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JOHN

An Introduction

The Gospel of John stresses the divinity of Jesus. It begins with: "In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was deity." (John 1:1) and, "The Word became human and lived among us for a while." (John 1:14). And the Gospel concludes with the author's purpose expressed: "Jesus showed many more proofs from God in front of his followers, but those are not written in this book. These proofs have been written, so that you, the readers, might believe this: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have eternal life by his name." (John 20:30-31).

This account of Jesus' life is very different from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). It offers the very substantive, inside things which Jesus said more than the things that He did. Step by step, this Gospel unfolds its proofs until the reader must reach the inescapable conclusion that Jesus is indeed the Son of God!

The literary style is unique: the sentence structure is uncomplicated and easy to understand. Every step in a given narrative is presented as though it is an isolated event or statement, rather than attempting to merge it into an over-all framework. The same majestic truths are repeated in intricate parallelisms. It is a book of striking contrasts: light and darkness; truth and falsehood; good and evil; life and death; God and Satan. Only in John's Gospel do we learn that the length of Jesus' public ministry was about 3½ years (that is, by counting the Passover feasts). The Book of John is saturated with symbolic representations from ordinary life. Jesus used common things (such as water, bread, light, a vine and its branches, a loving shepherd and his pet sheep) to teach profound spiritual truths. The Gospel of John was written not so much to retell the historical facts of Jesus' brief stay on earth, but to ask us the question: What does His coming mean?

The author merely identified himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23; 20:2). The writer was John the Apostle, one of the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). John was very close to Jesus (Matt. 17:1; Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51). It was young John who leaned against the chest of Jesus (John 13:23), to whom Jesus entrusted his aged mother (John 19:26-27). John was the first male to believe that Jesus rose from death (John 20:1-10), the first to recognize him on the shore of Lake Galilee (John 21:1-7), and probably the last apostle to die (John 21:23).

Jesus

1¹In the beginning was the Word,^a and the Word was with God, and the Word was deity.^b **2**He was with God in the beginning.³Through him, everything was made. Without him, nothing which has

happened would have happened.

⁴He was the Source of life. That life was the Light for all people. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness; the darkness can never put it out!

⁶There was a man named John. He had been sent from God. ⁷This man came to give proof about the Light, so that through him, everyone would

a 1:1 or, "the Logos" ("Expression"; "Message")

b 1:1 or, "divine". The Greek definite article is *not* present before the second occurrence of *theos*.

JOHN 1

believe. ⁸John was not the Light; he came to tell the truth about the Light. ⁹The true Light was coming into the world. He gives light to every person.

¹⁰He was in the world. Through him the world was made, but the people of the world did not acknowledge him. ¹¹He came to what belonged to him, but his own people would not accept him. ¹²But he gave the right to become God's children to those who did accept him, to those who believe in his name. ¹³They were born, not in a human way, or from the natural human desire of men, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became human and lived among us for a while. We saw his glory, the kind of glory like that of the Father's one and only ^a Son—full of gracious love and truth. ¹⁵John was telling the truth about him. John cried out, "This is the man I talked about: 'The one who is coming behind me has been ahead of me, because he was alive before I was.'"

¹⁶We have all received one blessing after another from the fullness of his gracious love. ¹⁷Though the law was given through Moses, gracious love and truth have come through Jesus Christ. ^b ¹⁸No one has ever seen

God,^c but Jesus,^d who is in the arms of the Father, he unfolded the story.

John's Preaching

Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:2-8;

Luke 3:15-17

¹⁹The Jewish leaders from Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to ask John this question: "Who are **you**?" This is the proof that John gave:

²⁰John did not refuse to answer; he spoke freely. He clearly said, "I am not the Messiah!"

²¹They asked him, "Who are you? Are **you** Elijah?"

John said, "No, I am not Elijah."

They asked, "Are **you** the Prophet?"

John answered, "No."

²²Then they asked him, "Who are you? We must give an answer to the men who sent us here. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John said,

"I am 'a voice shouting in the desert: Prepare the Lord's road,'
(*Isaiah 40:3*)

just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴(They had been sent from the Pharisee group.)

²⁵They asked John, "Since you

a 1:14 or, "only begotten"

b 1:17 or, "Jesus the Messiah"

c 1:18 or, "deity" (which does *not* have the definite article before this Greek word)

d 1:18 literally, (the) "only one, Deity". Some early manuscripts have "the only Son."

are not the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet, why are you immersing people?”

²⁶John answered them, “Yes, I immerse people in water, but there is another one among you whom you don’t know about. ²⁷He is coming later. I am not worthy to untie his shoelace.”

²⁸This happened in the town of Bethany (the one across the Jordan River). John was immersing people there.

The Lamb of God

²⁹The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look, God’s Lamb who will take away the world’s sin! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about: ‘The man who is coming behind me has been ahead of me, because he was alive before I was.’ ³¹I didn’t know him. Why did I come, immersing people in water? To show him to the people of Israel.”

³²This is the proof that John gave: “I saw the Spirit coming down like a dove from the sky, hovering above him. ³³I didn’t know him, but the One who sent me to immerse people in water said to me, ‘If you see the Spirit coming down and staying upon someone, **this** is the one who immerses in the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I have

seen it! I am telling you the truth—he is the Son of God!”

Two Men Follow Jesus

³⁵Again, on the next day, John stood there with two of his followers. ³⁶He looked at Jesus walking by. John said, “Look, God’s Lamb!”

³⁷When the two followers heard John say this, they started to follow Jesus.

³⁸Jesus turned around and saw them following him. He said to them, “What are you looking for?”

They asked him, “Where do you live, Rabbi? (This word means ‘Teacher.’)”

³⁹Jesus said to them, “Come and see.” So, they went and saw where Jesus was staying. They spent the rest of that day with him. (It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.)

⁴⁰Andrew (Simon Peter’s brother) was one of the two men who heard John and followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing that Andrew did was to find his own brother, Simon. Andrew said to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (This word means ‘Christ.’)^a ⁴²Then Andrew led Peter to Jesus. When Jesus looked at Peter, Jesus said, “**You** are Simon, John’s son. **You** will

^a **1:41** from a Greek word meaning “the anointed one.” God selected a man and this choice was shown by anointing (rubbing with oil). See 1 Sam. 10:1; 16:1-3. It was like crowning someone as king.

be called Cephas.” (Translated into Greek, this name means ‘Peter.’)^a

Nathanael

⁴³The next day, Jesus decided to leave for the land of Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me!”

⁴⁴Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town where Andrew and Peter lived. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the law. The prophets wrote about him, too! He is Jesus, the son of Joseph, from the village of Nazareth.”

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Out of Nazareth!? Is it possible for anything good to come from Nazareth!?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see for yourself!”

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him. Jesus said this about Nathanael: “Look, here is a real man of Israel! There is nothing false about him!”

⁴⁸Nathanael asked Jesus, “From where do you know me?”

Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you to come here, I saw you under that fig tree!”

⁴⁹And Nathanael answered Jesus, “Rabbi, **you** are the Son of God! **You** are the king of the people of Israel!”

⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw

you under that fig tree? You will see even greater things than this. ⁵¹I am telling you the truth: You will all see heaven open and God’s angels coming down and going up from me.”^b

The First Miracle

2¹On the third day, in the town of Cana in Galilee, there was a wedding. Jesus’ mother was there.

²Jesus and his followers were invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine!”

⁴Jesus asked her, “What do you want with me, woman? My time has not yet come.”

⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶There were six stone waterjars sitting there. (Jewish people used them to make things ceremonially pure.) Each waterjar could hold about 20 to 30 gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” They filled the jars to the top. ⁸Jesus said to the

servants, “Now, pour some of this and take it to the master of ceremonies.” They did it. ⁹He didn’t know where it came from, but the servants who had gotten the water knew. When the master of ceremonies tasted the

water which had been changed into wine, he called for the groom. ¹⁰He

a 1:42 It means “a small stone.”

b 1:51 literally, “from the Son of Man”

said to the groom, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the people have had plenty to drink, he serves the cheaper wine. But **you** have reserved the good wine until now!”

¹¹This was the first miracle which Jesus performed. It was in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus revealed his glory, and his followers believed in him.

¹²After this, Jesus, his mother, his brothers, and his followers went down into the town of Capernaum. They stayed there for a few days.

Jesus Goes to the Temple

Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17;
Luke 19:45-46

¹³The time for the Jewish Passover Festival^a was near. Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴He found some men in the temple courtyard. They were selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons. The money-exchangers were also sitting there.^b ¹⁵Jesus made a whip from some ropes. He forced all of them to leave the courtyard—even the cattle and the sheep. He turned the money-exchangers’ tables over and scattered their coins. ¹⁶He said to the men who were selling pigeons, “Get

^a 2:13 spring time

^b 2:14 Jews who came to Jerusalem from distant places needed to buy animals to sacrifice. Also, no foreign coins were allowed in the temple. But these merchants were charging very high prices and treating God’s temple only as a place to make money.

those things out of here! Don’t turn my Father’s House into a place of business!” ¹⁷His followers remembered that this verse was in the Scriptures:

“The fire which I feel for Your House^c burns within me!”
(*Psalms 69:9*)

¹⁸The Jewish leaders asked Jesus this question: “What proof do you give to show us that you have the authority to do these things?”

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple sanctuary and I will raise it in three days!”

²⁰Then the Jewish leaders said, “It took 46 years to build this temple sanctuary—and **you** would build it again in three days!?” ²¹(Jesus was talking about the temple sanctuary of his body. ²²After Jesus was raised from death, his followers remembered that he always used to say this. They believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.)

²³While Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name. They saw the miracles from God which he was doing. ²⁴⁻²⁵Jesus knew what all people were like. He didn’t need anyone to tell him about people; he always knew what was in mankind.

^c 2:17 temple

So, Jesus was not committing himself to them.

Nicodemus

3¹There was a man named Nicodemus. He was a Jewish leader, one of the Pharisees.

²This man came to Jesus at night. Nicodemus said to him, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. No one could do these miracles which **you** are performing, if God were not with him.”

³Jesus answered him, “I am telling you the truth: If a person is not born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!”

⁴Nicodemus asked him, “When a man is already old, how can he be reborn? It is not possible for him to go inside his mother’s womb the second time and be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “I am telling you the truth: If a person is not born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! ⁶What has been born from human beings is human. And, what has been born from the Spirit is spiritual. ⁷Don’t be surprised because I said this to you: ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it wishes. You hear the sound of it, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same way with

everyone who has been born from the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus answered Jesus, “How can these things happen?”

¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are **you** a teacher of the people of Israel, and you don’t know these things?

¹¹I am telling you the truth: We are talking about what we know. We are telling the truth about what we have seen. But you are not accepting our truth. ¹²Since I am talking to you about earthly things and you are not believing them, if I were to tell you about heavenly things, how could you believe? ¹³I am the only one who ever came down from heaven; no one else has ever gone up to heaven.

¹⁴Moses lifted up the brass snake in the desert for the people. In the same way, I^a must be lifted high, ¹⁵so that everyone who commits himself to me will have eternal life.”

¹⁶God loved the people of the world so much that He gave up His one and only^b Son. Every person who commits himself to Jesus will not be destroyed. Instead, that person will have eternal life. ¹⁷God did not send His Son into the world to judge it. God sent Jesus, so that the people of the world could be saved through him.

¹⁸The person who commits himself to Jesus is not condemned, but the

a 3:14 literally, “the Son of Man”. See Num. 21:5-9.

b 3:16 or, “only begotten”

one who does not commit himself to Jesus has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹This is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness more than they loved the Light, because the things which they were doing were evil.

²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the Light. He does not come toward the Light. He does not want his evil deeds to be exposed. ²¹But the person who is living the truth comes toward the Light. He wants his actions to become clear, because he did them for God.

Jesus Is Greater than John

²²After this, Jesus and his followers went to the land of Judea. He stayed there with them and he was immersing some people. ²³John was immersing people in the town of Aenon (which is not far from the town of Salim) because there was plenty of water there. People continued coming to be immersed. ²⁴(John had not yet been thrown into prison.)

²⁵There was an argument between some of John's followers and a Jewish man about making things pure. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the man **you** have endorsed, who was with you on the other

side of the Jordan River, look, he is immersing people, too. Everyone is coming to him!"

²⁷John answered, "No one can receive anything if heaven has not given it to him. ²⁸You yourselves know that I told the truth when I said, 'I am not the Messiah!' I have been sent ahead of him. ²⁹The groom is the one who will get the bride. The best man is the one who stands by and listens. He is glad when he hears the groom's voice. This is **my** joy; it is now complete. ³⁰Jesus must become more important; I will become less important."

Jesus Comes from God

³¹The one who comes from above is greater than all things. The person who comes from the earth belongs to the earth and talks about the earth. The one who comes from heaven is the most important. ³²He tells the truth about what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his proof. ³³The person who does accept his proof confirms that God is real. ³⁴God sent Jesus. Jesus speaks the words of God, because God gave him the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has put everything in the Son's control. ³⁶The person who commits himself to the Son has eternal life, but the person who does not obey the Son will not see eternal

life. Instead, God's punishment stays on that person.

A Samaritan Woman

4¹The Pharisees heard that Jesus was making more followers and immersing more people than John.²(Jesus was really not the one who performed the immersion; his followers did it.)³When Jesus learned of this, he left Judea and went back to the land of Galilee.

⁴Jesus needed to go through the land of Samaria.⁵He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the property which Jacob had given to Joseph, his son.^a⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired because of traveling. So, he sat down for a while at the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Please, give me a drink of water."⁸(His followers had gone into town to buy some food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "You are a Jewish man and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking **me** for a drink of water?" (Jewish people don't want to associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew about God's gift and who I really am,^b **you** would ask me to

give you a drink of living^c water!"

¹¹The woman said to Jesus, "Mister, you don't even have a bucket and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this living water?"¹²**You** are not greater than Jacob, our ancestor, are you? Jacob's flocks and herds, his sons, and Jacob himself drank from this well. He gave it to us!"

¹³Jesus answered her, "Any person who drinks this water will become thirsty again,¹⁴but if anyone drinks the water which I will give him, he will never be thirsty again. The water which I give him will become a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to Jesus, "Mister, give me some of this water, so that I won't get thirsty and won't have to come back here again and again to get water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband. Then come back here."

¹⁷The woman answered him, "I don't have a husband."

Jesus said to her, "So true!¹⁸**You** have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband. **You** spoke the truth."

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I now understand that **you** are a prophet!"²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain,^d but you Jews say

c 4:10 fresh. Compare John 7:38.

d 4:20 Mount Gerizim. The Samaritans had built a temple there about 130 years before, but the Jews destroyed it.

a 4:5 See Gen. 50:24-25; Exo. 13:19; Josh. 24:32.

b 4:10 literally, "who is talking to you"

that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship.”

²¹Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you won’t worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans are worshipping that which you don’t understand, but we Jews are worshipping what we know. Salvation comes from the Jewish people. ²³But the time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the true, spiritual way. The Father is searching for this kind of people to worship Him. ²⁴God is spirit. The people who worship God must worship Him in the true way and with the right spirit.”

²⁵The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah (the one called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will tell us about everything.”

²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am the one!”^a

²⁷Just then, Jesus’ followers came. They were amazed that Jesus was talking with a woman.^b However, not one of them asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸Then the woman left her water bucket and went back into town. This is what she said to people: ²⁹“Come,

a 4:26 literally, “That person is talking to you right now. I am (the Messiah).”

b 4:27 The rabbis taught that a man should not talk with a woman in public.

see a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. He must be the Messiah!” ³⁰So they left town and they were coming to him.

³¹Meanwhile, Jesus’ followers were encouraging Jesus to eat something. They said, “Rabbi, eat!”

³²But Jesus said to them, “I have some food to eat which you don’t know about.” ³³The followers said to one another, “No one brought Jesus anything to eat, did they?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “I must obey what God wants; He sent me. I must finish His work. **That** is food for me!

³⁵“**You** say: ‘Four months more and then the time for harvest comes.’ But, listen, I am telling you to look up and see the fields. They are ready for harvest now. ³⁶The person who

gathers the harvest receives his pay; he gathers the crops for eternal life. The person who plants and the person who gathers will be happy at the same time. ³⁷This saying is true: ‘One person plants and another person gathers.’ ³⁸I sent you to gather the harvest for which you have not worked. Other men worked hard; you are gaining from their work.”

³⁹Many Samaritan people in that town believed in Jesus, because of the woman’s word. She testified, “He told me everything I ever did!”

⁴⁰When the Samaritan men came to

Jesus, they were begging him to stay with them. Jesus stayed there for two days. ⁴¹Many more people believed because of Jesus' message. ⁴²They said to the woman, "We believe, not only because of what you said, but also because we ourselves have heard Jesus. We know that **he** is truly the Savior of the world!"

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

⁴³After the two days, Jesus left there to go to the land of Galilee. ⁴⁴Jesus himself said that this was true: "A prophet is not accepted in his own hometown." ⁴⁵When he came to Galilee, the people of Galilee welcomed him. They had seen all the things he did in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival.^a (They also went to the feast.)

⁴⁶Again, Jesus went to the town of Cana in Galilee, where he had changed the water into wine. There was a government official there. He had a son who was sick in the town of Capernaum. ⁴⁷This man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from the land of Judea. The man came to Jesus and begged him to go down to Capernaum and heal his son. (The son was about to die.) ⁴⁸Jesus said to the man, "You

people must see proofs from God and miracles or you will never believe."

⁴⁹The government official said to Jesus, "Lord, please go down to Capernaum before my little boy dies!"

⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Go, your son lives!" The man believed. He took Jesus at his word and left.

⁵¹While the man was going down to Capernaum, his servants met him. They said, "Your child lives!" ⁵²Then the man began asking them questions about the exact time when the boy got better. They answered, "The fever left him yesterday at one o'clock in the afternoon." ⁵³The father knew that this was the exact time when Jesus had said, "Your son lives!" The man and his whole family believed.

⁵⁴This was the second proof that Jesus performed, after he came to Galilee from the land of Judea.

Jesus Heals a Sick Man on the Sabbath Day

S¹Later, there was another Jewish festival. Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool that is called Bethzatha in the Aramaic language. It has five porches. ³A crowd of people used to lie around among the porches. Some of them were sick, blind, lame, or crippled. ^{4b} ⁵One

a 4:45 one of the most important Jewish holidays. It celebrated deliverance from Egypt.

b 5:4 Many late manuscripts have all or part of the following: "waiting for the moving of the water, because an angel of the Lord went down at certain

man had been there for 38 years with his sickness. ⁶When Jesus saw this man lying there, he knew that the man had been there a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be well?”

⁷The sick man answered Jesus, “Mister, I don’t have anyone to put me into the pool when the water stirs. While I am going, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your small bed and walk!” ⁹Instantly, the man got well. He picked up his bed and began walking around. (This happened on a sabbath day.)

¹⁰The Jewish leaders were saying to the man who had been healed, “It is the sabbath day! It is not right for you to carry your bed.”

¹¹The man answered them, “The one who made me well told me to pick up my bed and walk.”

¹²They asked him, “Who is the man who told you to pick up your bed and walk?”

¹³The man who was cured didn’t know who Jesus was, because Jesus had slipped away in the crowd which was there.

¹⁴Later, Jesus found the man in the temple courtyard. Jesus said to him, “Look, you have been made well. Stop sinning, so that something

worse won’t happen to you.”

¹⁵The man went and told the Jewish leaders that Jesus was the one who had made him well. ¹⁶Because of this, the Jewish leaders were persecuting Jesus—he was doing these things on the sabbath day.

¹⁷Jesus answered them, “My Father always works and I must work, too.”

¹⁸Because of this, the Jewish leaders were trying even harder to kill Jesus. They thought that Jesus was not only breaking the rules about the sabbath day, but he was also claiming that God was his own Father, thus putting himself on the same level with God.

The Father and the Son

¹⁹So Jesus answered them, “I am telling you the truth: The Son can do nothing on his own. He can only do what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father may do, the Son will do the same thing.

²⁰The Father loves the Son. The Father shows him everything He is doing. The Father will show him even greater deeds than these, so that **you** will be amazed. ²¹Just as the Father raises dead people and makes them live again, in the same way, the Son gives life to whom he wishes. ²²The Father does not judge anyone. Instead, He has given to the

Son the right to judge everything, ²³so that everyone will honor the

times into the pool and stirred up the waters. The first one into the pool after the waters were stirred up was healed of whatever disease that he had.”

Son as they honor the Father. The person who does not honor the Son is not honoring the Father who sent the Son. ²⁴I am telling you the truth: The person who listens to my teaching and believes in the One who sent me has eternal life. That person is not under condemnation. Instead, he has passed from death over to life. ²⁵I am telling you the truth: The time is coming—the time has already come—when dead people will hear the voice of the Son of God. And when they hear it, they will live again! ²⁶The Father has life in Himself. In the same way, He gave life to the Son to have in himself. ²⁷The Father gave the Son authority to judge, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Don't be surprised at this, because the time is coming when everyone in the graves will hear the voice of the Son of God. ²⁹They will come out of the graves. Those who lived right will rise to life, but those who did evil things will rise for judgment.”

John Told the Truth

³⁰“I cannot do anything on my own. I judge on the basis of what I hear. Since I am not seeking **my** own will, **my** decision is fair. I am seeking the will of the One who sent me. ³¹If I were giving proof about myself, my proof would not be valid. ³²But there

is another man,^a John, who is giving proof about **me**. I know that the proof he gives for **me** is valid.

³³“**You** sent some men to John and he has told the truth. ³⁴I don't accept proof from human beings. But I am saying these things, so that **you** can be saved. ³⁵John was a light that burns and shines. **You** were willing to enjoy his light for a while. ³⁶But I have more proof than John's—the tasks that the Father gave me to accomplish. These deeds themselves, which I am performing, prove something about **me**—that the Father sent me! ³⁷The One who sent me is the Father; He has given proof about **me**. You have never heard God's voice. You have never seen His shape. ³⁸And, you don't have His teaching staying in you. You don't believe in the one whom God sent. ³⁹You are always searching the Scriptures, because **you** think you will find eternal life in them. But the Scriptures are giving proof about **me**! ⁴⁰But you don't want to come to me, so that you may have life. ⁴¹“I don't accept praise from man, ⁴²but I know you—you don't have love for God in your hearts! ⁴³I have come with the authority of my Father but you are not accepting me. If someone else comes with his own authority, you will accept him!

a 5:32 John (the one who immersed people)

⁴⁴How can you believe? You accept praise from one another. You are not looking for praise from the only true God. ⁴⁵Don't think that I will accuse you to the Father. Moses is the one you trust. He is accusing you! ⁴⁶If you had believed Moses, you would have believed me because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷Now, if you won't believe in what he wrote, how can you believe in my words?"

Jesus Feeds more than 5,000 People

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44;
Luke 9:10-17

6¹After this, Jesus went back across Lake Galilee (Lake Tiberias). ²A large crowd of people was following him, because they saw him perform miracles on sick people. ³Then Jesus went up on a hill and sat down with his followers. ⁴The time for the Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵Jesus looked up and saw that a large crowd was coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed so many people?" ⁶(Jesus said this to test Philip; Jesus knew what he was going to do.)

⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred silver coins' worth of food would not be enough for them—even if each person had only a small amount!"

⁸One of Jesus' followers, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus, ⁹"Here is a little boy who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish, but how long would that last among so many people? Not very long!"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." (There was a lot of grass in that spot.) There were about 5,000 men. They sat down. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves of bread and gave thanks to God for them. He divided them among those who were sitting down. He did the same thing with the fish. They ate as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were full, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather up the leftovers, so that nothing will be wasted." ¹³So, they gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with the leftover pieces from the five small barley loaves.

¹⁴The people saw this miracle that Jesus performed. They began saying, "Surely this is the Prophet we were expecting to come into the world!" ¹⁵Jesus knew they were about to come and take him, so that they could make him a king. So, he left again for the mountain to be alone.

Walking on Water

Matthew 14:22-27; Mark 6:45-52

¹⁶When it was evening, Jesus'

followers went down to the lake. ¹⁷They climbed into a small boat and started across the lake, heading for the town of Capernaum. It was already dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸A strong wind was blowing, and the waters of the lake became rough. ¹⁹Jesus' followers had rowed between 3 and 3½ miles when they saw Jesus. He was walking on the lake. He was coming closer to the boat. They were afraid. ²⁰But Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. It is I!" ²¹They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat soon came to the shore where they were heading.

Looking for Jesus

²²The next day, the crowd which had stood on the other side of the lake saw that only one boat was still there. They knew that Jesus did not get into that boat with his followers; they had left by themselves. ²³Some more small boats from Tiberias came near the place where the people had eaten the bread for which the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴So, when the crowd realized that Jesus and his followers were not there, they got into some small boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus.

Everlasting Food

²⁵When the people found Jesus on the other side of the

lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

²⁶Jesus answered them, "I am telling you the truth: You are looking for me, not because of the miracles you saw but because you ate the food and were filled! ²⁷Don't work for the kind of food which spoils. Instead, work for the kind of enduring food which gives you life forever. I ^a will give you this kind of food. God the Father puts His stamp of approval on me."

²⁸They asked Jesus, "What should we do, so that we may do God's deeds?"

²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is God's work — you must commit yourselves to the one whom God sent!"

³⁰They said to him, "What miracle will **you** do, so that we may see it and commit ourselves to you? What will you do? ³¹Our ancestors ate manna ^b in the desert. It is written: 'He gave them food to eat from heaven.'"

³²Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: Moses did not give you food from heaven. My Father is the One who gives you the true food from heaven. ³³God's food comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴Then they said to Jesus, "Sir,

a 6:27 literally, "the Son of Man"

b 6:31 food miraculously supplied to the people of Israel on their journey through the desert (See Exo. 16:13-21; Num. 11:7-9.)

always give us this food!”³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the food which gives life. The person who comes to me will never be hungry. The one who commits himself to me will never be thirsty.³⁶ I told you, ‘Though you have seen me, yet you still do not believe.’³⁷ All that the Father gives to me comes to me. I will never throw out the person who comes to me.³⁸ Why did I come down from heaven? It was not to do what I want to do, but to do the will of the One who sent me.³⁹ This is the will of the One who sent me: I must not lose anything that God has given to me. I must restore it to God on the last day.⁴⁰ This is what my Father wants: Every person who sees the Son and commits himself to him will have eternal life. I will restore that person on the last day.”

⁴¹The Jewish leaders were complaining about Jesus, because he said, “I am the food which came down from heaven.”

⁴²They said, “This is Jesus, Joseph’s son. We know his father and mother. Why is he now saying, ‘I have come down from heaven?’ ”

⁴³Jesus answered them, “Stop complaining among yourselves.

⁴⁴No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me draws him. On the last day, I will raise that person

from death.⁴⁵ One of the prophets wrote this:

‘All people will be taught by God.’ (*Isaiah 54:13*)

Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to me.

⁴⁶No one has seen the Father. The only one who has seen the Father is the one who was with God.⁴⁷ I am telling you the truth: The person who believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the food which gives life.⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died.⁵⁰ There is a type of food which comes down from heaven. If someone eats it, he will not die.⁵¹ I am the food which comes down from heaven; it gives life. If anyone eats this food, he will live forever. The food which I will give is my flesh. I want the people of the world to live.”

⁵²The Jewish leaders started arguing strongly with each other, “How can Jesus give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: If you don’t eat my^a flesh and you don’t drink my blood, you do not have life in you!⁵⁴ The person who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise him from death on the last day.⁵⁵ My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ The person who eats my flesh and drinks my blood stays in me

^a 6:53 literally, “the Son of Man”

and I stay in him. ⁵⁷The living Father sent me. I live because of the Father. In the same way, the person who feeds on me will live because of **me**. ⁵⁸This is the food which came down from heaven. The person who eats this food will live forever! This food is not what our ancestors ate and then died.” ⁵⁹These are the things which Jesus said while teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Many Quit Following Jesus

⁶⁰Many of Jesus’ followers heard these things and said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can obey it?”

⁶¹Jesus knew within himself that his followers were complaining about this. He asked them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Suppose you were to see me going up to where I was before? ⁶³The Spirit is life-giving; physical things are not worth very much. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life, ⁶⁴but some of you don’t believe.” (From the very beginning, Jesus knew who didn’t believe and which one would turn against him.) ⁶⁵Jesus said, “This is why I told you that no one could come to me if he were not allowed to come by my Father.”

⁶⁶From this point on, many of Jesus’ followers turned back. They were not walking with him anymore. ⁶⁷Jesus said to the twelve apostles, “**You**

don’t want to go away, too, do you?”

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, who else is there to go to? **You** have the words of eternal life! ⁶⁹**We** have believed and know that **you** are God’s Holy One!” ⁷⁰Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose all twelve of you? But one of you is a devil!” ⁷¹Jesus was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Judas, one of the twelve apostles, was about to turn against Jesus.

Show Yourself to the World!

7¹After this, Jesus was traveling around in the land of Galilee. He didn’t want to go to the land of Judea, because the Jewish leaders were trying to kill him. ²The time for the Jewish Festival of Tents^a was near. ³Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Get away from here and go to Judea, so that your followers may see the miracles you are doing. ⁴If someone wants to be famous, he doesn’t hide the things he is doing. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world!” ⁵(Even Jesus’ brothers did not believe in him.)

⁶Then Jesus said to them, “It is not yet the right time for **me**. There is always a good time for you. ⁷The people of the world cannot hate you. They hate **me** because I tell the truth

^a 7:2 the fall. Each year the Jews lived in tents for seven days. (See Lev. 23:39-43.)

about them—their lives are evil!
⁸You should go on up to the feast in Jerusalem. I am not going up to this feast just yet. The time is not yet ripe for me.”⁹After he said these things, Jesus stayed in the land of Galilee.

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem

¹⁰After Jesus’ brothers went up to Jerusalem for the feast, Jesus also went up there, but Jesus did it secretly.¹¹The Jewish leaders were looking for him at the festival. They continued to ask, “Where is Jesus?”

¹²Many people in the crowd were arguing about Jesus. Some were saying, “He is a good man.” Others were saying, “No, he fools the people!”¹³But no one was talking about Jesus openly because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

¹⁴The festival was already half over when Jesus came up to Jerusalem to the temple. Jesus began to teach the people.¹⁵The Jewish leaders were amazed. They asked, “How did this man learn so much? He never went to our school!”

¹⁶Then Jesus said to them, “What I am teaching does not belong to me; it comes from the One who sent me.¹⁷If anyone wants to do what God wants, that person will find out whether my teaching comes from God or if I am speaking on my own.¹⁸The person who speaks on his own

is trying to get glory for himself, but the person who wants the glory to go to the One who sent him is honest. There is nothing wrong with him.¹⁹Moses gave you the law, but not one of you is obeying the law! Why are you trying to kill me?”

²⁰The crowd answered, “You are crazy! Who is trying to kill you?”

²¹Jesus answered them, “I did one miracle on the sabbath day and all of you are amazed.²²Yet you will circumcise^a a child on the sabbath day. Moses gave you circumcision! Actually, circumcision did not come from Moses, but from our ancestors.²³Since a child can receive circumcision on the sabbath day, so that the law of Moses won’t be broken, why are you so angry with me? I made a man completely well on the sabbath day.²⁴Don’t judge by the way things look! Judge fairly.”

Where Does the Messiah Come From?

²⁵Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “This is the man whom the Jewish leaders are trying to kill.²⁶And look, he speaks in the open and they are saying nothing to him about it! Is it possible that the leaders know he is the Messiah?²⁷But we

^a 7:22 Each Jewish boy received a physical mark—cutting off the foreskin. This was a sign of the agreement which God had made with Abraham (Gen. 17:9-14).

know where this man comes from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he comes from!”

²⁸While Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courtyard, Jesus cried out, “Do you know me? Do you know where I come from? I have not come on my own. However, the One who sent me is true. **You** don’t know Him! ²⁹But I know Him, because I was with Him. He sent me!”

³⁰Then they tried to arrest Jesus. But no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come. ³¹Many people in the crowd believed in Jesus. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he do more miracles than this man has done!?”

Where will Jesus Go?

³²The Pharisees heard the crowd arguing these things about Jesus. The most important priests and the Pharisees sent some guards to arrest Jesus. ³³Then Jesus said, “I will be with you a little while longer, but then I must go to the One who sent me. ³⁴You will look for me, but you won’t find me. I will be where **you** cannot come.”

³⁵Then the Jewish leaders thought to themselves, “Where is he about to go, so that **we** cannot find him? He wouldn’t go to the Jews who live in the Greek cities, would he? Would he teach non-Jewish people there?

Surely not! ³⁶What is the meaning of what he said: ‘You will look for me, but you won’t find me.’ and, ‘I will be where **you** cannot come.’?”

Come, Drink!

³⁷On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out, “If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! ³⁸The person who believes in **me** will be like the Scripture which says:

‘A river of fresh^a water will flow from his body.’ ” (*Proverbs 18:4; Isaiah 58:11*)

³⁹(Here Jesus was talking about the Spirit whom the believers were about to receive. The Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory.)

Who Is This Jesus?

⁴⁰Some of the people in the crowd heard these words. They said, “Surely he is the Prophet!”

⁴¹Other people said, “This man is the Messiah!”

Still others said, “The Messiah does not come from the land of Galilee!

⁴²The Scripture said that the coming Messiah would be from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived.” ⁴³So, the people in the crowd were divided

^a 7:38 or, “living”

because of Jesus. ⁴⁴Some of them were wanting to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Nicodemus Again

⁴⁵Later, the guards came back to the most important priests and Pharisees. They asked the guards, “Why didn’t you bring back Jesus?”

⁴⁶The guards answered, “No man ever spoke like this!”

⁴⁷The Pharisees answered them, “You haven’t been fooled, have you?”

⁴⁸None of the Jewish leaders or the Pharisees have believed in Jesus, have they? ⁴⁹This crowd is ignorant of the law. They should be condemned!”

⁵⁰Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees. (Remember, he had come to Jesus before.^a) He said to them, ⁵¹“Our law does not condemn a man without hearing from him first. We must find out what he is doing.”

⁵²They answered Nicodemus, “Are you also from Galilee? Search the Scriptures and you will see that no prophet comes from Galilee.”^b

⁵³[Then each one of them went home.]

A Woman Caught in Sin

8¹[Jesus went to Olive Mountain. ²Early the next morning, Jesus

^a 7:50 See John 3:1-13.

^b 7:52 Most ancient manuscripts do *not* have John 7:53-8:11 In many copies it was found at the end of the Gospel of John. Others have it at John 7:36, John 7:44, or Luke 21:38.

went back to the temple courtyard. All the people were coming to him. He sat down and began teaching them. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus. They had caught her committing adultery. They made her stand in the center. ⁴They said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery! ⁵In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women to death. What do you say about her?” ⁶(They were saying this to test Jesus. They wanted to get something which they could use to accuse him.)

Jesus bent down and wrote something on the ground with his finger. ⁷They continued to ask Jesus questions. Jesus stood up and said to them, “The one among you who has not sinned should throw the first stone at her!” ⁸Jesus bent down again and continued writing on the ground.

⁹When they heard this, they began to leave one by one, from the oldest on down. Jesus was the only one left. The woman was still standing there, too. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Is anyone condemning you?”

¹¹She answered, “No one, Lord.” Jesus said, “I am not condemning you, either. Go, and from now on, don’t sin anymore!”]

Jesus Is the Light

¹²Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, “I am the Light for the people of the world. The person who follows **me** will never walk in the darkness. Instead, he will have the living Light.”

¹³Then the Pharisees said to Jesus, “**You** are testifying on your own behalf; your proof is not valid!”

¹⁴Jesus answered them, “Even though I am testifying on my own behalf, my proof is still valid, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But **you** don’t know where I came from or where I’m going. ¹⁵**You** judge in a human way; I am not judging anyone now. ¹⁶But if I were to judge, **my** decision would be right, because I am not alone—the Father who sent me is with me, too. ¹⁷And in your law this is written,

‘The testimony of two people is valid.’ (*Deuteronomy 17:6*)

¹⁸So, I am testifying on my own behalf and the Father who sent **me** is testifying for me, too.”

¹⁹The Pharisees asked Jesus, “Where is your father?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t know **me** or my Father. If you knew **me**, you would know my Father.”

²⁰Jesus spoke these words while he was teaching in the temple courtyard.

He was near the place where the offering boxes were placed. No one arrested Jesus, because his time had not yet come.

I Come from God

²¹Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sins. **You** cannot come where I am going.”

²²The Jewish leaders asked, “Will he kill himself? He said, ‘**You** cannot come where I am going.’”

²³Jesus said to them, “**You** come from below. I come from above. **You** come from this world. I do not come from this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins. If you don’t believe that I am the one, you will die in your sins!”

²⁵Then they asked, “Who are **you**?” Jesus answered them, “I am what I have been telling you all along! ²⁶There are many things I have to judge and to say about you. However, the One who sent me is true. I tell the people in the world only what I have heard from my Father.”

²⁷They did not understand that Jesus was talking to them about the heavenly Father. ²⁸So Jesus said this to them: “You will know that I am the one when you raise me high.^a I do nothing on my own. I am only saying

^a 8:28 literally, “the Son of Man”, meaning when Jesus would be raised onto the cross

the things which the Father taught me. ²⁹The One who sent me is with **me**. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to Him.” ³⁰While Jesus was speaking, many people believed in him.

The Truth Frees You

³¹Jesus was talking with the Jews who had believed in him, saying, “If **you** stay with **my** teaching, then you are truly my followers. ³²You will find out the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants. We have never been slaves. How can **you** say, ‘You will be free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “I am telling you the truth: Every person who continues to sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵A slave does not live in the house forever, but a son will always live there. ³⁶If the Son sets you free, you are truly free. ³⁷I know that you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill me because you cannot find room in your hearts for **my** teaching. ³⁸I talk about the things which I saw while I was with the Father. **You** do the things which you have heard from your father.”^a

³⁹They answered Jesus, “Abraham is our father!”

Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the things that Abraham did. ⁴⁰Abraham would not have done this, but now you are trying to kill me. I have told you the truth which I heard when I was with God. ⁴¹**You** are doing the things your father does!”

They said to Jesus, “The only Father we have is God; **we** are not illegitimate!”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your true Father, then you would have loved **me**. I am here now, and I came forth from God. I didn’t come on my own; God sent me! ⁴³Why do you not understand what I am saying? You cannot obey **my** teaching. ⁴⁴**You** come from your father, the Devil. You want to do the sinful things that your father wants. The Devil was a murderer from the very beginning. He does not stand with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only talking naturally, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

⁴⁵“But I am telling you the truth and that is why you don’t believe me.

⁴⁶Can one of you prove that I am guilty of sin? Since I always tell the truth, why do **you** not believe me?

⁴⁷The person who comes from God listens to the words of God. This is

^a 8:38 meaning, “Their father was the Devil”. See John 8:44.

why **you** won't listen—you are not from God!"

I Lived before Abraham Did

⁴⁸The Jewish leaders answered him, "How right **we** are when we say that **you** are a Samaritan; you have a demon!"

⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I am not demon-possessed. I honor my Father, but **you** don't honor me. ⁵⁰I am not looking for glory for myself, but there is One who is looking for glory for me; He is the Judge. ⁵¹I am telling you the truth: If anyone obeys **my** teaching, he will **never** die!"

⁵²Then the Jewish leaders said to Jesus, "Now we **know** that you have a demon! Abraham and the prophets died. Yet **you** say, 'If anyone obeys my teaching, he will **never** die!' ⁵³**You** are not more important than Abraham, our ancestor, are you? He died. The prophets died, too. Just who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If **I** were trying to get glory for myself, my glory would be worth nothing. The One who is giving me glory is my Father. **You** are saying, 'He is our God!' ⁵⁵But you don't know Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be like you—a liar! But I really do know Him, and I obey His teaching. ⁵⁶Abraham, your ancestor, was very happy to

see **my** day; he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷Then the Jewish leaders said to Jesus, "You are not yet 50 years old—and you have seen Abraham!?"

⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: I was alive before Abraham was born!"

⁵⁹They picked up stones to throw at Jesus, but he left the temple courtyard and kept out of sight.

A Man Born Blind

9¹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. ²Jesus' followers asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this person or his parents, to cause him to be born blind?"

³Jesus answered, "This person did not sin; his parents did not sin. No, this occurred, so that God's deeds might be shown in this man's life. ⁴We must do the tasks of the One who sent me while it is still daytime. Night is coming. No one can work then. ⁵I am light for the people of the world, while I am in the world."

⁶After Jesus said these things, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it. Then he rubbed it on the blind man's eyes. ⁷Jesus said to him, "Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloam." (This word means "Sent.") Then the blind man went away and washed himself and came back with sight!

⁸Then the people who used to see him before (when he was a beggar) and his neighbors were saying, “This is the man who used to sit and beg!”

⁹Other people were saying, “It’s him!” Still others were saying, “No, but he looks like him.” But the man himself continued to say, “I am the one!”

¹⁰They asked again and again, “How come you can see?”

¹¹The man answered, “A man called Jesus made some mud and rubbed it on my eyes. Then he told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went there and washed myself, and now I can see!”

¹²They asked him, “Where is Jesus?”

The blind man answered, “I don’t know.”

The Pharisees Question the Man

¹³They brought the man who was once blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴(Jesus had made the mud and opened the blind man’s eyes on the sabbath day.)

¹⁵Again, the Pharisees kept asking the blind man how he could see. The man said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed myself, and I can see!”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man Jesus is not from God because he does not keep the sabbath day!”

But others were asking, “How could a sinful man perform such miracles?” They were divided among themselves.

¹⁷They asked the blind man again, “What do you say about Jesus? Do you believe he opened your eyes?”

The man answered, “He is a prophet!”

¹⁸The Jewish leaders didn’t believe that the man had really been blind and could now see, until they called the man’s parents. ¹⁹The leaders asked them, “Is this man your son? Do you claim that he was born blind? How come he now sees?”

²⁰Then his parents answered, “We know he is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we don’t know how he can see now. We don’t know how somebody opened his eyes. Ask him. He is a grown man; he can speak for himself.” ²²(The man’s parents said these things, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders had already agreed that if anyone said that Jesus was the Messiah, then that person would be thrown out of the synagogue. ²³That is why his parents said, “He is an adult; ask him.”)

²⁴Then, a second time, the Jewish leaders told the man (who had been blind), “Give glory to God! We know that this man Jesus is a sinner!”

²⁵The man answered, “Maybe he is

a sinner. I don't know. But one thing I do know—I was blind and now I can see!"

²⁶They asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷The man answered, "I have already told you and you didn't listen! Why do you want to hear it again? **You** don't want to become his followers, do you?"

²⁸Then they insulted the man saying, "**You** are Jesus' follower. **We** are Moses' followers!" ²⁹**We know** that God has spoken to Moses. But we don't know where this Jesus comes from."

³⁰The man answered them, "That is amazing! **You** don't know where Jesus comes from, and yet he opened my eyes!" ³¹**We know** that God does not listen to sinners, but God will listen to anyone who respects Him and obeys His will. ³²Since time began, no one has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of a man born blind! ³³If Jesus did not come from God, he could not do anything."

³⁴They answered him, "**You** were totally born in sin; **you** cannot teach us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus Finds the Man

³⁵Jesus heard that the Jewish leaders had thrown the man out. Jesus found him and asked him, "Do

you believe in the Son of Man?"^a

³⁶The man answered, "Sir, who is he, so that I may believe in him?"

³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and he is speaking to you right now!"

³⁸The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Jesus.

³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world, so that there can be a Judgment Day, so that the people who cannot see may see, and those who think they can see may become blind."

⁴⁰Some Pharisees who were with Jesus heard this. They said to him, "You don't think **we** are blind, too, do you?"

⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind,^b you would be innocent, but, you are now claiming you can see.^c So, your guilt remains."

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

10¹"I am telling you the truth: If a man does not get into the sheep pen through the gate, but climbs in by some other way, he is either a robber or a bandit.²The one who comes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.³The man who guards the gate opens the gate for him. The sheep know the shepherd's voice. The shepherd calls the name of each one of his sheep and leads them

a 9:35 Jesus

b 9:41 without understanding

c 9:41 know what you are doing

out.⁴ After he has brought all his own sheep out, he walks ahead of them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.⁵ But they would never follow a stranger; they would run away from him. They would not recognize a stranger's voice."⁶ Jesus used this example about sheep, but the people didn't understand what he was talking about to them.

Abundant Life

⁷Therefore, Jesus spoke again, "I am telling you the truth: I am the Gate for the sheep.⁸ All those who came before **me** were either robbers or bandits, but the sheep didn't listen to them.⁹ I am the Gate. If anyone will go in through **me**, he will be saved. He may come in and go out as he pleases and find plenty to eat.¹⁰ Why does the robber come? Only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came, so that they might have life—to the fullest!

¹¹"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives his own life for the sheep.¹² A man who has been hired is not really a shepherd. The sheep do not belong to him. When he sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. The wolf catches them and scatters them.¹³ The man doesn't care about the sheep, because he is a hired man.¹⁴ I am the Good Shepherd. I know **my** followers, and **my** followers know me,

¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know my Father. I will give my life for the sheep.¹⁶ But I have some other sheep that are not in this flock. I must lead them, too. They will listen to my voice. Then they will be one flock and one shepherd.¹⁷ Do you know why my Father loves me? Because, I will give my life, so that I may take it back.¹⁸ No one takes it away from **me**. I am giving it of my own free will. I have the authority to give it, and I have the authority to take it back. I received this order from my Father."

¹⁹Again, the Jewish people were divided because of these words.²⁰ Many of them were saying, "He's got a demon! He's insane! Why are you listening to him?"

²¹Others were saying, "These words don't sound like the words of a demon-possessed person. Could a crazy man open the eyes of a blind man?"

They Hate Jesus

²²It was winter. The time came for the Feast of Dedication^a in Jerusalem.²³ Jesus was walking around in the temple courtyard next to Solomon's Porch.²⁴ Some Jewish leaders gathered around him. They kept asking him, "How much

^a 10:22 Hanukkah, a festival which celebrates the rededication of the temple after Judas Maccabaeus was victorious over Syria (164 B.C.).

longer will you make us wait? If you are the Messiah, tell us clearly!”

²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, but you didn’t believe. I am doing miracles with my Father’s authority. These are telling the truth about me, ²⁶but you don’t believe, because you are not from my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice. I know them. They follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life. They will **never** be lost. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

²⁹“My Father is stronger than anyone. No one can snatch them from my Father’s hand. He has given me all things. ³⁰My Father and I are united.”

³¹Again, some Jewish leaders picked up stones to throw at Jesus and kill him. ³²Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which good work are you stoning me?”

³³They answered him, “We are going to throw rocks at you, not for any good work, but because you said some evil things against God! You are only a man, yet you are making yourself God!”

³⁴Jesus answered them,

“This is written in your law:
‘I said that you are gods.’
(*Psalms* 82:6)

³⁵“The message of God came to

them, and since he said ‘gods’—and the Scripture cannot be broken—
³⁶why are you claiming that I am saying evil things against God when I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? The Father selected me and sent me into the world. ³⁷If I am not performing miracles from my Father, then don’t believe in me. ³⁸But, if I **am** doing them, even though you may not believe in me, believe in the evidence of the miracles. You must know, and continue to know, that the Father is in **me** and **I** am in the Father.”

³⁹Once again, they were trying to arrest Jesus, but he slipped through their hands.

⁴⁰Jesus went back across the Jordan River to the place where John was first immersing people. Jesus stayed there. ⁴¹Many people came to him. They said, “John did not perform any miracles, but everything John said about Jesus is true.” ⁴²Many people there believed in Jesus.

Lazarus Dies

11 ¹A man named Lazarus was very sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. ²(Mary was the one who rubbed the Lord Jesus’ feet with perfume and dried them with her hair.)^a Lazarus, the brother, was very sick. ³The two sisters sent a message

^a 11:2 See John 12:3.

to Jesus saying, “Lord, listen, your good friend, Lazarus, is very sick!”

⁴When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death. Instead, it will be for God’s glory. This will be used to give glory to the Son of God.”

⁵Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. ⁶When Jesus heard that Lazarus was very sick, then he stayed where he was for two days. ⁷After that, Jesus said to his followers, “Let us go back to the land of Judea.”

⁸Jesus’ followers said to him, “But Rabbi, the Jewish leaders are now trying to stone you to death! Do you want to go there again!?”

⁹Jesus answered, “There are twelve hours in a day. Someone who is walking in the daytime does not stumble; he sees the light in this world. ¹⁰But a person may stumble when he walks at night because he has no light.”

¹¹After Jesus said these things, he told them this: “Our good friend Lazarus is asleep, but I will go wake him up.”

¹²Then Jesus’ followers said to him, “Lord, he will be all right if he’s asleep.”

¹³(Jesus was talking about the death of Lazarus. They thought Jesus was talking about natural sleep.)

¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly,

“Lazarus has died! ¹⁵For your sakes, I’m glad I was not there when he died. I want you to believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him.”

¹⁶Thomas (called The Twin) said to the other followers, “Let us go, too, so that we can die with him!”

Jesus Comes

¹⁷When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had been put in the grave four days before. ¹⁸The village of Bethany was near Jerusalem, less than two miles away. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them over their brother’s death. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary continued to sit in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, my brother would not have died, if you had been here! ²²But, even now, I know if you ask God, He would give you anything.”

²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise up from death!”

²⁴Martha said to Jesus, “I know that Lazarus will rise up from death, when all people are raised on the last Day.”

²⁵Jesus answered her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life! The person who commits himself to **me** will live, even though he may die. ²⁶Every person who lives and commits himself to me will **never** die! Do you believe this?”

²⁷Martha said to him, “Yes, Lord. I still believe that **you** are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world!”

Jesus Calls for Mary

²⁸After Martha said these things, she went back and secretly called Mary, her sister, telling her, “The Teacher is here; he is calling for you.”

²⁹When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. ³⁰Jesus had not yet come into the village. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹Some Jews were with Mary in the house, comforting her. When they saw Mary stand up quickly and leave, they followed her. They thought she was going to Lazarus’ grave, to cry some more there. ³²When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet. She said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!”

³³Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying, too. He felt very sorry and deeply moved.

³⁴Jesus said, “Where have you put Lazarus?”

They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Tears came to his eyes.

³⁶Then the Jews said, “Look how much Jesus loved Lazarus!”

³⁷But some of them said, “This man was able to open the blind man’s eyes.

Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus alive?”

Jesus Brings Lazarus Back to Life

³⁸When Jesus came to the grave, again he was deeply moved in his heart. It was a cave with a large stone placed in front of it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take the stone away!”

Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, this is the fourth day; there is already a bad smell!”

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “I told you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God.” ⁴¹Then they took the stone away. Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “O Father, I am thankful that You are listening to me. ⁴²I know that You always listen to me, but I said this because of the crowd which is standing here. I want them to believe that **You** sent me.” ⁴³After Jesus said this, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus! Come out!”

⁴⁴The dead man came out. Lazarus’ hands and feet were bound with pieces of cloth. His face was wrapped with a handkerchief. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2;

Luke 22:1-2

⁴⁵Many Jews had come to visit Mary. They saw the things which Jesus did. They believed in him.

⁴⁶But some of them went off to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷The most important priests and the Pharisees called a meeting. They asked each other, “What are we going to do? This man is performing many miracles! ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take us away—our holy place and our nation.” ⁴⁹One of them was Caiaphas. He was the high priest that year. He said to them, “**You** know nothing! ⁵⁰Don’t you think it would be better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed?” ⁵¹(Caiaphas did not say this on his own. But, since he was the high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the Jewish nation. ⁵²And not only for them, but also so that all God’s scattered children might be gathered together into one people.) ⁵³From that day forward, they plotted to kill Jesus.

⁵⁴So, Jesus was not moving around among the Jews openly anymore. Jesus left there for an area which was near the desert. It was a town called Ephraim. Jesus stayed there with his followers for a while.

⁵⁵The time for the Jewish Passover Festival was near. Many people went from the country up to Jerusalem

before the Passover began. They wanted to make themselves ceremonially pure. ⁵⁶These people were standing in the temple courtyard looking for Jesus. They were asking one another, “What do you think? Will Jesus come to the festival or not?” ⁵⁷The most important priests and Pharisees had given orders: “If anyone knows where Jesus is, he must tell us, so that we may arrest him!”

Mary Prepares Jesus for Burial

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9

12¹Six days before the Passover Festival,^a Jesus came to the town of Bethany. Lazarus was there—the one whom Jesus had raised from death. ²They gave a dinner for Jesus there. Martha was helping, and Lazarus was one of the guests with Jesus. ³Mary brought in about a pint of a very expensive perfume—pure nard.^b She rubbed it on Jesus’ feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the smell of perfume.

⁴One of Jesus’ followers was ready to turn against Jesus. This was Judas Iscariot. He said, ⁵“Why wasn’t this perfume sold for 300 silver coins and given to some poor people?” ⁶(Judas did not say this because he

a 12:1 one of the most important Jewish holidays. It celebrated deliverance from Egypt.

b 12:3 a very expensive perfume made from a plant

cared about poor people. Judas was a thief; he was the one who was always carrying the group's bag of money.)

⁷Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She must do this for the day when I am buried. ⁸You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me!"

People Come to See Lazarus

⁹A large crowd of Jews knew that Jesus was there. They came not only because they wanted to see Jesus, but also because of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from death. ¹⁰The most important priests planned to kill Lazarus, too. ¹¹Many people were starting to abandon the Jewish leaders because of Lazarus. They were beginning to believe in Jesus.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;
Luke 19:28-40

¹²The next day, a large crowd came to the festival. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They were shouting, "Hosanna! Give praise to the king of Israel who is coming with the authority of the Lord God."

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, as it is written:

¹⁵"Don't be afraid, O city of Jerusalem.^a Look, your King is coming, sitting on a young donkey." (*Zechariah 9:9*)

¹⁶(At first, Jesus' followers didn't understand these things, but later, when Jesus was raised to life in glory, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things for him.)

¹⁷There was a crowd with Jesus. They were always telling people about how Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, how he raised him from death. ¹⁸This is why a crowd met Jesus. They heard that Jesus had performed this miracle. ¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to one another, "Look! Nothing we do does any good. Behold, everyone is following Jesus!"

Jesus Must Die so that We May Live

²⁰Some non-Jewish people had come up to Jerusalem to worship God at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from the town of Bethsaida in Galilee. They kept saying to him, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."

²²Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip came and spoke to Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The time has come for me^b to

^a 12:15 literally, "daughter of Zion"

^b 12:23 literally, "the Son of Man"

receive glory. ²⁴I am telling you the truth: If one grain of wheat does not fall into the ground and die, it will always be just one grain of wheat, but if the grain dies, it will produce a large cluster. ²⁵The person who loves his own life is destroying it, but the person who does not value his life in this world will keep his life forever. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me. My servant will be where I am. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor that person.”

Jesus Prays to His Father

²⁷“My soul is very troubled now. What should I say: ‘Father, save me from this time of suffering.’? No, the reason I came was for this time. ²⁸Father, bring glory to Your Name!”

Then a Voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have brought glory to it and I will bring glory to it again.”

²⁹There was a crowd standing there. They heard the Voice, too. Some of them were saying, “It thundered!”

Others were saying, “An angel has spoken to him!”

³⁰Jesus answered, “This Voice did not speak for my sake—but for your sake. ³¹The time has come for this world to be judged. The time has come for the ruler of this world^a to be thrown out. ³²When I am lifted

high above the earth,^b I will attract everyone to me.” ³³(Jesus was saying this to show what kind of death he was about to suffer.)

³⁴The crowd answered him, “In the law, we have heard that the Messiah will live forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be nailed to a cross?^c Who is this ‘Son of Man?’”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “The Light is with you for only a little while longer. Travel while you have the Light, so that darkness will not catch you. A person who is walking around in the dark doesn’t know where he is going. ³⁶Believe in the Light while you have the Light. You must be sons of light.”

When Jesus had finished speaking, he went away and kept out of sight.

Many People Believe, but They Are Afraid

³⁷People were not believing in Jesus, even though he had performed so many proofs from God^d in front of them. ³⁸The message of Isaiah the prophet has come true:

“Lord, who believed our report?
To whom did the Lord God
show His power?” (*Isaiah 53:1*)

b 12:32 meaning, when Jesus was raised onto the cross

c 12:34 literally, “lifted high”

d 12:37 literally, “miracles” or “signs”

a 12:31 the Devil

³⁹They could not believe for the reason given by Isaiah:

40“Their eyes are blind. Their hearts are hard. Otherwise, they could see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn. Then I could heal them.”
(*Isaiah 6:10*)

⁴¹Isaiah said these things, because he saw Jesus’ glory. Isaiah was talking about Jesus.

⁴²Many people, even some of the leaders, believed in Jesus. But they would not say that they believed, because they were afraid of the Pharisees. They didn’t want to be thrown out of the synagogues.

⁴³They loved praise from man more than praise from God.

Believing Jesus = Believing God, the Father

⁴⁴Jesus cried out, “The person who believes in **me** is not only believing in **me**, but also in the One who sent me.

⁴⁵The person who sees **me** sees the One who sent me.

⁴⁶“I have come like light into the world, so that every person who believes in **me** will not stay in the darkness. ⁴⁷If someone hears my words and does not obey them, I am not the one who judges him now. I came to save the world, not to judge

it. ⁴⁸The person who rejects **me** and does not accept my words has something to condemn him—the very message which I spoke. That message will condemn him on the last day. ⁴⁹I have not spoken on my own. The Father Himself sent me. He told me precisely what to say. ⁵⁰I know that His command is eternal life. I am saying exactly what the Father said to me.”

Jesus Washes Their Feet

13¹Just before the Passover Festival,^a Jesus knew that his time had come. He must pass from this world to the Father. Jesus loved his own people in the world; he loved them to the very end.

²It was time for the evening meal. The Devil had already put it in Judas’ heart to turn against Jesus. (Judas Iscariot was the son of Simon.)

³Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands. He knew that he had come from God and that he was going back to God. ⁴Jesus got up from the evening meal and laid his clothes aside. He took a towel and wrapped it around his waist. ⁵Then Jesus put water into a pan. He began to wash his followers’ feet. He dried their feet with the towel which was around his waist. ⁶Then Jesus came to

^a 13:1 one of the most important Jewish holidays. It celebrated deliverance from Egypt.

Simon Peter. Peter asked him, “Lord, are **you** going to wash my feet!?”

⁷Jesus answered him, “**You** may not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand it later.”

⁸Peter said to him, “You will **never** wash my feet!”

Jesus answered him, “If I don’t wash you, you are not sharing with **me**.”

⁹Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, wash not only my feet; wash my hands and head, too!”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The person who has already had a bath needs only to wash his feet when they get dirty; his whole body is clean. You are clean—but not all of you!” ¹¹(Jesus knew who was turning against him. That is why Jesus said, “Not all of you are clean!”)

¹²After Jesus had washed their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down at the table again. He asked them, “Do you know what I have just done to you?”

¹³**You** call me “The Teacher” and “The Lord.” You are right, because **I am**. ¹⁴Since **I**, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, **you** ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵**I** have given you an example. **You** should do things for others as **I** have done for you. ¹⁶**I** am telling you the truth: A slave is not more important than his master. A messenger is not more important than the one who sent

him. ¹⁷Since you know these things, you will be happy if you practice them. ¹⁸**I** am not talking about all of you. **I** know the ones whom **I** have chosen. The Scripture must come true:

“The person who was eating my food turned against **me**!”
(*Psalms 41:9*)

¹⁹“**I** am telling you now, before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe that **I** am the Messiah. ²⁰**I** am telling you the truth: If anyone accepts someone whom **I** send, he is accepting **me**, too! The person who accepts **me** is accepting the One who sent me.” ²¹After Jesus said these things, he was very troubled in his spirit. He told them openly, “**I** am telling you the truth: One of you will turn against me!”

“Do It Quickly!”

Matthew 26:20-25; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-23

²²Jesus’ followers began looking at one another. They were wondering which one he was talking about. ²³One of his followers, the one whom Jesus loved,^a was sitting very close to Jesus. ²⁴Simon Peter signaled to this follower. Peter wanted him to ask Jesus, “Which one are you talking

^a 13:23 probably John the Apostle

about?” ²⁵So, that follower moved even closer to Jesus and whispered to him, “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶Jesus answered, “After I dip this piece of bread in the sauce, I will give it to that person.” Then Jesus took a piece of bread and dipped it into the sauce and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷When this happened, Satan got into Judas. Then Jesus said to him, “Do what you plan to do quickly!” ²⁸None of the guests knew why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹Since Judas kept the group’s bag of money, some were thinking that Jesus meant: “Buy what we need for the feast.” or “Give something to the poor people.” ³⁰So, Judas took the piece of bread and went out immediately. And it was night.

Love One Another

³¹After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now I^a am given glory and, in me,^b God is given glory. ³²Since God is given glory in me, God will give me glory for myself.^c And, He will do that immediately. ³³Little children, I am still with you a little while longer. Just as I said to the Jewish leaders, ‘You will look for me, but where I am going **you** cannot come.’ I am saying the same thing to you now. ³⁴I am

a 13:31 literally, “the Son of Man”

b 13:31 literally, “the Son of Man”

c 13:32 Jesus was nailed to the cross. Compare John 3:14.

giving to you a new command—love one another. **You** must love one another, just as I loved you. ³⁵You must have love for one another. That is how everyone will know that you are **my** followers.”

Would You Give Up Your Life for Me?

Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31;

Luke 22:31-34

³⁶Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered him, “I am going where you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later.”

³⁷Peter said to him, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I would give up my life for you!”

³⁸Jesus answered, “Would you give up your life for **me**!? I am telling you the truth: Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say that you don’t even know me. You will do it three different times!”

Don’t Be Troubled

14¹“Don’t let your heart be troubled. You trust in God; trust in **me**, too. ²There are many rooms in my Father’s House. I would have told you, if that were not true. I am taking a trip to prepare a place for you. ³Since I am leaving to prepare a place for you, you can be sure that I will come back and take you with

me, so that **you** will be where I am.
⁴You know the road to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! The only way anyone can come to the Father is through **me**! ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father. But even now, you do know Him and you have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father; that would be enough for us.”

⁹Jesus asked him, “Philip, have I been with you such a long time and you have not known me? The person who has seen **me** has seen the Father! How can **you** say, ‘Show us the Father.’? ¹⁰You believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in **me**, don’t you? The words which I am using to speak to you are not words I use on my own. The Father performs His miracles; He stays in **me**.

¹¹Believe me, I am in the Father and the Father is in **me**. At least believe, because of these miracles. ¹²I am telling you the truth: The person who believes in **me** will do the same deeds that I am performing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do

whatever you ask for in my name. The Father will receive glory in the Son.
¹⁴If you ask me for something in my name, I will do it.”

The Holy Spirit

¹⁵“If you love me, obey **my** commands. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷I will ask my Father and He will give to you another Comforter—the Spirit of truth. He will be with you forever. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they don’t see him or know him, but **you** know him because he stays with you—and he will be in you. ¹⁸I will not abandon you, as though you were orphans. I am coming to you. ¹⁹A little longer and the people of the world will not see me anymore. However, **you** will see me. **You** will live, because I live. ²⁰At that time, **you** will know that I am in my Father, you are in **me**, and I am in you. ²¹The person who accepts my commands and obeys them is the one who truly loves me. My Father will love the person who loves me, and I will love him and make myself known to him.”

²²Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said to Jesus, “Lord, what has happened that you are ready to reveal yourself to **us**, but not to the people of the world?”

²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me and obeys my teaching, then my Father will love him. We

will come and live with him. ²⁴The person who does not love me will not obey my teachings. The message you are hearing is not **mine**; it belongs to the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am staying with you. ²⁶The Comforter will teach you everything. He will cause you to remember everything I have told you. He is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send him with my authority. ²⁷I am leaving peace with you. I am giving to you **my** peace. This peace that I am giving you is not like the type that the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or afraid.

²⁸“You have heard **me** say to you: ‘I am leaving, but I will come back to you.’ If you really loved me, you would be glad that I am traveling to the Father. The Father is greater than I am. ²⁹Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you will believe. ³⁰I will not say many more things while I am with you. The ruler of the world^a is coming. He can do nothing to **me**. ³¹I must do as my Father ordered me, so that the people of the world may know that I love the Father. Get up! Let us go away from here.”

Jesus Is the True Vine

15¹“I am the True Vine. My Father is the Farmer. ²My Father takes away any branch in **me** which is not producing fruit. My Father trims each branch which is producing fruit, so that it will produce more fruit. ³**You** are already clean, because of the message which I have spoken to you. ⁴Stay in **me**, and I will stay in you. No branch can produce fruit on its own; it must stay on the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce, unless you stay in **me**. ⁵I am the Vine; you are the branches. Who will produce much fruit? The person who stays in **me** and in whom I stay. You can do nothing without **me**! ⁶If someone does not stay in **me**, he is like a branch which is thrown away. He dries up. People gather dead branches and throw them into the fire, and they burn up. ⁷If you stay in **me** and my words stay in you, then you may ask for whatever you want and it will happen for you. ⁸You must produce much fruit and be **my** followers. This is how my Father gets glory. ⁹I love you, just as the Father loves me. Stay in **my** love. ¹⁰I have obeyed my Father’s commands and I stay in His love. If you obey my commands, then you will stay in my love.

¹¹“I have said these things to you, so that **my** joy may be in you and

a 14:30 the Devil

your joy may be complete. ¹²This is **my** command: Love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³Suppose someone gives up his life for his friends. No one has a greater love than this.

¹⁴**You** are my friends, if you do what I tell you to do. ¹⁵I am no longer calling you ‘slaves,’ because a slave doesn’t know what his master is doing. I am calling you ‘friends,’ because I have revealed to you everything which I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶**You** did not choose me; I chose you! I have appointed **you** to go and produce fruit. Your fruit will last. My Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ¹⁷Love one another! I am ordering you to do this.”

The World will Hate You, Too!

¹⁸“If the people of the world hate you, remember that they hated **me** first. ¹⁹If you were from the world, the people of the world would love their own people. I chose you from out of the world. You are not in the world anymore. That is why the people of the world hate you. ²⁰Do you remember the lesson I taught you: ‘No slave is more important than his master.’? Since they persecuted **me**, they will also persecute you. Since they obeyed my teaching, they will obey your teaching, too. ²¹The people of the world will do all these

things to you, because of my name; they didn’t know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and talked to them, they would not be so guilty, but now, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³A person who hates **me** hates my Father, too. ²⁴They would not be so guilty if I had not performed deeds among them which no one has ever done. But they have now seen the miracles. They have hated **me** and my Father. ²⁵It was necessary for this verse written in their law to come true:

‘They have no reason to hate me.’
(*Psalms 35:19*)

²⁶“I will send you the Comforter from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth who is coming out from the Father. When he comes, he will tell the truth about **me**. ²⁷**You** will testify, too, because you were with **me** from the very beginning.”

They’ll Throw You Out!

16¹“I have said these things to you, so that you will not be led into sin. ²They will throw you out of the synagogues. The time is coming when each person who kills you will think he is offering service to God! ³They don’t know the Father or **me**. That is why they will do these things. ⁴But I have told you these things, so when the time comes, you

will remember that I warned you.

“I did not tell you this in the beginning because I was with you, ⁵but now I am going to the One who sent me. Not one of you is asking me: ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶You feel very sad, because I have told you these things. ⁷But I am telling you the truth: If I leave, it is really better for you. If I don’t leave, the Comforter won’t come to you. However, if I do go away, I will send him to you. ⁸He will prove that the people of the world^a are wrong about sin, wrong about what is right, and wrong about judgment: ⁹about sin, because they are not believing in **me**; ¹⁰about what is right, because I am going to the Father and you will not see me anymore; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot take it right now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own authority. He will say whatever he hears. He will tell you about things to come. ¹⁴He will give **me** glory. He will take what I am saying and will tell it to you. ¹⁵Everything that belongs to my Father belongs to **me**, too. This is why I said, ‘He will take what I am saying and tell it to you.’”

^a 16:8 those who have turned away from God

In a Little While

¹⁶Jesus said, “In a little while, you will not see me anymore, but then, after a little while, you will see me!”

¹⁷Some of Jesus’ followers said to one another, “What is the meaning of what he told us: ‘In a little while, you will not see me anymore, but then, after a little while, you will see me.’ and ‘I am going to the Father.’?” ¹⁸What does this ‘little while’ mean? We don’t know what he is talking about!”

¹⁹Jesus knew that they were wanting to ask him a question. He said to them, “Were you arguing with one another about what I said: ‘In a little while, you won’t see me anymore, but then, after a little while you will see me.’?” ²⁰I am telling you the truth: **You** will cry and be sad, but the people of the world will be glad. You will be full of sorrow, but your sorrow will change into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has much pain. Her time has come. But, after the child is born, she no longer remembers the suffering; she is so happy that a human being is born into the world. ²²**You** may have pain now, but I will see you again. Your heart will be glad. No one will be able to take your joy away from you. ²³At that time, you will ask **me** no questions. I am telling you the truth:

The Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ²⁴So far, you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask now, and you will receive. Your joy will be complete.”

Jesus Is Going Home

²⁵“I have used symbolic examples ^a to tell you about these things. The time is coming when I will no longer use examples like that. I will speak plainly to you. I will tell you about the Father. ²⁶At that time, you will use my name to ask for things. I am not saying to you that I will ask the Father for your sake. ²⁷The Father Himself loves you, because you have loved **me** and have believed that I came forth from God. ²⁸I did come forth from the Father and I have come into the world. But now, I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

²⁹Jesus’ followers said, “Listen, now you are talking plainly. You are not using figurative language anymore. ³⁰Now we **know** that you know everything! There is no need for anyone to ask you more questions. This is why we believe that you came forth from God.”

³¹Jesus asked them, “Do you believe now? ³²Listen, the time is coming—it’s already here—when you will all be scattered, every man for himself. You will abandon me. However, I am

really not alone; the Father is with **me**. ³³I have said these things to you, so that you may have peace in **me**. You will have trouble in the world, but be strong; I have conquered the world.”

Jesus’ Prayer

17¹After Jesus said these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “O Father, the time has come. Bring glory to Your Son, so that Your Son may bring glory to You. ²You have given him authority over all mankind. To each one that You have given the Son You will give eternal life. ³This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one whom You sent. ⁴I have brought You glory on the earth. I finished the work which You gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, give me glory—the glory I had with You when I was with You before the world existed.

⁶“I have revealed Your Name to all the individuals whom You gave to me from the world. They belong to You. And, You gave them to me. They have obeyed Your teaching. ⁷They now know that everything You have given to me comes from You. ⁸I have given them the words which You gave to me. **They** have received them. They knew I really did come forth from You. They believed that **You** sent me.

^a 16:25 figurative language

⁹“I am praying for them, not for the world. I am praying for those men You have given to me, because they belong to You. ¹⁰Everything that is **mine** is Yours. Everything that is Yours is **mine**, too. In them I have received glory. ¹¹I am not in the world anymore, but my apostles are in the world. I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your Name, the Name which You have given to me. May they be united, as we are. ¹²When I was with them, I was always keeping them in Your Name, the Name which You have given to me. I have protected them. Not one of them was lost—only the child of destruction. (The Scripture must come true.) ¹³Now I am coming to You. I am saying these things in the world, so that these men may have **my** complete joy in them. ¹⁴I have given them Your message. The people of the world hated them, because they don’t come from this world. I am not from this world, either. ¹⁵I do not pray that You take them out of the world—just keep them from the evil one.^a ¹⁶I don’t come from the world; they don’t come from the world, either. ¹⁷Your message is the truth. May the truth make them holy! ¹⁸I sent them into the world, just as You sent **me** into the world.

¹⁹“I keep myself holy for them, so

^a 17:15 the Devil

that **they** will be holy by the truth.

²⁰“I pray not only for my apostles, but also for the people who believe in **me** through their teaching. ²¹May all of them be united, just as You, O Father, are in **me**, and I am in You. I pray that they will be in us, so that the people of the world may believe that **You** sent me. ²²I have given to them the glory that You have given to me. May they be united, as we are united; ²³I am in them, and You are in **me**. May they be completely united, so that the people of the world will know that You sent me and that You loved them as You loved **me**.

²⁴“Father, You loved me before the world was created. You have given me glory. I want them to see it. I want them to be with **me**, where I will be.

²⁵“Righteous Father, the people of the world do not know You, but I know You. These men here know that **You** sent me. ²⁶I revealed Your Name to them and I will reveal it. I want them to have Your love in them, the same love that You have for me. I want to be in them, too.”

Jesus Prays in the Garden

Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50;

Luke 22:47-53

18¹After Jesus had said these things, he and his followers went out across Kidron Creek, where there was a garden. They went into

the garden. ²Judas (the one who turned against Jesus) also knew the place. Jesus often met there with his followers. ³Then Judas took a group of soldiers and some temple guards who were sent there by the most important priests and Pharisees. They had torches, lanterns, and weapons. ⁴Jesus knew everything which was going to happen to him. He stepped forward and said to them, “Who are you looking for?”

⁵They answered him, “Jesus from Nazareth!”

Jesus said to them, “I am the one.”

Judas (the one who turned against Jesus) was standing there with them. ⁶When Jesus said, “I am the one,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

They said, “Jesus from Nazareth.”

⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am the one. Since you are looking for **me**, let these men go free.” ⁹(Jesus said that to make this come true: “I have not lost any of those whom You have given to me.”)^a

¹⁰Simon Peter had a sword. He pulled it out and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹Then Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its place! The Father has given to me this cup

of suffering. Shouldn’t I drink it?”

They Arrest Jesus

Matthew 26:57-58; Mark 14:53-54; Luke 22:54

¹²The commanding officer, his group of soldiers, and the Jewish temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. ¹³They brought him first to Hannas who was Caiaphas’ father-in-law. Caiaphas was the high priest that year.^b ¹⁴(He had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be better for one man to die for all of the people.)^c

Peter Falls Away

Matthew 26:69-70; Mark 14:66-68; Luke 22:55-57

¹⁵Simon Peter and another follower went along behind Jesus, but the high priest knew the other follower. This man went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. ¹⁶Peter stood outside at the gate. The other follower, the one known to the high priest, went outside and told the gatekeeper to let Peter come in. ¹⁷The girl who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, “**You** are one of this man’s followers, aren’t you?”

Peter answered, “I am not!”

¹⁸The servants and the guards were standing there. They had made

b 18:13 Annas was high priest (retired). All five of his sons had been high priests for short periods of time. Caiaphas was his son-in-law.

c 18:14 See John 11:49-52.

a 18:9 See John 17:12.

a charcoal fire because it was cold. They were warming themselves. Peter stood with them and warmed himself, too.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

Matthew 26:59-66; Mark 14:55-64;

Luke 22:66-71

¹⁹The high priest asked Jesus about his followers and about his doctrine. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken plainly to the world. I always taught where Jewish people gather—in the synagogues and in the temple courtyard. I have said nothing secretly. ²¹Why ask me? Ask those who heard me. Look, they know what I said.” ²²When Jesus said this, one of the guards who was standing there struck Jesus. This man asked, “Is that the way to answer the high priest?”

²³Jesus answered him, “If I said something wrong, show me what it was. If it was good, then why did you hit me?”

²⁴Then Hannas sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

Matthew 26:71-75; Mark 14:69-72;

Luke 22:58-62

²⁵Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. Then they said to him, “**You** too are one of Jesus’ followers, aren’t you?”

Peter said it was not true. He said,

“I am not!”

²⁶One of the high priest’s servants said, “I saw you with Jesus in the garden.” (This man was a relative of Malchus. Peter had cut off Malchus’ ear.)

²⁷Again, Peter denied it. Immediately the rooster crowed.

They Bring Jesus to Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2,11-14; Mark 15:1-5;

Luke 23:1-5

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman fortress. It was early in the morning. **They** didn’t go into the fortress, because they didn’t want to be made unclean. If so, they would not be permitted to eat the Passover lamb.^a ²⁹So, Pilate went outside where they were. He asked, “What charge are you making against this man?”

³⁰They answered Pilate, “If he were not a criminal, we would not be giving him to you.”

³¹Pilate said to them, “**You** take him and judge him by your own law.”

Then the Jewish leaders said to him, “Under Roman law, it is not legal for us to execute anyone.” ³²(The Jewish leaders said this, so that what Jesus said would come true. This was showing what kind of death Jesus was about to suffer.)

a 18:28 During the Festival, Jews were commanded to sacrifice a lamb to remember the blood which protected their ancestors. (See Exo. 12.)

³³Pilate went back into the fortress. He called for Jesus and asked him, “Are **you** the King of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Are **you** saying this on your own, or did someone else tell you this about **me**?”

³⁵Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? The leading priests and your own people turned you over to **me**! What have you done?”

³⁶Jesus answered, “**My** kingdom does not come from this world. If it did, **my** servants would be fighting to keep the Jewish leaders from giving me to you. **My** kingdom is not from here.”

³⁷Pilate said to him, “So then, you **are** a king!”

Jesus answered, “**You** say that I am a king. The reason I was born, the reason why I have come into the world is to give evidence for the truth. Every person who listens to my voice comes from the truth.”

³⁸Pilate asked, “What is truth?”

Jesus Is Sentenced to Die

Matthew 27:15-25; Mark 15:6-14;

Luke 23:13-23

After this, Pilate went back out to the Jewish leaders. He said to them, “I find nothing to charge this man with!

³⁹You have a custom that I set one prisoner free at each Passover time. You decide; should I set the King of the Jews free?”

⁴⁰Again, they yelled, “No! Not this man! Set Barabbas free instead!” (Barabbas was a criminal.)

Jesus must Die on the Cross

Matthew 27:26-31; Mark 15:15-20;

Luke 23:24-25

19¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had them whip him. ²The soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches. They put it on Jesus’ head and put a purple^a robe around him. ³They kept coming up to Jesus and saying, “Hail! O King of the Jews!” They hit him many times.

⁴Pilate went back out and spoke to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you will know that I find nothing wrong with him.”

⁵Then Jesus came outside. He was wearing the thorny crown and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Look at the man!”

⁶When the most important priests and the temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted, “Nail him to a cross! Nail him to a cross!”

Pilate said to them, “**You** take him and nail him to a cross! I find nothing wrong with him.”

⁷But the Jewish leaders answered him, “**We** have a law. According to the law, he must die, because he made himself God’s Son!”

^a 19:2 signifying royalty. They were mocking Jesus in this case.

⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹So Pilate went back into the fortress and asked Jesus, “Where do **you** come from?” Jesus did not give him an answer.

¹⁰Then Pilate said to him, “Aren’t you speaking to **me**? Surely you must know I have authority to set you free and I have authority to nail you to a cross!”

¹¹Jesus answered Pilate, “You have no authority over **me** at all, unless it has been given to you by God! That is why the man who gave me to you has even more guilt.”

¹²From this time on, Pilate tried hard to set Jesus free.

But the Jewish leaders continued to yell, “If you set this man free, you are not ‘Caesar’s friend’! Anyone who makes himself a king is speaking against Caesar!”

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. Pilate sat down on the judge’s seat. He was at a place called “The Stone Pavement.” (In the Aramaic language, the name was Gabbatha.) ¹⁴It was about noon on the day before the Passover Festival. Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, “Look, your King!”

¹⁵They yelled, “Take him away! Take him away! Nail him to a cross!”

Pilate said to them, “Should I nail your King to a cross?”

The most important priests answered, “The only king we have is Caesar!” ¹⁶Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be nailed to the cross. So they took hold of Jesus.

Jesus on the Cross

**Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32;
Luke 23:26-43**

¹⁷Jesus was carrying his own cross. He went out to the place which was called Skull Place. (In Aramaic, it is named Golgotha.)

¹⁸This is where they nailed him to the cross, along with two other men. Jesus’ cross was between the crosses of the other two men.

¹⁹Pilate made a sign and put it on Jesus’ cross. It read:

“JESUS FROM NAZARETH,
THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

²⁰Many Jewish people read this sign. This place where Jesus was crucified was near the city of Jerusalem. The sign was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.

²¹The most important Jewish priests kept saying to Pilate, “Don’t write: ‘The King of the Jews’! Instead, you should write: ‘This man **said**, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”

²²Pilate answered, “What I have written stays written!”

²³After the soldiers had nailed

Jesus to the cross, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts—one for each soldier, but the robe remained. This robe was seamless—completely made of one piece of woven cloth.²⁴ They said to one another, “Let’s not tear it. Let’s gamble for it, to see who will get it!” This happened to make this Scripture come true:

“They divided my clothes among themselves. They gambled for my clothing.” (*Psalms 22:18*)

That is what the soldiers did.

²⁵Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary from the town of Magdala stood near the cross. ²⁶Jesus saw his mother and the follower whom he loved standing there. He said to his mother, “Woman, look at your son.”^a ²⁷Then Jesus said to that follower, “Look at your mother.”^b From that moment on, that follower accepted Mary as his own mother.

Jesus Dies!

Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41;

Luke 23:44-49

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that everything was finished, he said this to make the Scripture come true:

a **19:26** probably John the Apostle

b **19:27** meaning, Mary. Here John is being told to take care of Mary, to adopt her as his own mother.

“I am thirsty.”²⁹ There was a jar full of sour wine nearby. So they soaked a sponge in it and put it on a long stick.^c Then they brought this to Jesus’ mouth. ³⁰After Jesus drank some of it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and died.

³¹The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses during the sabbath day. This sabbath was a very important one. So, since it was Friday,^d they asked Pilate to hurry their death by breaking their legs. Then they could carry them away. Pilate allowed it. ³²The soldiers came to the first man and broke his legs, and then to the other man who had been nailed to a cross, too. ³³But when they came to Jesus, they saw that Jesus was already dead. They did not break his legs, ³⁴but one of the soldiers did plunge his spear into Jesus’ side. Immediately, blood and water flowed out. ³⁵The person who saw it has given proof. His testimony is true. You know he is speaking the truth. **You** must believe, too. ³⁶These things happened to make this Scripture come true:

“Not one of his bones will be broken.” (*Exodus 12:46*)

³⁷Another Scripture says:

c **19:29** literally, (the branch of) “a hyssop plant”. It was about one yard long.

d **19:31** literally, “Preparation (Day)”

“They will look upon
the one they wounded.”
(*Zechariah 12:10*)

Joseph of Harimathea

Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47;

Luke 23:50-56

³⁸After this, Joseph, a man from the town of Harimathea, asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body away. Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus, because Joseph was afraid of the Jewish leaders. Pilate allowed Joseph to do this. Then Joseph came and took Jesus' body away. ³⁹Nicodemus came, too. (Earlier he had come to Jesus at night.)^a He mixed myrrh and aloes^b together and brought about 75 pounds of it. ⁴⁰The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in sheets with the sweet-smelling spices. (This is the way Jews bury their dead.) ⁴¹The place where Jesus was nailed to the cross was next to a garden. The garden had a new tomb in it. No one had been put there yet. ⁴²There was not much time—it was Friday.^c So, because the tomb was near, they placed Jesus in it.

a 19:39 See John 3:1-13.

b 19:39 a substance from a plant which smells sweet. It was used both as a medicine and for perfume.

c 19:42 literally, “the Jewish Preparation (Day)”. The Sabbath would begin at sunset.

The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8;

Luke 24:1-12

20¹It was very early on Sunday morning. It was still dark. Mary (the one from Magdala) came to the tomb. She saw the stone moved away from the tomb.

²Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and the other follower whom Jesus loved. She said to them, “They have taken away the Lord Jesus from the tomb! We don't know where they put him!”

³Then Peter and the other follower left. They went to the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running, but the other follower outran Peter. He arrived at the tomb first. ⁵He bent down and saw the sheets lying there, but he did not go inside. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following. Peter went into the tomb. He also saw the sheets lying there. ⁷But the handkerchief which had been on Jesus' face was not lying with the sheets. Instead, it was all alone, in one place—folded up. ⁸Then the other follower, who had come to the tomb first, also went in. He saw and he believed. ⁹(They did not yet know the Scripture which said that Jesus must rise from death.)

¹⁰The two followers went back home.

Jesus Appears to Mary

Mark 16:9-11

¹¹Mary was standing outside the tomb, crying. While she was crying, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels dressed in white clothes. They were seated where Jesus' body had been lying—one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She answered them, "They took my Lord away! I don't know where they put him!"

¹⁴After she said this, she turned around. She saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking that Jesus was the gardener, she said to him, "Mister, if **you** carried him off, tell me where you put him and I will take him away."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Jesus in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (This word means "My Teacher!")

¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Don't cling to me; I have not yet gone up to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them this: 'I am going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and to your God.'"

¹⁸Mary (the one from Magdala) went and told the followers, "I have

seen the Lord Jesus!" She told them that he had talked with her.

Jesus Appears Again

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18;

Luke 24:36-49; Acts 1:6-8

¹⁹It was late that same Sunday. The doors were locked where the followers were gathered. They were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood in the middle of them. He said to them, "Peace be to you!" ²⁰After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the followers saw the Lord Jesus, they were happy. ²¹Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. I am sending you just as the Father has sent me." ²²After Jesus said this, he breathed on them^a and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! ²³If you say some people are forgiven, then they are forgiven. But, if you say that the sins of some people are not forgiven, then they are not forgiven."

Doubting Thomas

²⁴Thomas (the one called "The Twin") was one of the twelve apostles. He was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵The other followers continued to tell Thomas, "We have seen the Lord Jesus!"

^a 20:22 Here the prophet Jesus was demonstrating inspiration.

Thomas said to them, “I will never believe it, unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands, unless I put my finger into the marks of the nails, unless I put my hand into his side!”

²⁶A week later, Jesus’ followers were inside again. Thomas was with them, too. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood in the middle of them and said, “Peace be to you!” ²⁷Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Look at my hands! Put your finger here. Bring your hand here and put it in my side. Stop doubting and start believing!”

²⁸Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to him, “You have believed, because you have seen me. The happy ones are those who have not seen me and yet who believe.”

Why This Book was Written

³⁰Jesus showed many more proofs from God in front of his followers, but those are not written in this book.

³¹These proofs have been written, so that you, the readers, might believe this: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have eternal life by his name.

Jesus Appears in Galilee

21 ¹Later, Jesus showed himself again to the followers at Lake Tiberias. This is the way he showed himself: ²Simon Peter,

Thomas (the one called “The Twin”), Nathanael (the one from the town of Cana in Galilee), the sons of Zebedee, and two more followers were all together. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing!”

They said to him, “We are coming with you, too!” They went out and got into a boat. They caught nothing that night. ⁴It was now early in the morning. Jesus stood on the shore, but the followers didn’t know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Young men, you haven’t caught anything, have you?”

They answered, “That’s right.”

⁶Jesus said to them, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some fish.” They did so. There were so many fish that they were no longer able to pull the net into the boat. ⁷Then the follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “That is the Lord Jesus!” When Simon Peter heard this, he put on his clothes (he was stripped) and he jumped into the lake. ⁸They were near the shore, about 100 yards away. The other followers came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. ⁹When they got to shore, they saw hot coals, with some fish and bread cooking on them.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter got into the boat

and dragged the net to shore. The net was full of big fish—153 of them! As many as there were, the net was still not torn.

¹²Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast!” None of the followers dared to ask Jesus, “Who are **you**?” They **knew** that he was the Lord.

¹³Jesus went and got some bread and fish. He gave it to them. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus showed himself to the followers after he was raised from death.

Do You Love Me?

¹⁵After they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, **you** know that I like you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶Jesus asked Peter the second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter said to him, “Yes, Lord, **you** know that I like you.”

Jesus said to him, “Be a shepherd to my sheep.”

¹⁷Jesus asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you like me?”

Peter was sad, because the third time Jesus asked, “Do you **like** me?” Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, **you** know everything. **You** know that I like **you**!”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep!

¹⁸I am telling you the truth, Peter, when you were younger, you tied your own belt and you walked where you wanted to go. But when you get old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you. They will carry you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹(Jesus said this to show what kind of death would be used to bring glory to God.) After Jesus said this, he said to Peter, “Follow me!”

Jesus Talks about John

²⁰Peter turned and saw the follower coming behind them. (This was the man whom Jesus loved, the one who had been sitting at the supper table very close to Jesus. He had asked Jesus, “Lord, who is the one who is turning against you?”) ²¹When Peter saw this man, he said to Jesus, “Lord, . . . and what about this man?”

²²Jesus said to him, “If I want him to stay alive until I come, what business is it of yours? **You** follow me!” ²³So this rumor went out to the brothers: “That follower will not die.” But Jesus did not say to him that he would not die. Jesus said, “If I want him to stay until I come, what business is it of yours?”

²⁴He is the follower who wrote these things. He is the one who is giving proof about these things. We know that his testimony is true.

Conclusion

²⁵Also, there are many other things which Jesus did. If each one of them were written down, I suppose that the whole world could not contain the books which could be written.