‘write a certificate of divorce’ and divorce her”. <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “He wrote this command because of the hardness of your hearts. <sup>6</sup>From the beginning of creation, he created them ‘male and female’. <sup>7</sup>For this reason, ‘a man shall leave his mother and his father and be united to his wife <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh.’ Therefore, they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What, then, God has joined together, let no one separate.” <sup>10</sup>At the house his disciples questioned him again about this <sup>11</sup>and he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery with her. <sup>12</sup>And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, then she herself commits adultery.”

## LITTLE CHILDREN BLESSED

<sup>13</sup>People then started bringing to Jesus children for him to lay hands on, but his disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw what they were doing he was furious and said, “Let the children come to me! Don’t prevent them. For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus then took the children in his arms, placed his hands upon them and blessed them.





## THE RICH MAN

<sup>17</sup>As Jesus walked back out onto the road, a man ran up to him, all alone, fell on his knees and asked Jesus. “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? Nobody is good except one – God.

<sup>19</sup>Do you know the commandments? ‘Do not murder’, ‘do not commit adultery’, ‘do not steal’, ‘do not give false testimony’, ‘do not commit fraud’, ‘honor your mother and father’ ....?” <sup>20</sup>The man affirmed, “Yes teacher, I have kept all these things since my childhood.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at the man and loved him. He said to him, “You lack one thing. Go, whatever you have, sell it and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.” <sup>22</sup>The man’s face fell at what Jesus had to say and he went away sad and distressed for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples. “See how hard it will be for those who have money to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words but in reply Jesus said again, “Children! See how hard it is for the rich man to enter the Kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>26</sup>At this the disciples were even more amazed and said to themselves, “And who is able to be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “With men, it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter began saying to him, “Look! We have left everything and followed you.”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus assured him, “I tell you the truth, there isn’t anyone who has left household or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who hasn’t then received a hundred times as much now in this life – households, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields along with persecutions, and in the age to come – eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last and the last first.”

## **A THIRD TIME JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

<sup>32</sup>They were now on the road travelling up to Jerusalem. Jesus was going on ahead of them. The people were amazed but those who followed him were afraid. Taking again the twelve he began to tell them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup>“Look! We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will sentence him to death and hand him over to the gentiles. <sup>34</sup>They will mock him, spit on him, whip him and kill him. And after three days, he will be lifted up!”

## **THE REQUEST OF JAMES AND JOHN**

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the Sons of Zebedee came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, we want you to do what we ask.” <sup>36</sup>He said to them, “What is it that you want me to do?” <sup>37</sup>They replied, “Allow for one of us to sit at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory!” <sup>38</sup>But Jesus replied to them, “You don’t know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or receive the baptism with which I am baptised?” <sup>39</sup>But they affirmed, “Yes, we are able!” But Jesus said, “Indeed, you will drink from the cup I drink from and receive the baptism with which I am baptised <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or my left is not for me to grant but for those it is prepared.” <sup>41</sup>When the other ten heard what was asked they started to become angry at James and John. <sup>42</sup>But Jesus summoned them and said, “You know that those who presume to rule over the gentiles lord it over them and that their leaders exercise their authority over them, <sup>43</sup>but this is not to be so among you. Rather, whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant and <sup>44</sup>whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. <sup>45</sup>In fact, the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”

## THE HEALING OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS

<sup>46</sup>They then came to Jericho. While he, his disciples and a considerable crowd were on their way out from Jericho, Bartimaeus, the Son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus, the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many rebuked him in an attempt to silence him, but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, “Call the man.” They called the blind man over and said to him, “Take heart! Get up, he’s calling you.” <sup>50</sup>Bartimaeus threw away his cloak, leapt to his feet and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>In response Jesus said to him, “What would you like for me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “Rabbouni, that I will see again.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go, your faith has saved you.” Immediately, the man regained his sight and followed him on the road.



# 11

## THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

When they came close to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, by the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent out two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village before you and as soon as you enter it you’ll find a colt tied that no man has ever ridden upon. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>And if anyone ask you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and is going to send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They then went off and found the colt tied by the door outside on the adjacent street. They untied it and <sup>5</sup>some of the men standing by asked them, “What are you doing untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They replied just as Jesus had told them and so they let them go. <sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus, placed their coats upon its back and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many spread their cloaks on the road while others cut down branches from the fields. <sup>9</sup>Those going ahead and behind cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the Highest!” <sup>11</sup>Jesus then entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. He surveyed all there was and, since it was now getting late in the day, he departed and went out into Bethany with the twelve.



## THE CURSING OF THE FIG TREE

<sup>12</sup>The next day when they had left from Bethany, Jesus grew hungry. <sup>13</sup>Seeing a fig tree in the distance that had leaves on it, he went to see whether he would find anything on it. He came to it but found nothing but leaves. For it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup>Jesus responded by saying, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And his disciples were listening.

## THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

<sup>15</sup>They came into Jerusalem and when Jesus entered the temple he began to cast out those selling and buying in the temple. He overturned both the tables of those exchanging money and the seats of those selling pigeons and <sup>16</sup>he did not allow for anyone to carry their property through the temple. <sup>17</sup>He began teaching and said to them, “Is it not written that, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples? But you have made it a

hideout for robbers!’” <sup>18</sup>And the chief priests and the scribes overheard this and started to plot how they might kill him. <sup>19</sup>When evening came, they travelled out of the city.

## THE LESSON FROM THE WITHERED FIG TREE

<sup>20</sup>In the morning, as they were passing by, they saw that the fig tree had withered from the roots. <sup>21</sup>Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Look, Rabbi, the fig tree you cursed has withered.” <sup>22</sup>Jesus in reply said to them, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup>I tell you the truth, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea!’ and does not doubt it in his heart but trusts that what he says will happen, it will be so for him. <sup>24</sup>For this reason, I tell you that everything you pray for and ask for – believe that you have it – and it will be so for you. <sup>25</sup>And whenever you stand praying, if you have something against someone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your sins.”



## THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS QUESTIONED

<sup>27</sup>They then came again into Jerusalem. And as he was walking about in the temple the chief priests, scribes and the elders approached him <sup>28</sup>and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? Or, who gave you this authority to do these things?”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus replied to them, “I’m going to ask you one question. Give me an answer and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup>The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from man? Answer me.” <sup>31</sup>They discussed among themselves saying, “If we say, ‘from heaven’, he will reply, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him? <sup>32</sup>But should we say, “from man?” They were afraid of the crowd, for everyone held that John was a true prophet. <sup>33</sup>So, in reply they said, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

**THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD AND THE TENANTS**

Jesus then began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard. He placed a fence around it, dug a trench and built a tower. He then rented it out to farmers and went away. <sup>2</sup>He sent a servant to the farmers at harvest time to take from the farmers the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>But the farmers took him, beat him up and sent him away empty handed. <sup>4</sup>Again, he sent another servant to them and they knocked him out and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup>And he sent to them another servant and that one they killed, and many other servants whom they’d either beat up or kill. <sup>6</sup>The man had still one to send, his beloved son. He sent him last of all to them assuming, “They will respect my son.” <sup>7</sup>But those farmers said to themselves, “This is the heir! Come, let’s kill him! <sup>8</sup>So, they took him, killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup>What will the Lord of the vineyard do? He will come, and he will destroy those farmers and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup>Have you not read the Scripture? ‘The stone that the builders have rejected, has become the capstone. <sup>11</sup>This is of the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes.’” <sup>12</sup>The people tried to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid of the crowd. For they knew that he spoke the parable against them. But they let him go and went away.



## PAYING TAXES TO CAESAR

<sup>13</sup>They sent to Jesus some men from the Pharisees and the Herodians to try and catch him in his words. <sup>14</sup>They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of truth and that you take no regard for anyone’s opinion. For you pay no attention to who they are. No, it’s for the sake of truth that you teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Shall we pay it or shall we not?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus understood their hypocrisy and said to them, “Why are you trying to test me? Bring a denarius for me to see.” <sup>16</sup>They brought it to him and he said to them, “Whose image is this and whose inscription?” They replied, “That of Caesars.” <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “Give to Caesar that which is Caesar’s and that which is God’s, give to God.” And they were completely amazed at him.

## THE QUESTION ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

<sup>18</sup>The Sadducees, who claim that there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and questioned him, saying, <sup>19</sup>“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that ‘If anyone has a brother who dies and leaves behind his wife and has left no child, that his brother should take his wife and raise up seed for his brother. <sup>20</sup>Now there were seven brothers. The first brother took a wife but died and left no seed. <sup>21</sup>The second brother took her but died, leaving behind no seed. The third did the same. <sup>22</sup>And the seven brothers left no seed. Last of all, the wife died too. <sup>23</sup>At the “resurrection”, when they “get up”, whose wife will she be? After all, didn’t the seven have her as their wife?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “Are you not mistaken on this point? Seeing as you don’t understand the Scripture nor the power of God? <sup>25</sup>For when they get up from the dead, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage, but they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup>But concerning the dead, that they will “get up”, have you not read in the book of Moses about the bush, how God declared saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ <sup>27</sup>He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are greatly mistaken.”

## THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

<sup>28</sup>One of the Scribes approached Jesus after listening to those questioning him. When he saw that Jesus had answered them well he asked him, “Which is the most important commandment?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The most important is this, ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole life, with your whole mind and with all of your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this, ‘You will love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than this.” <sup>32</sup>And the scribe said to him, “Well said, teacher, it’s true that there is one God and no other beside him. <sup>33</sup>And to love him with your whole heart, with all your intelligence and with all your strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, is far more important than every burnt offering and sacrifice.” <sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he replied with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And nobody dared to question him any further.

## THE QUESTION ABOUT DAVID’S SON

<sup>35</sup>In response, Jesus began by teaching in the temple. “How is it that the scribes say that ‘The Christ is the Son of David?’ <sup>36</sup>David himself said by the Holy Spirit, ‘The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ <sup>37</sup>David himself says that he is ‘Lord’, how then can he be his son?” The large crowd present was delighted to listen to him. <sup>38</sup>And while he was teaching he said, “Watch out for those scribes who want to walk about in fine clothing, who desire to be greeted in the marketplace, <sup>39</sup>take the front row seats in the synagogue and the prominent seats at meals. <sup>40</sup>They devour the households of widows and make a pretext out of praying long prayers. They will receive a far greater judgement.”



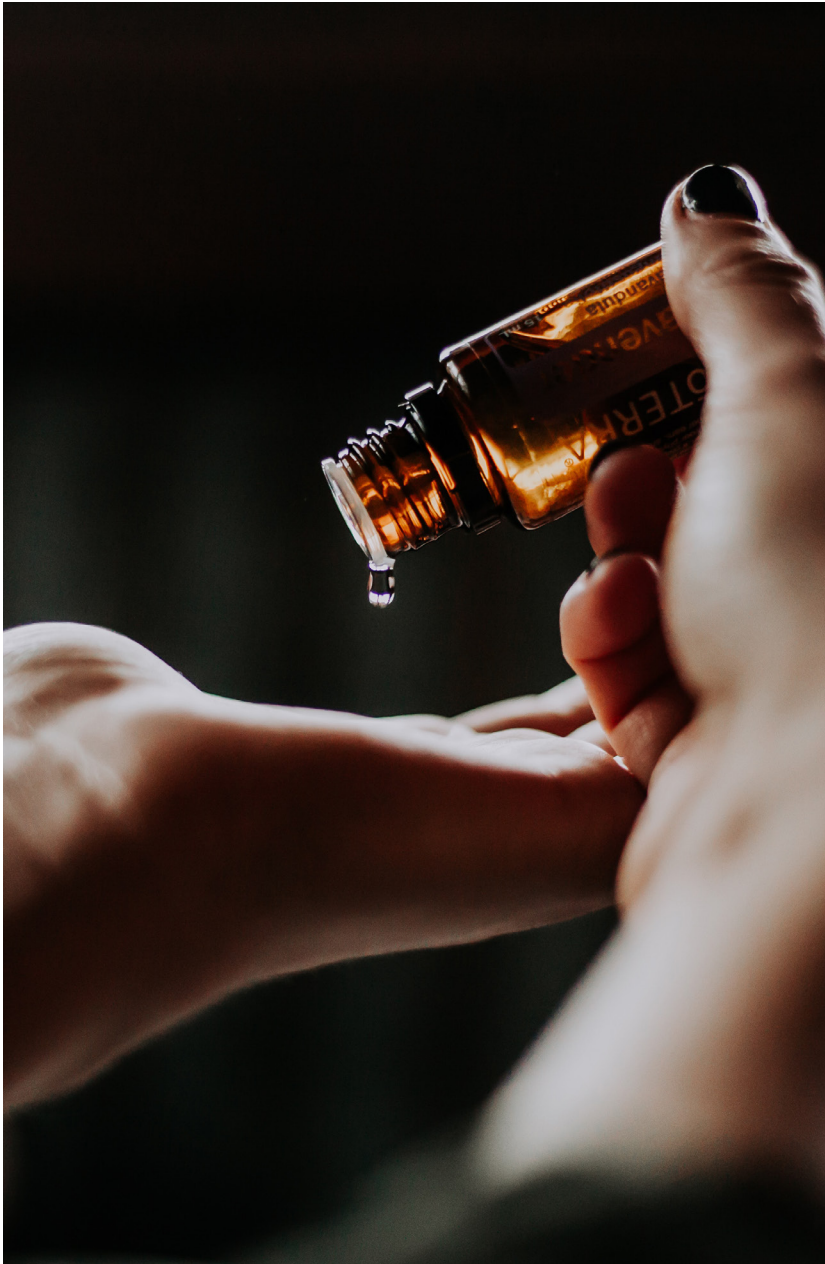
## THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

<sup>41</sup>Jesus then sat down in front of the money box and started watching how the crowd threw money into it. There were many rich people who threw lots of money in <sup>42</sup>but there was one poor widow who came and threw in just two measly coins, which were worth a quadrans. <sup>43</sup>He summoned his disciples and said to them, “I tell you the truth! This poor widow threw more money than all of those who threw their money into the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For they all gave out of their abundance of wealth but this poor woman, out of her very poverty, gave all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

## THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD AND THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

As Jesus was walking out of the temple one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher look at how great the stones are and how great the houses are!” <sup>2</sup>But Jesus said to him, “You see these great houses? Not a stone here shall be left on another which has not first been torn down.” <sup>3</sup>While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things happen and what sign will there be for when all these are going to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus began to tell them, “Watch out that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name saying, “I am he” and many they will lead astray. <sup>7</sup>But when you hear of wars and the rumour of wars, don’t be alarmed. It must happen, but the end is yet to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. In some places there will be earthquakes, there will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup>But watch out for yourselves! They will hand you over to the council and beat you in the synagogues. You will stand before rulers and kings for my sake as a testimony against them <sup>10</sup>but to all nations the gospel must first be proclaimed. <sup>11</sup>When they hand you over, don’t worry beforehand about what you should say. Rather, whatever is given to you at that hour, say that. For you will not be the ones speaking, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and father his child. <sup>13</sup>You will be hated by all on account of my name but the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup>But when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing where he shouldn’t, let the reader understand, at that very moment, let those in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>15</sup>Let not the man on his housetop come down, nor let him go back inside to take something from his house. <sup>16</sup>And let not the man in his field turn back to get his cloak. <sup>17</sup>Woe to those who are pregnant

in those days and nursing children! <sup>18</sup>Pray that it doesn't happen during winter. <sup>19</sup>For those days will be a calamity of a sort that has not happened since the beginning of God's creation until now – and will never happen again. <sup>20</sup>If the Lord had not cut short those days no man will be saved. However, for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has cut short the days. <sup>21</sup>Whenever someone says, "Look! Here is the Christ! Look! There he is!" Do not believe him. <sup>22</sup>For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and perform signs and wonders to lead – if possible - the elect astray. <sup>23</sup>But watch out! I have told you everything ahead of time. <sup>24</sup>But in those days, after that calamity, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give off its light. <sup>25</sup>The stars will fall from heaven and the powers in heaven will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then, with great power and glory they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven! <sup>27</sup>He will then send forth his angels and gather together his elect from the four winds, from the depths of the earth, to the summit of heaven. <sup>28</sup>But learn this parable from the fig tree. When its branch is tender, and it sprouts forth leaves, you know that the harvest is near. <sup>29</sup>In the same way know, that when you see these things come to pass the time is near for the harvest. <sup>30</sup>I tell you the truth! This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away! <sup>32</sup>But about that day or that hour, nobody knows. Not even the angels in heaven nor the Son. Only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch out! Stay awake! For you do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup>Like a man who goes on a journey and leaves his house behind, granting oversight to his servants, assigning a task to each and commanding the door keeper to keep watch... <sup>35</sup>Be on your guard, therefore! For you do not know when the lord of the house comes! Whether it be evening, in the middle of the night or morning! <sup>36</sup>Lest he comes and finds you sleeping at that very moment! <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to all... be on your guard!"



## 14

## THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

Now it was the time of the Passover. The Jewish feast of unleavened bread was in two days' time and the chief priests and scribes were searching for an underhand way to lay hold of and kill him, <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the feast, otherwise the people will be in uproar." <sup>3</sup>Now Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper and while sitting at the table a woman came carrying an alabaster jar of perfume made of pure and expensive nard. She broke the jar and poured its contents over his head. <sup>4</sup>Some grew angry among themselves, "Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>This perfume could have sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor!" They were furious at her, <sup>6</sup>but Jesus said, "Let her be! Why are you causing her trouble? She's done a good thing for me. <sup>7</sup>You will always have the poor with you and for them you can do good whenever you wish. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>What she had, she used. For she has perfumed my body ahead of time for burial. <sup>9</sup>I tell you the truth, when the Gospel is preached throughout the whole world, people will speak about what she has done in memory of her."

Passover and the feast of unleavened bread: an annual feast commemorating God liberating Israel from captivity in Egypt 3,500 years ago. Unleavened bread was used to remind people the liberation happened at pace. The Passover pointed forward to Jesus liberating people from their captivity to sin.

## JUDAS' AGREEMENT TO BETRAY JESUS

<sup>10</sup>Now Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to hand Jesus over to them. <sup>11</sup>Those who listened to him were delighted and promised to give him money. And so, Judas began searching for an opportune time to hand him over. <sup>12</sup>On the first day of the Jewish feast of unleavened bread, the day they sacrifice the Passover lamb, his disciples asked Jesus, "Where do you wish for us to go and make plans for you to eat the Passover meal?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus sent off two of his disciples and said, "Go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him <sup>14</sup>and where you see the man enter, follow and ask the household owner what the teacher says, 'Where is the room for me to eat Passover meal with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will then show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make plans for us there." <sup>16</sup>His disciples then departed, went into the city and found it just as he told them. They prepared the Passover meal <sup>17</sup>and as the evening fell Jesus came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>While they were sitting at the table and eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one from among you who will hand me over. One who eats with me." <sup>19</sup>They became distressed and said to him, one by one, "Surely not I!" <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "Yes, it is one of the twelve. He dips his bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of Man must go as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is handed over! It would be good if that man had not been born."

## THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread and after blessing it broke it, gave it to them and said, "Take, this is my body." <sup>23</sup>And taking the cup Jesus gave thanks, gave it to them and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>I tell you the truth, I shall never again drink from the produce of the vineyard until that day when I drink of it afresh in the Kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They then sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

## PETER'S DENIAL FORETOLD

<sup>27</sup>Jesus spoke to them, "You will all fall away because it is written. 'I will strike the shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' <sup>28</sup>But after I have got up from the dead I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>29</sup>But Peter said to him, "Even if they all fall away, I will never do so!" <sup>30</sup>But Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, that today, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will disown me three times." But he emphatically denied it, "Even if I have to suffer with you I will never deny you!" Everyone else said the same thing.

## THE PRAYER IN GETHSEMANE

<sup>32</sup>They came to a place by the name of Gethsemane and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John with him and began to be terribly distressed and worried. <sup>34</sup>He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch." <sup>35</sup>Having withdrawn a little further he fell to the ground and began praying for the hour to pass from him if possible. <sup>36</sup>And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me! But not what I will but what you do." <sup>37</sup>Jesus then went and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Are you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Keep watch and pray that you may not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup>After speaking, Jesus again went away and prayed the same prayer. <sup>40</sup>But again, Jesus returned and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy and drooping and they did not know what to say. <sup>41</sup>He came a third time and said to them, "Have you really been sleeping and resting all this time? Enough! The hour has come! The Son of Man is being handed over into the hands of sinful men. <sup>42</sup>Get up, let's go! Look! The one to betray me is near."

## THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS

<sup>43</sup>Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, appeared beside them. A crowd of men who had come from the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, was with him with swords and spears. <sup>44</sup>Now, the man to betray Jesus had given them a sign, saying, "The man I kiss, he is the one. Lay hold of him and take him away under close guard." <sup>45</sup>Immediately, Judas then came and approached Jesus. "Rabbi!", he said, and he kissed him. <sup>46</sup>They then thrust their hands upon him and seized him. <sup>47</sup>One of the men standing by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest cutting his ear off <sup>48</sup>but Jesus retorted and said to them, "Do you come as though for a criminal? With swords and spears to arrest me? <sup>49</sup>Daily I was with you in the temple teaching and you did not lay hold of me. But so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled..." <sup>50</sup>They all then left him and fled.

## THE YOUNG MAN WHO FLED

<sup>51</sup>Now a certain young man was following along with Jesus wearing a linen cloth over his naked body. They seized him <sup>52</sup>but after letting go of it, he fled, naked.

## JESUS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

<sup>53</sup>Now they led Jesus away to the high priest and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law gathered together.

<sup>54</sup>Peter followed him behind at a distance until he came into the courtyard of the high priest where he sat down with the guards and began warming his hands by the fire. <sup>55</sup>The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were searching for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. <sup>56</sup>Many false witnesses came against him, but their testimony did not agree.

<sup>57</sup>Some got up and testified falsely against him by saying, <sup>58</sup>“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple built by hand and in three days build another, not built by hand!’” <sup>59</sup>But even their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>The chief priest then got up and asked Jesus, “Do you have no reply for what they testify against you?”

<sup>61</sup>But he was silent and gave no answer. Again, the chief priest pressed him and asked, “Are you the Christ? The Son of the Blessed one?” <sup>62</sup>But Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven!” <sup>63</sup>The chief priest tore his clothes and said, “What need have we of witnesses anymore? <sup>64</sup>You heard his blasphemy! How does it appear to you?” All of them condemned him to be worthy of death. <sup>65</sup>Some then began to spit on him, blindfold his face, strike him and say, “Prophecy!” Even the guards took and beat him.

Sanhedrin: The highest court or tribunal available to Jews. Made up particularly if representatives from the Pharisees and a second major religious group, the Sadducees.

## PETER'S DENIAL OF JESUS

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was down in the courtyard one of the servant girls who belonged to the high priest came <sup>67</sup>and saw Peter warming his hands. She looked at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Nazarene." <sup>68</sup>But Peter denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." Peter then left to go out into the front courtyard and the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup>The servant girl looked at him and began again to say to those standing by, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup>But again, Peter denied it. A little later, again, those standing by said to Peter, "You are one of them, for sure. In fact, you're from Galilee!" <sup>71</sup>Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't know this man you speak of!" <sup>72</sup>Immediately, the cock crowed a second time. Peter recalled the words Jesus spoke to him, that before the cock crowed twice you will deny me three times. Peter broke down and wept.





## 15

**JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

Early in the morning, the chief priests immediately took council with the elders and the scribes and having bound the Sanhedrin with an oath, they led Jesus away and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied and said to him, “You say so.” <sup>3</sup>The chief priests began laying many accusations against him <sup>4</sup>but Pilate asked him again, saying, “Do you have no reply? See how many accusations they bring against you!” <sup>5</sup>But, to the amazement of Pilate, Jesus made no reply.

**JESUS SENTENCED TO DEATH**

<sup>6</sup>Now during the Passover feast Pilate would release to them one of the prisoners they asked for. <sup>7</sup>Imprisoned along with the revolutionaries was a man named Barabbas who committed murder during the uprising. <sup>8</sup>The crowd then arose and began asking for Pilate to do for them what he was accustomed to. <sup>9</sup>But Pilate replied with the words, “Would you like for me to release the King of the Jews for you?” <sup>10</sup>For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priest had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that he would be more likely to hand Barabbas over to them. <sup>12</sup>But Pilate again replied and said to them, “So then, what shall I do to the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup>They cried out again, “Crucify him!” <sup>14</sup>But Pilate said to them, “Why? What crime has he committed?” But they cried out all the more! “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup>Pilate then, wishing to do what was enough for the crowd, released Barabbas to them and after having him flogged, handed Jesus over for him to be crucified.



## THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

<sup>16</sup>Now the soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard, that is, the Praetorium, and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup>They wrapped him in purple and placed a twisted crown of thorns around his head. <sup>18</sup>They then began to salute him, “Greetings! King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed and spat on him. They would position their knees and bow before him. <sup>20</sup>And once they had their fun with him they stripped him of his purple linen and dressed him in his clothes. They then led him out for them to crucify him.

## THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

<sup>21</sup>They forced a certain passerby named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexandros and Rufus, as he was coming from his field, to carry Jesus' cross. <sup>22</sup>They then led him to the place of Golgotha, which means, the place of the Skull. <sup>23</sup>They then gave him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>They then crucified him and divided up his clothes by casting lots to see who got what. <sup>25</sup>It was now the third hour and they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>There was an inscription of the charge which read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>With him they crucified two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>28</sup>Those passing by insulted him. They shook their heads and said, <sup>29</sup>"Ooah! The destroyer of the temple! And the one to build it again in three days! <sup>30</sup>Save yourself by coming down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>Likewise, the chief priests along with the scribes chuckled amongst themselves and said, "Others he saved, himself he can't save. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now so that we can see and believe in him." Even those crucified with Jesus heaped insult upon him.





## THE DEATH OF JESUS

<sup>33</sup>When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole earth until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>At the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi! Eloi! Lema Sabachthani” Which means, my God, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>35</sup>Some of those standing by heard him and said, “Look! He is calling Elijah.” <sup>36</sup>Someone ran and soaked a sponge with sour wine. They put it on a reed and gave it to Jesus to drink, saying, “Leave him, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.” <sup>37</sup>But Jesus let out a great cry and exhaled. <sup>38</sup>The curtain of the temple tore in two from top to bottom <sup>39</sup>and when the centurion standing opposite saw that he had breathed his last he said, “Truly, this man was the Son of God.” <sup>40</sup>Now there were some women watching from afar, among whom was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Lesser and Justus and Salome. <sup>41</sup>These were the women who followed him while he was in Galilee and ministered to him. And there were many other women who had come up into Jerusalem.

Elijah: Was a real prophet in the Old Testament. Known for his passion and zeal for God. Other Old Testament prophets spoke of another who would be like Elijah. That one would announce The Messiah. Jesus said John the Baptist was this promised Elijah.

## THE BURIAL OF JESUS

<sup>42</sup>As evening approached on the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a respectable member of the council, who himself was also waiting for the Kingdom of God, came forward. Boldly he entered the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was amazed to find out that he had already died. He summoned the centurion and asked him if he had been dead for long. <sup>45</sup>Having found out from the centurion the exact time of death, he then gave the corpse to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>So, Joseph purchased a cloth, took him down, wrapped him in the cloth and placed him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. They then rolled a stone over the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Justus saw where he lay.

# 16

## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Once the Sabbath had passed, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome purchased spices to go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of the week at sunrise they came to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They said to each other, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us?”. But when they looked up they were amazed to see that the stone was rolled away for it was very large. <sup>5</sup>Entering the tomb, they saw a young man seated on the right wearing a white cloak and they were terrified. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, the one who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. Look, the place where they laid him! <sup>7</sup>But go! Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of them into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>The women then exited and fled from the tomb! Fear and utter shock overtook them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.



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## NEXT STEPS

### **To find out more:**

If you would like to find out more about Jesus and have any of your questions answered please contact us on the details below.

**If as a result of what you have read you would like to become a follower of Jesus then please pray the prayer below:**

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for coming to save me through your death and resurrection. I repent of my sin and turn away from it. I ask you to be the Lord of my life and I look forward to the day when we will meet face to face. Amen.*

If you prayed the prayer above please contact us so that we can help you with next steps. Someone from our church would love to read the bible with you in order that you might get know Jesus more deeply. It is our desire that Jesus become as important a part of your life as he is ours.

## GET IN TOUCH

P: (02) 8858 1111

E: [info@spch.org.au](mailto:info@spch.org.au)

W: [www.stpauls.church](http://www.stpauls.church)

### **Find us on Social Media**

[Facebook.com/stpaulsch](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsch)

[Instagram.com/stpaulsch](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsch)

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### **Join a Small Group:**

Small Groups are one of the best ways to get connected with others and meet some new faces. Most Small Groups meet for around 2 hours a week, they are a great place to study and learn more about the Bible, pray, motivate, care for and encourage one another.

We have a range of groups including:

Youth (D-Teams)

Young Adults

Men's groups

Women's groups

Mixed groups

Seniors groups

Groups for mums with young kids

If you would like to join a Small Group, please visit

*[www.stpauls.church/smallgroup](http://www.stpauls.church/smallgroup)*

to fill in an enquiry form, and a member of our team will get in touch to chat about the best group for you, and get you settled in!



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