

STORIES OF THE BIBLE

NEW TESTAMENT

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Introduction to the New Testament through Stories

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The study of the New Testament is sacred history, which, unlike secular history, was written under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. The study of the New Testament is a record of historical events, the ‘good news’ events of the saving life of the Lord Jesus Christ—His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and the continuation of His work in the world—which is explained and applied by the apostles whom He chose and sent into the world. The events recorded in this book are the fulfillment of those events long anticipated by the Old Testament. This means it, like the Old Testament, is protected from human error and possesses divine authority for the church today and throughout human history until the Lord Himself returns.

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THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHAPTER I

Luke 1-2. John 2

400 years had passed since a prophet of God had warned Israel to live for God, but God had not forgotten his people. He had made a promise to Abraham. It was now time for a messenger to come forth and announce the coming of the Messiah.

While Herod was King, there was a priest living in Judea who was named Zechariahs. He and his wife, Elizabeth, loved God and obeyed His commandments, but their lives were incomplete, for they had no children.

One day when Zechariahs was in the Temple of God burning incense to the Lord, an angel came to him. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, for God has answered your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth shall have a son, and you are to name him John. Because of his birth, you will have joy and gladness. Many people will be glad. He shall be great in the sight of the Lord. He is to drink no strong drink. Your son will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time of his birth. Because of him, many of the people living in Israel will serve the Lord.

Zechariahs asked the angel how this could be, for he and Elizabeth were too old to have children. The angel answered. "I am Gabriel. God has sent me, but because you have doubted God's message, you will not be able to speak until your son is born".

Three months before John was born, God sent His angel Gabriel to visit a young virgin named Mary. Mary lived in Galilee in a city called Nazareth. Young Mary was engaged to marry a carpenter named Joseph. Both Mary and Joseph were descendants of King David.

The angel said to Mary, "You are highly favored among women. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of God shall overshadow you. The Holy Child that is born unto you shall be the Son of God. His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save the people from their sins." Mary believed the angel and said, "Let it be as you have said."

As soon as the angel Gabriel departed, Mary went in the hill country where her cousin Elizabeth lived. When Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the Spirit of the Lord came upon her and she said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth told Mary that as soon as her voice had entered into her ears that her unborn baby leaped for joy. Elizabeth said, "You are blessed because you believed. Those things which the Lord told you shall come to pass."

Mary said, "My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour, for He has regarded me, a lowly handmaiden. For all generations shall call me blessed. For God that is mighty has done great things, and Holy is His name." Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and returned home.

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth to her child and she bore a son. The neighbors and relatives wanted to name him Zechariahs after the name of his father. The mother said, "No, he shall be called John." The people made signs to ask the father what the child should be named. Zechariahs wrote on a pad, saying, "His name is John."

As soon as Zechariahs had written his son's name on the pad, his tongue was loosed, and he could speak. He praised God and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. He has brought salvation to the house of his servant David." Zechariahs told of the work that God did through the words of the holy prophets. He said that a child would come which would be called the prophet of the highest. He would prepare the way so that the knowledge of salvation might come to the people.

It was a custom among the Jews that marriage vows were said when a couple became engaged to be married. To break this vows, there had to be a divorce. Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, did not want to make her a public example, but dissolve the engagement by divorce. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived of the Holy Ghost. She shall have a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." When Joseph awakened, he did as the angel had told him and took Mary as his wife. He did not know her as a wife until after the birth of Jesus.

Joseph and Mary lived in the part of the Roman Empire called Judea. They had to obey the laws of Rome. Every man and woman who lived in the land must pay taxes. Therefore, they had to go to Bethlehem, the City of David, to pay their taxes.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth. They were unable to find a room in a house or hotel, so they were staying in a shelter for animals. When the child was born, they wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Shepherds near Bethlehem were watching their flocks on the night that Jesus was born. Suddenly the angel of the Lord came near them and a great light shone through the darkness. The shepherds were afraid. The angel said, "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a saviour, which is Christ the Lord, and you shall find him wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest."

When Jesus was born, a star arose over the town of Bethlehem. A star shined brighter than any other star in the sky.

Wise men who lived in the East came to King Herod and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Herod gathered his wise men together and demanded of them where Christ should be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea as it is written by the prophet."

Herod asked the wise men where the star had first appeared, and sent them to Bethlehem after he said, "Search carefully, and when you have found this king, bring me word so I can go and worship him."

As the wise men traveled to Bethlehem, the star went before them. When they came to the house where Jesus and his family were now staying, they fell down and worshipped him. They gave unto him presents of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God warned the wise men in a dream that Herod intended to destroy Jesus, so they went back to their own country by another way.

When the wise men were departed, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into Egypt. Stay there until I bring you word to leave, for Herod will try to destroy him."

Joseph arose in the night, took the child and Mary, and departed into Egypt.

When they heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, was now the king of Judea, they were afraid to go back. God told Joseph in a dream to go into parts of Galilee. Here, they lived in the city of Nazareth.

Some time later, Joseph took his family to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice. He offered a pair of turtledoves and two young pigeons. There was an old man named Simeon in the temple at the time of the offering. He had been promised from God that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour. When Jesus was brought into the temple, The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that this child was the promised Saviour. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and said, "Now my God, let me depart in peace, for I have seen with my eyes the salvation which God has sent. He shall be a light to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." Also staying the temple was an old woman named Anna. She had served God faithfully all her life. When she saw Jesus, she, too gave thanks to God.

Can you rejoice with the angels and be glad because God sent his son Jesus into the world to bring salvation? You can have that salvation by accepting him as your saviour and calling upon him. He will not cast you away. Please pray this prayer with sincerity.

THE EARLY YEARS OF JESUS

CHAPTER 2

Matt. 2-4, Mark, 1, John 1-2

The Lordship of Jesus was verified by both Simeon and to Anna at the time of the offering when Joseph and Mary were in the Holy Temple. They remained faithful to God's direction. King Herod had asked the wise men from the East where Jesus was to be born. They told him that Jesus was to be born in the city of Bethlehem.

Herod had also told them to find Jesus and report back to him. God warned the wise men that King Herod intended to kill Jesus. Because of this, they returned home a different way.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother to Egypt and remain there until I tell you to leave." Joseph arose in the night, took his family and went to Egypt. Later, King Herod died, but when Joseph heard that Herod's son was the new king of Judea, he was afraid to return. God warned Joseph in a dream to go to Galilee. In Galilee, they lived in the city of Nazareth.

After the Passover, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary did not know that he had stayed in Jerusalem because they were traveling in a group. When they had gone a day's journey from Jerusalem, they looked for him among their relatives and others in the company, but could not find him. They returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days of searching, they found Jesus. He was in the Temple sitting with the great teachers. He was listening, asking, and answering questions. Every one who heard Jesus was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, Mary said, "Why have you done this? I have been in great sorrow looking for you. Jesus said to his mother, "Why did you look for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand this saying.

John the Baptist began his ministry by preaching in the wilderness of Judea. He preached, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this are the one that was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, saying, and "The voice of one crying in the wilderness". Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." John wore clothes made from camel's hair and he wore a leather girdle about his loins. For his food, he ate locusts and wild honey.

People in Jerusalem and all the area around Jordan came to hear John preach. John baptized them in the Jordan River. They believed and confessed their sins. When John saw the unholy religious leaders come to his baptism, he said, "O generation of snakes, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" John continued to say, "I baptize you with water unto repentance, but one is coming who is greater than me. He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Jesus came from Galilee down to the Jordan River where John was preaching and asked to be baptized by him. John would not baptize Jesus, and said, "I need to be baptized by

you. Why do you come to me?" Jesus said, "Baptize me that it may fulfill all righteousness." When John heard this, he baptized Jesus. After Jesus was baptized. He was lead by the Spirit of God into the wilderness. He stayed there for forty days fasting before God. God sent the angels to minister to him.

After the forty days had passed, the Devil came to tempt Jesus and said, "I know that you are hungry. If you are the Son of God, you can command these stones, and they will turn into bread." Jesus said to the Devil, "Man cannot live if he eats only bread, but he must also take within him every word of God."

Another temptation was brought to Jesus. The Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the top point of the temple and said, "If you are the Son of God, you can prove it by throwing yourself down from here without it hurting you, for the angels will take you up before you hit the stone below." Jesus answered, "It is said you shall not tempt the Lord your God."

The Devil offered Jesus the temptation of glory be taking him up into a high mountain and showing him all the kingdoms of the world. The Devil said, "I will give you all this, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said, "You Satan, get behind me, for it is written by the holy prophets, man is to worship and serve only the Lord God." When the Devil had ended all the temptations, he departed from Jesus for a while.

When John was preaching in the wilderness, he said, "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John who he was. They asked, "Are you the Christ, or Elias, or that prophet?" John said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord." They asked John saying: "If you are not one of these, why do you baptize?" John told them that he baptized with water, but one was among them who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said. "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world. This is the one of whom I told you." When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and remained upon him. When Jesus left, two of John's disciples followed him.

There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When they needed more wine, the mother of Jesus told them to ask Jesus what to do. When Jesus heard this, he told his mother that it was not time for him to be revealed to the world. His hour

had not yet come. The mother replied to the servants, saying, "Whatever he tells you to do, do it."

There were six water pots containing about twenty gallons each. Jesus told the servants to pour out of those pots that had been filled with water and take to the governor of the feast. When the governor of the feast had tasted it, he asked the bridegroom why they had kept the good wine until last. This miracle was the beginning of miracles that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. Because of these miracles, his disciples believed on him and his glory was known.

There was a ruler of the Jews who was named Nicodemus. He believed in the ministry of Jesus. One night he came to question Jesus. He asked Jesus concerning his ministry and miracles. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again. Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus was unsure what Jesus meant when he said "born again", and said, "How can you be born again when you are old? It is impossible to go through the natural process of birth." Jesus answered and said, "Unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Jesus, "How can these things be?" Jesus gave the example of the time when Moses made a bronzed serpent in the wilderness and put it up for the people to look upon so they would heal from the snakes' bites. Jesus compared this story to himself being lifted up so that whoever looked on him would be saved.

Jesus said, "Whosoever believes in me shall not perish, but shall have eternal life, for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."

Nicodemus was unsure concerning his life, so he asked Jesus how his life could be changed. Jesus is saying to you today, even as he said to Nicodemus, "Whoever believes in me shall not die, but shall find everlasting life through Jesus. You can have that life today.

CHAPTER 3

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Matt. 8-9, Mark 1, Luke 4-5, John 2-5

The first Passover feast was a sacred festival that held an important place in Jewish religion. It was a celebration of the time when the children of Israel's first born was saved alive, while the Egyptian first born died.

At the time of the Passover feast, Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the temple he found merchants who sold oxen, sheep, and doves in the Holy Temple. When Jesus saw this, he poured out the merchants' money, and turned over their tables. Jesus said unto them that sold, "Get these things out of here! Do not make the house of God a house of merchandise."

As Jesus and his disciples left Judea to go to Galilee, they passed through Samaria. When they reached a Samaritan city called Sychar, Jesus rested on a well. While Jesus was at the well, a woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. She replied, "Why would you, a Jew, ask of me a Samaritan, for water." Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God and whom you are speaking, you would ask me, and I would give you living water that you might never thirst again." The woman said, "Sir, you have nothing with which to draw, and the well is deep. Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well?" Jesus said, "Whosoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst." As Jesus discussed the revelation of salvation with the woman, he told her that he was the Christ. He also told her the things that had happened in her past life. When the woman heard this, she left her water pots and ran into the city and said, "Come and see a man that told me all the things that I ever did."

Because of this testimony, many believed on Jesus and a revival spread throughout Samaria. When Jesus came to Galilee, the people received him because they had seen the things that he did in Jerusalem.

There was a nobleman from Capernaum whose son was sick. When Jesus came to Cana, the nobleman went to see him and said, "Come down to my home, or my son will die." Jesus answered, and said, "Go back to your home, your son will live." The nobleman believed what Jesus had spoken and went on his way. As he returned home, a servant came to him running and said, "Your son lives!" The nobleman asked the servant when the son recovered from his sickness. When the servant told him the time, he knew it was the same hour that Jesus had spoken the word for his healing.

As Jesus was passing by the Lake of Gennesaret, he saw two ships. The fishermen were out of the ships washing their nets. Jesus got into Simon's ship and asked him to shove out a little ways from the land. From the ship, Jesus taught the people. When he had finished speaking to the people, he told Simon to launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a large catch of fish.

Simon told the Lord that they had worked all night and had caught nothing, but if Jesus asked him to put his nets back into the water, he would put them back. When they let their nets down into the water, they caught so many fish that their nets broke. Simon called to the partners in the other ships to come and help them. They came and the disciples filled both ships with fish so that they began to sink. When

Simon Peter saw that it was the Lord, he fell down at Jesus knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Jesus said to Simon and his partners James and John. "Fear not. In the future you will catch men." When they brought their ships to land, they followed Jesus.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus came to the city of Capernaum. He taught in the Synagogue. There was a man that had a spirit of an unclean devil. He cried with a loud voice saying, "Let us alone, what have we do with you, thou Jesus of Nazareth. Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy one of God." Jesus answered, and said, "Keep quiet and come out of this man." The Devil threw the man about and came out of him, but did not hurt him.

Everyone was amazed and said, to one another, "What great authority and power. Jesus can command an unclean spirit."

When Jesus came to Peter's house, he found Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever. Jesus touched her hand and the fever left her. When she was no longer sick, she got up, and served them food.

In the evening time, many sick people came to the house. Some who came were possessed with devils. All the sick that came were healed. All that were possessed with devils were delivered from the devils. All this was done that it might fulfill the saying of the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities, and bare our sickness."

While Jesus was teaching in a mountain area, a great multitude came to hear him. When he came down from the mountain, the multitude followed him. Among those who were following Jesus was a leper. He worshipped Jesus saying, "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus put forth his hand and touched him saying, "I will, be thou clean." Jesus told him to tell no one about this healing, but to show the priest that he longer had leprosy. This would allow him to reenter society. He was to offer a gift for a testimony, as Moses had commanded.

Jesus returned to his own city. Here, they brought to him a man on a cot, who had palsy.

Jesus seeing their faith, said unto the sick man, "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you."

Certain religious leaders, called scribes, said in their hearts, "This man blasphemed God." Jesus knew their thoughts and said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? Which is easier to say, your sins be forgiven you, or say, Arise and walk? I speak

these things that you may know that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins." He then told the man with palsy, to arise, take up his bed and go to his home. When the multitude saw it, they marveled, and glorified God that had given such power.

As Jesus was going out to minister, he went by the place where taxes were collected. He saw Matthew, who was also called Levi. Matthew was collecting taxes from the Jews. Matthew was also a Jew, but was working for the Roman Government. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow me." Matthew immediately left his work and followed Jesus. Matthew invited Jesus to his home and gave a great feast. Also invited to the feast were publicans and others who were not followers of Christ. Religious leaders called scribes and Pharisees, murmured to Jesus' disciples, and said, "Why do you eat and drink with publicans and sinners?"

Jesus answered those who murmured and said, "When people are well, they do not need to see a doctor, but when they are sick, they need a doctor. I did not come to call the righteous, but to call sinners so they may repent." Jesus continued to teach in ways that offended the religious leaders who rejected the sinners.

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. In Jerusalem there was a pool by the sheep market that was called Bethesda. Around the pool were five porches. On these porches lay sick people who lacked the physical strength to work. Some could not walk. At a certain season, an angel went down to the pool and troubled the water in the pool. The first one to step into the pool after the waters had been troubled was healed of whatever disease he had.

Jesus saw a man lying near the pool, and said to him, "Will you be made whole?" The crippled man answered and said, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool, but while I am trying to get into the water, another one steps in." Jesus said, "Rise up take your cot and walk." He did as Jesus commanded.

The religious leaders saw the man walking and said, "This is the Sabbath day. It is unlawful for you to carry your bed." The man who had been healed, said, "The man Jesus, who made me whole, said to me to take up my bed and walk." Later when Jesus saw the man in the temple, he said, "You have been made whole. Now sin no more, or something worse may happen to you."

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

CHAPTER 4

Matt. 6-12, Mark 2-3, Luke 6-7, John 17

Jesus did many mighty works. Because people were healed on the Sabbath day, the religious leaders were angry. Jesus told them, "Even as my father works, so do I work." This statement made the religious leaders angry enough to try to kill Jesus. For he had not only broken their law of the Sabbath, but he had also said that God was his father, making him equal with God.

Jesus continued to teach concerning his relationship with God and said, "The son can do nothing by himself, but what things the Father does, the son can also do. The Father loves his son, and shows him the things that he does. He will show him great works than you have seen so that you may marvel at the work of God. The Father makes the dead alive, and the son brings life. The Father commits judgment unto the son. Whosoever does not honor the son does not honor the Father." Jesus said, "Anyone who hears my words and believes in God, has everlasting life. He who is passed from death to life is not come into condemnation."

Jesus and his disciples went out into the cornfield on the Sabbath day and picked ears of corn that they could eat. When the Pharisees saw what Jesus and his disciples had done, they said, "Your disciples do that which is unlawful on the Sabbath day."

Jesus answered them, saying, "Have you not read what David had done on the Sabbath day when he was hungry? He and the men with him went into the house of God and ate shewbread that was not lawful for them to eat.

After this, Jesus went to the synagogue. There was a man in the synagogue that had a withered hand. Jesus said to the religious leaders in the synagogue, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" He was asking this question for he knew they would accuse him. Then Jesus said, "Who is there among you that should your sheep fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, would not lift him out? Man is better than a sheep. Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day." When Jesus had finished explaining the reason that healing was lawful on the Sabbath day, he said to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch forth your hand." The man stretched forth his withered hand and it became whole, like the other hand.

The Pharisees did not accept what Jesus had said, and held a council against him to find a way to legally destroy him. When Jesus knew of their council, he went to another place. Great multitudes followed him and he healed them all.

Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out. They were to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

These are the names of the twelve disciples: The first is Simon Peter and Andrew his brother James the son of Zebedee and John his brother; Phillip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew; James, the son of Alphae, and Lebbaeus whose surname was Thadaeus; Sinon the Caanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Jesus.

As the apostles went forth, Jesus said, "Go not to the Gentiles, but to those of Israel who are lost. As you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely you have received, freely give."

Later when the Jews rejected Jesus as their saviour, the gospel was extended to the gentiles, and all may now come to Jesus and be saved.

Jesus went up into a mountain to teach his disciples. A multitude followed, and he taught them saying, "Blessed are those who are not proud in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are those who call upon God for he will comfort them. Blessed are those who have the meekness of Christ, for they

shall enjoy Christ's earthly kingdom. Blessed are those who seek righteousness for they shall receive righteousness.

Blessed are those who are merciful for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are those who are pure in their hearts for they shall see God. Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God." Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for they shall receive the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus taught the people how to pray, saying, "Our Father who dwells in heaven. Your name is Holy. Send your kingdom unto us, that your kingdom may dwell upon earth as it does in heaven. Supply our needs, O God, that we may have food. Forgive us of our debts to you, even as we forgive others. Keep us from temptation and deliver us from evil. For unto you belongs the Glory and Power of thy Kingdom forever.

When Jesus was in Capernaum, a centurion came to him, saying, "My servant is at home very sick with palsy. He is constantly tormented. Come and heal him." Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." The centurion said, "Lord I am not worthy that you should come to my home. Just speak the word and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man who has authority over other men, and they do as I bid them." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said, "I have not found this much faith in all of Israel." Then Jesus said to the man whose servant was sick, "Go your way, your servant is healed."

After Jesus had finished healing the servant in Capernaum, he went to the city of Nain. Many of his disciples went with him and many other people went also. When they came near the city gate, they met those who were carrying young man out of the city, for he had died. He was the only son of a widow. Jesus said to the mother, "Do not weep." Jesus then spoke to the young man and said, "Young man, I tell you to arise." When Jesus had spoken these words, the young man who had been dead, sat up and began to talk. Jesus took him to his mother.

Because of this great miracle, fear came on all the people, and it was told everywhere that a great prophet had arisen among them.

There was a time when John the Baptist called his disciples and said, "Go ask Jesus if he is the one that should come, or are we to look for another Messiah?"

When the disciples of John came to Jesus, there were many who were healed of plagues and evil spirits. Many that were blind were healed. Jesus said, "Go tell

John what you have seen and heard tell him how the blind see, the dead are raised to life and to the poor is preached the gospel."

The people believed, but the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of Jesus because John had already baptized them.

One of the Pharisee men asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus accepted the invitation. While in his home, a woman who was a sinner brought a box of ointment, and sat it at Jesus feet. She began to weep and washed his feet with tears and dried them with the hairs of her head. She kissed his feet and anointed them with ointment.

When the Pharisee saw this, he said within himself, "If Jesus was a true prophet, he would know what kind of woman this is."

Jesus told him a story of two debtors. He said, "One debtor owed five hundred pence, and the other owed fifty pence. When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me which of them will love him most?"

The man answered, "I suppose the one who was forgiven the most." Jesus said, "Your answer is right. This woman was has been forgiven of much also loves much."

Everyone is a debtor. All must be forgiven of their sins and come to Christ in order to be saved. To accept Christ as your saviour, please pray this prayer with sincerity.

PARABLES TEACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

CHAPTER 5

Matthew 13, Luke 12

Jesus gave a parable about a rich man, He said, "A certain rich man had farm land that grew wonderful crops. The man thought to himself that he did not have enough room to store all his crops. He said, "This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build much larger barns. I will put all my fruit and all my goods in the barns. When the barns are full, I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have much goods. You are very rich. Eat and drink all you want to eat and drink. Live for many years, for you are very rich."

God said to the rich man. "You are a fool. You do not know that God has control of all things. Even tonight you will die. After you are dead, who will receive all your wealth?"

Jesus told his disciples, "If you lay up treasures for yourself and are not rich toward God, you will be as that fool. Do not make plans how you may spend earthly wealth. God will provide for you each day. It is God's pleasure to give you the kingdom. Put your treasures in heaven and your heart will be on eternal rewards. Put your treasures on earth and your heart will be on things on the earth."

In continuing to teach, Jesus said, "Always be ready for the coming of the Lord. Be like a man who is dressed and has his lights burning. Be like men who are waiting to be invited to a wedding feast. When the invitation comes, you can immediately open the door. You do not know what hour the messenger may come. It may be during the second or third watch. Those who are ready and watching will be blessed."

Jesus told a story about a wise steward. Jesus said, "Who is a wise steward? He is one who has been made the ruler over his master's household. He will give each household member his due portion, and will continue increasing his master's goods until the master comes to check on his work. If the servant says in his heart " My Lord delays his coming, and begins to beat those who have been left in his charge,

the lord over the household will come when the servant is not expecting him to return. This servant will be taken from his position."

By this story, Jesus was teaching his disciples that to whom much is given, to that one, much is required. Be faithful in small tasks and God will give you tasks that hold more honors.

Repentance is taught. Some had told Jesus that Pilate the Governor had mixed the blood of some of the Galileans with their sacrifices. Jesus showed these men to whom tragedy had come, that not only was this a sin, but also that all sin is bad.

Using an illustration of a barren fig tree, Jesus said, "A certain man had a fig tree in his vineyard that was not producing fruit. After the third year of searching for food on the tree, he told the one who keeps the vineyard to cut it down." The one who kept the vineyard said, "Let it alone this year also, until I can dig around it and fertilize it. If it does not bear fruit after that, it shall be cut down."

The fig tree is a symbol of the Jewish nation. Jesus is teaching that men are having the last opportunity to make good before the judgment of God comes upon them.

Jesus went out of the house by the seaside. Great multitudes of people came unto him. He got into a ship and the multitude stood on the shore. Jesus told them a story about a sewer who went forth to plant his seeds. As the man planted, some seeds fell by the way, and birds ate them. Some fell on stony places where there was not much earth. These started to grow, but because the earth had no depth, the sun came out, causing the seeds to wither and die. Some of the seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns choked them. Some of the seed fell into good ground and brought forth fruit. Some of the seed increased one hundred times. Some increased sixty times, and some increased thirty times.

Jesus explained this story by telling his disciples that the seed is the word of God. When someone hears the word, but doesn't understand it, it is like the seed that is eaten by the birds. The seed that fell on stony ground is like a person who hears the word and receives it, but has no depth in himself to let the word grow. The seed among the thorns is like a man who hears the word and receives it, but lets the cares of this world choke the word out so that no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good ground is like the man who hears the word, understands it and produces fruit. Some produced much fruit, others produced less fruit.

Jesus told a parable of the wheat and the tares as he explained about the kingdom of heaven. He told them a story about a man who sowed good seed in his field. Jesus said, "After the man had planted his field with good seed, the enemy came at night and sowed tares in with the good seed. When the seed came up, there was both wheat and tares. The servant of the farmer asked his master if they should pull up the tares that were growing in the field. The farmer said, "No, let them both grow together until harvest time. At harvest time, the workers will go out first and pull the tares and burn them. After that they can harvest the wheat. For if we pull them now, we will also destroy some wheat."

As Jesus explained the parable, he said, "The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels. The Lord shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend and do sin. He shall cast them into a fire to be burned."

Another story that Jesus told concerning the kingdom of Heaven was the parable of the mustard seed. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man sowed in his field. A mustard seed is very small, but when it is grown, it becomes a tree. This tree is larger than herbs in that birds can come and lodge in its branches."

In this story, the one who sows is Jesus who is sowing his word in the world. Even though there is a little beginning, His word takes its place in the world as a tree.

From the smallest beginning, the gospel of Jesus has made great growth in the world by telling of Christ's message. Even the enemies of God seek shade in God's word for their own good.

Jesus gave another story about the kingdom of heaven. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal. She left it until all was leavened." The leaven is a lump of old dough in a high state of spoiling. Leaven is a symbol of evil in the parable. In this story, Jesus is teaching that enemies will put false doctrine in among the teachings of Christ.

In the parable of the goodly pearl and the hidden treasure, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who was seeking the finest pearls. When he found one pearl worth a great amount of money, he sold everything he had to buy the pearl." Men should be willing to give up everything to have Jesus, the pearl of great price.

The kingdom of heaven is likened unto treasure hidden in a field. When a man finds it, he hides it in the field. After the treasure is well hidden, he sells all he has and buys the field." Jesus is likened unto the hidden treasure.

Jesus gave an example of the kingdom of heaven by saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea. The net gathered in every kind of kind of sea life. When the net was drawn to shore, the good was gathered into vessels. The bad were destroyed.

Jesus explained this story by telling the people that this is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels shall come forth and cut the sinful away from the righteous. Those that are wicked shall be cast into a furnace of fire. In that furnace, there shall be crying and gnashing of teeth.

After hearing the account of the kingdom of God's teachings, and the story of the rich man who thought his life would never end. We have learned that a man's life may end at any time. It is right to look at our lives and ask ourselves the question, "If we died today, would we go to heaven?"

A FEARSOME VOYAGE

CHAPTER 6

Matt. 8-15, Mark 5-7

A great multitude was following Jesus as he was teaching. Jesus and his disciples entered into a ship. While they were on the sea, a great storm arose. His disciples were afraid. Jesus was tired after much of his teaching and had gone to sleep in the ship. He did not know they were in a great storm. When the waves began to cover the ship, the disciples awakened Jesus, saying, "Lord, save us, we are about to perish."

Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid? You have little faith." He then arose and rebuked the winds and the sea. The sea immediately became calm. His disciples were amazed that the wind and the sea obeyed him.

When Jesus and his disciples reached the other side of the sea, they were in a country of the Gergesenes. Two men possessed with devils, who had been living among the tombs, met Jesus. They were fierce so that no man might come near them. The demon-possessed men cried out, "What have we to do with you, Jesus, thou Son of God? Are you come here to torment us before the appointed time?"

A good way off from them was a herd of many swine. The demons asked Jesus to let them go into the herd of swine if he cast them out. Jesus said, "Go." When the demons came out, they went into the heard of swine. The swine ran down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. The men who kept the swine went into the city and told what had happened to the swine. When the people of the city heard of this, the whole city came out to meet Jesus and said, "Depart out of our land." Jesus and his disciples entered a ship and came to his own city.

As Jesus was going with a ruler of the synagogue to heal the ruler's little girl, a great multitude followed him. Among those who were following Jesus, there was woman who had a bleeding disease. She said to herself, "If I can but touch his clothes, I shall be made whole." This woman had had this disease for twelve years. She had spent all the money she had on doctors, but kept getting worse. When she heard of Jesus, she came in the multitude behind Jesus and touched his garment. Immediately the disease was cured. When Jesus looked at the woman who had touched his clothes, she was afraid and fell down before him and told him all the truth. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace, and be whole of this plague."

There was a man named Jairus who was a ruler in the synagogue. Jairus came to Jesus and asked him to come and lay hands on his little daughter who was at the point of death. He said, "If you will lay your hands on her, she will live." Jesus went with him and many people followed. While they were on the way to the ruler's house, a messenger came and told Jairus, "Why do you trouble the master? Your daughter is dead." Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue. "Be not afraid, only believe." From this place, Jesus would not let the multitude follow him. Jesus, his disciples, Peter, James and John went with the ruler to his house. When they came to the house, Jesus saw them weeping. He said, "Why make such a fuss? The girl is not dead, but she is sleeping." The people who head Jesus say this, they laughed and scorned Jesus. Jesus put them all out of the room, except the

father and mother of the girl and his disciples. He went in where the child was lying, took her by the hand and said, "Young lady, I say to you, arise." Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. The people were greatly amazed. Jesus told the parents of the girl to give her some food to eat.

As Jesus was teaching in another place, two blind men came to him, saying, "Thou son of David, have mercy on us." Jesus said to them. "Do you believe that I am able to open your eyes?" The blind men answered, "Yes Lord, we believe." Jesus touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith be it unto you." Their eyes were immediately opened and they went everywhere spreading the fame of Jesus to all that country.

A man was brought to Jesus who could not speak and was possessed with a devil. When the devil was cast out, the man could speak. The Pharisees, who were the religious leaders, said, "He only cast out devils through the prince of devils."

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their churches, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. He healed every sickness and every disease among the people. When Jesus looked upon the multitude of people, he had compassion on them and said to his disciples, the harvest is plenteous, but those who labor are few. Pray the Lord of harvest that he will send laborers into his harvest."

As Jesus instructed his disciples, he told them that before Israel rejected Jesus and his Gospel, there were special instructions regarding ministering to the people. He said, "Go to the house of Israel. As you go, preach, saying, that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils. You have freely received. Now, freely give. Take no gold or silver in your purse. Do not take food or extra clothing, for you will be worthy of your work. When you enter a house, if they are not worthy, let your peace return to you. Who ever does not receive you, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against that house. When they persecute you in one city, go to another city. Fear not them that can kill the body, but rather fear God that is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Whosoever shall deny me before men, will I deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus had been ministering in the coast country of Tyre and Sidon. Passing through Decapolis, he came to the Sea of Galilee. If was here that the people brought to him a man that was deaf and could not speak clearly. They asked Jesus

to touch him so that he might be healed. Jesus took the deaf man aside from the crowd, put his fingers into his ears, and said, "Be opened." Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he was able to speak without stuttering. Jesus told the man to not tell what had happened to him. The more Jesus told him not to tell, the more the man told what had happened. Because of this testimony, it was known throughout the region that Jesus made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak.

Jesus left the coast of Galilee, and went into a mountain where he sat down. A great multitude came to him bringing those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many other sicknesses. They cast them down at Jesus feet, and he healed them. The people marveled at the healing of the sick.

Jesus said to his disciple, "I have compassion on the multitude for they have been with me for three days, and have nothing to eat. I will not send them away fasting, as they might faint on their way home." The disciples answered Jesus and said, "We have no bread in the wilderness to feed such a multitude." Jesus asked them how many loaves of bread they had. The disciples said that they had seven loaves and a few fish. Jesus commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks to God, and broke the loaves and fish. He gave to his disciples and the disciples gave to the multitude. All the people ate and were filled. After all had eaten, the disciples took up seven baskets filled with food. Of those who ate, there were four thousand men, besides women and children. Jesus sent the multitude away and took a ship to the coast of Mandala.

King Herod had taken John the Baptist and had him bound and cast into prison. John had told Herod that it was not lawful for him to be living with Heroics, his brother's wife. King Herod would have had John killed at that time, but was afraid of the multitude who recognized John as a prophet.

When Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Heroics danced before Herod. He was pleased. Herod told the dancing girl that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even up to one half of his kingdom. Heroics, the mother of the girl was angry because John had condemned Herod for living with her as his wife, and told the girl to request the head of John the Baptist. When Herod heard this request, he was sorry that he had made such a vow, but because he had made this vow, he had to do whatever the girl asked. Herod immediately sent soldiers to behead John. They brought John's head to the daughter of Heroics.

When the disciples of John heard of the slaying, they took the body of John and laid it in a burial tomb. After the death of John, the apostles came to Jesus and told all that had happened. Jesus told them to go with him into an isolated place so they could rest.

Jesus and his disciples got into a ship and headed for a place where they could be alone, but the people knew where they were going. When they arrived, a crowd of five thousand men gathered at the place. When Jesus saw the crowd, he felt compassion for them and taught them.

In the evening, the disciples told Jesus to send the people away so they could go into the country round about and into the villages to buy themselves something to eat. Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat." The disciples said to Jesus, "Do you want us to go and buy bread and bring food to all these people? It would cost much money."

Jesus told his disciples to have the people set down in groups of fifties and one hundreds. Jesus took five loaves and two fish, broke them and gave to the disciples. They gave them to the people. The bread and fish were multiplied until all the people were satisfied and there remained twelve baskets of food.

We have discussed wonderful miracles and healings by Jesus. Yet, the greatest miracle is the miracle of salvation. This is a time when all sins are forgiven and we are made a new person in Christ. Have you experienced this miracle?

JESUS CONTINUES TO DO MIRACLES

CHAPTER 7

Matt. 17,18, Mark 8,9, Luke 9,10, John 8

After Jesus had finished feeding the multitude, he went to Bethsaida. While at Bethsaida, some people brought a man to Jesus who was blind and asked Jesus to touch him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. When Jesus had put mud with spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him if he could see clearly. The man who had been blind, said, "I see men as trees walking." After Jesus had put his hands upon the man's eyes and told him to look up, he was completely restored and saw every man clearly.

When Jesus had come to the coast of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do you say that I, the Son of Man, am?" The disciples answered, and said, "Some say you are John the Baptist, others say you are Elijah, and still others believe you to be Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." Jesus said, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus answered, and said to Peter, "You are blessed, Simon Barjona, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father which is in heaven. Upon this revelation will I build my church? Even death cannot prevail against it. Through this revelation, you will have the keys to the kingdom of God. Through this authority, anything you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Jesus took James, John, and Peter with him unto a high mountain. Here, Jesus was transfigured before them. His raiment became very white. It was whiter than any white that is on earth, and it shone with great brilliance.

Elijah and Moses appeared and talked with the transfigured Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles. One tabernacle will be for you, and one each for Moses and Elijah." Peter said these things because he was afraid and did not know what to say.

A cloud overshadowed Jesus, Moses and Elias. A voice spoke out of the cloud, and said, "This is my beloved son. Hear him." Suddenly as they looked around, they saw no man except Jesus and themselves. As they came down from the mountain, Jesus told his disciples that they should not tell the things they had seen until the Son of Man was risen from the dead.

When Jesus returned from the Mountain of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, a great multitude had gathered and was talking with other disciples of Jesus. When the people saw Jesus, they were amazed and ran to him saluting him. Jesus asked the scribes, "Why do you question my disciples?" A man in the multitude answered and said, "Master, I have brought my son which had a dumb spirit. Wherever he goes, the spirit tears him, and he foams at the mouth, gnashed with his teeth, and he cries. I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him."

Jesus rebuked the doubt, and said, "How long will I put up with you? You are a faithless generation. Bring him to me." When they brought the young man to Jesus, he was torn by the evil spirit and fell on the ground foaming. Jesus asked the father how long he had been tormented. The father said, "He has been tormented from the time he was a child. Often times it has cast him into the fire, or into the water trying to destroy him. Jesus, if you can do anything, please have compassion on us and help us."

Jesus said to him. "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." The father cried out with tears, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." Jesus said, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you to come out of him, and enter no more into him." Immediately, the boy was delivered. Jesus told his disciples when talking to them at a later time about this deliverance, that this kind of spirit came out only after fasting and prayer.

The disciples of Jesus did not fully understand the meaning of Christ's heavenly Kingdom. There had to be times when they could get away from the multitude of people so Jesus could teach them. On one occasion, when Jesus and his disciples had departed and passed secretly through Galilee, he taught them and said: "The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of men, They will kill him and after he is killed, he will rise the third day." The disciples did not understand this saying, but were afraid to ask Jesus the meaning of this statement.

When Jesus and his disciples had come to the city of Capernaum, the people who received tribute money came to Peter and said, "Does your master pay tribute?" Peter answered, and said, "Yes, he does." Later, when they had come into the house, Jesus asked Peter, saying, "Do kings of the earth take custom or tribute from their own children, or from strangers?" Jesus then said, "The children of the kings are free. Nevertheless, because we might offend those who take tribute, go to the sea and cast a hook. Take up a fish. When you have opened his mouth, you shall find a piece of money, take the money and give to them for tribute."

Jesus told a story of an unmerciful servant that was likened unto the kingdom of heaven. A king who was taking account of those who owed him money found a servant who owed him ten thousand talents. Because he had nothing to pay this great sum of money, the king commanded that the servant, his wife, and his children be sold so this debt could be paid.

The servant fell down and worshipped the king and said, "Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay all that I owe." The Lord of the servant was moved with compassion and forgave him the entire debt.

The same servant went out and found a fellow servant that owed him a small amount of money. He took him by the throat, saying, "Pay me the money you owe me." His fellow servant fell down and besought him to have patience with him and he would pay the debt. He would not have patience with him, and had him put into prison.

When the fellow servants saw what he had done, they were angry and told the lord all that was done. The Lord called him, and said, "You are a wicked servant. I forgave you all your debt because you asked me, and yet, you had no compassion on your fellow servant, even though I had pity on you. The angry Lord delivered him to be tormented until he could pay all the debt."

Jesus used this story to teach that the Heavenly Father will do the same to those who do not forgive those who sin against them.

Jesus appointed seventy believers to go into every city where Jesus would come to minister. He said to them, "There is a great harvest, go out in pairs of two and prepare the people for this harvest. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send people to labor in the harvest field."

This was not to be an easy task. Many of those that they would meet would be like wolves seeking to devour sheep. Jesus told them to not take money or extra clothing, but to stay with someone in the city in which they were sent. They were to take their meals there, and not go from house to house. For whoever works for the Lord is worthy of support.

Jesus instructed them, saying, "Heal the sick, and say the kingdom of heaven is come near unto you. If you go into a city and they do not receive you, go your way in the streets of that city and say, 'The dust of your city that is on us, we wipe off as a witness against you, for the kingdom of God has come near unto you, and you did not receive this kingdom.'" Jesus said that even the cities that God had destroyed for their wickedness would have a better chance at the final judgment than that city.

Jesus went to Jerusalem. He passed through Samaria and Galilee. When he entered a certain village, there were ten men that were lepers who came out to meet him. While they were still a great distance from Jesus, they cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priest." Jesus said this, because when a person was cured of his leprosy, the priest had to look at him to see that he was cured. If he was cured, he could again enter society, and return home. After Jesus had spoken to the lepers, they went their way. As they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One man, who was a Samaritan, seeing he was cleansed, came and fell down on his face at the feet of Jesus giving him thanks.

Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Only this Samaritan, has returned to give glory to God." He said to the one who was healed, "Go your way, your faith has made you whole."

While in Jerusalem, early in the morning, he came down to the temple. The people came to him and he sat down and taught them. While Jesus was teaching, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to him that had been taken in the act of adultery. They said to Jesus, "Master, Moses in the law commanded us that women, such as this woman should be stoned. What do you say?" They said this, hoping to find some means in which to accuse Jesus.

Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground as though he did not hear them. When they continued asking him, he stood up and said to them, "Whoever there is among you that has no sin, let him cast the first stone at her." With these words, he stooped down and began to write on the ground again. Those who heard Jesus say this were convicted of their own sins, and left one by one until all were gone. When Jesus stood to his feet and saw the woman, he said, "Where are those who accuse you. Has no man condemned you?" The woman answered, "No man, Lord." Jesus said to her. "Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more."

To sum up this chapter, we could say that it is exciting to follow the miracles of healing and provision so portrayed in the writing of the Gospels. The Bible promises eternal life to all those who receive Christ. Thank God that Christ is life. He will never leave or forsake you

JESUS TELLS HOW TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE

CHAPTER 8

Luke 10-14, John 9-11

To demonstrate the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells a story about a lawyer seeking to question Jesus. He said, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, and said, "What is written in the law? How do you interpret the law?" The lawyer answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus answered him, and said, "Your answer is right. If you do this, you shall live. The lawyer wishing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. They took his clothing and wounded him, leaving him half dead. A priest came by and saw him, and passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite came and looked on him and passed on the other side. A certain Samaritan came where he was, seeing him, had compassion on him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. He set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn where people could care for him. The next day, when the Samaritan left, he paid the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him. Whatever it costs to care for him, I will come and repay you.'"

Jesus said to the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?" The lawyer answered, "He that showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do thou likewise."

When Jesus entered the village of Bethany, a woman named Martha invited him to visit her home. Martha had a sister whose name was Mary. Martha became troubled, because in preparing a meal, she needed the help of Mary. She said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister is not helping me, and I am left to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus said to her, ""Martha, you are troubled about many things, but one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her."

When Jesus was teaching the need for continual prayer, he said, "Which of you shall have a friend and go to him at midnight asking for him to lend you three loaves of bread, saying, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. A friend of mine has come to me from his journey and I have no food to set before him.' From within the house, your friend calls out, 'Do not trouble me. The door is shut. My children are in bed. I cannot get up and give you bread.' Even though he would not get up and give you bread, if you continue to knock, the man would get up and give you as many loaves as you needed."

"Ask and it shall be given you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you. Everyone that asks receives, and he that seeks, finds. If your son asked bread of you that is a father, will you give him a stone? If he asks for a fish, would you give him a serpent? If he asked for an egg, will you give him a scorpion? If you being evil fathers of this world know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Jesus had sent seventy disciples out to minister in the towns and cities to prepare the way for him to come there and minister to the people. When they returned to Jesus, they were filled with joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through your name." Jesus said unto them. "I beheld Satan as lightning fell from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and power over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means hurt you. However, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject unto you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

A blind man is healed. When Jesus was passing by, he saw a man who was blind from the day of his birth. When the disciples of Jesus saw the blind man, they asked Jesus why he was blind. He said, "Did this man sin or did his parents sin?" Jesus did not say that either the man or his parents sinned, but rather said, "God allowed this blindness to show you his glory." Jesus put damp clay on the

blind man's eyes in order to put his faith to the test. Jesus said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." The man did as Jesus had commanded, and returned seeing.

The neighbors went to get the church leaders, called Pharisees, and told them what had happened. The Pharisees believed no miracles should be done on the Sabbath day, and were ready to condemn Jesus. The man, who Jesus had first seen in his blind condition, now found him. He believed on Jesus and worshipped him.

Jesus gives an example of his love and care for the people by telling a story about a sheepfold. A sheepfold is where the sheep are sheltered for the night. It is usually next to the house and has a single door. Jesus said, "If someone tries to enter the sheepfold by crawling up some other way, other than the door, he is the same as a thief or a robber."

A thief is someone who tries to steal the sheep. A robber fights to take the sheep. Jesus told the people that a thief comes to bring harm, but a good shepherd gives his life for his sheep. The porter who keeps the sheep at night will gladly open the door to the shepherd. When the shepherd calls the sheep by name, they leave the sheepfold and follow him.

This story is an example of how Jesus, the great shepherd, loves and cares for lost people. Jesus loved the world so much that he was willing to die for the sins of the world.

Jesus attended the Feast of Dedication. It was winter in Jerusalem, and Jesus was in the temple on a porch called Solomon's porch. While he was there, some Jews came to him and began to ask him questions. They said to Jesus, "How long do you make us doubt. If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus said, "I told you and you did not believe. The works I do are in my father's name. These works witness of me." Jesus continued to say, "You are not of my sheep. My sheep hear my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No man shall pluck them out of my hand."

Upon hearing this, the Jews took up stones to stone Jesus. Jesus said, "For what good works are you going to stone me?" As Jesus and the Jews talked about these things, the Jews tried to take Jesus, but he escaped out of their hands. As Jesus continued to teach in a place beyond the Jordan River, many believed in him.

Jesus had a friend whose named Lazarus. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. While Jesus was preaching in a place beyond Jordan, Messengers from

Bethany came to him and told him that his friend Lazarus was sick. After two days, Jesus and his disciples went to the home of Lazarus.

Mary came to meet them and said, "Master, if you had been here, our brother would not have died." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, even if he is dead, shall live." When Jesus and the company of people reached the home of Mary and Martha, he said, "If you believe, you shall see the glory of God."

As they came to the cave where Lazarus had been buried for four days, Jesus said, "Take away the stone from the door of the cave." Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me, and I know that you always hear me, but because of the people that stand by, I say these things that they will believe that you have sent me." Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus come forth!" Lazarus came out of the cave bound in his grave clothes. Jesus said, "Take his grave clothes off of him and let him go." Because of this miracle, many people believed on Jesus, but others doubted.

It was the Sabbath day, the day when the Jews came to the synagogue to be taught concerning the laws. While Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, a woman who had been bowed together for eighteen years came to Jesus. She had an evil spirit called a spirit of infirmity. She could not stand straight. When Jesus saw the woman, he said, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." As he touched her, she was made straight and glorified God.

The ruler of the synagogue answered with anger because she had been healed on the Sabbath day and said to the people. "There are six days for men to work. If you want to be healed, be healed in one of these days, for it is unlawful for men to be healed on the Sabbath day." Jesus answered the ruler and said, "You are a hypocrite. Isn't it true that on the Sabbath day, you take your animals from the stall and lead them away to get a drink of water? This woman, who is a daughter of Abraham, has been bound for eighteen years. Should she not be set free on the Sabbath day?"

When Jesus said these things, those who were condemning him felt ashamed. All the people rejoiced for the glorious things that were done by Jesus.

Jesus had been invited to eat at the house of one of the chief Pharisees. They watched him to see what he would do. There was a man there who had a shaking disease, called dropsy. Jesus said to the lawyers and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to

heal on the Sabbath day?" They did not answer him. He said unto those in the house, "If you have an animal which falls into a pit on the Sabbath day, will you not pull him out?" They could not answer him.

Jesus continued to teach, saying, "When you make a dinner, do not call your friends, or relatives, for they can repay you. But rather invite the poor and the crippled, the disabled, and the blind. When you do this, you will be blessed by God, for they can not repay you."

May people today do not know that Jesus cares for them? Jesus did not set himself apart from those who did not understand his ministry. He ate with the religious leaders, and told them to have compassion on the poor, the disabled, and the blind.

An Invitation is Given

Chapter 9

Matt. 19, Luke 14-18

Jesus rebukes those who seek high places. He told a simple story to the people to show them how those who seek to please God should conduct themselves. These story lessons are called parables.

Jesus said, "When you are invited to a wedding, do not sit down in the highest room, because someone with greater honor may come, and you will be asked to give him your selected place. When you are invited to a wedding, take the lowest room, and when the one who has invited you sees you there, he will say, "Friend comes up to a higher room and eat with me." For whoever seeks to bring honor to him shall be humbled, but when one will humble him, he shall be raised in his position.

Jesus gives a story of a great supper. He said, "A great man made a large meal and invited many to come and eat with him. When everything was ready, he sent his servant to tell the people that things were now ready."

All those who had been invited to eat, made excuses for not coming. One man said, "I have bought some land, and I must go to see it, please excuse me." Another man said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, I am on my way to see if they are worth what I paid for them. Another man said, "I am a married man, and I cannot come."

The servant of the great man returned to his master and told all that had been said. The master of the house was angry and said to his servant, "Go quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring to this great supper: the poor, the crippled and the blind.

As Jesus was teaching, there came publicans and sinners to hear him. The religious leaders complained, and said, "The man allows sinners to eat with him." Jesus told a parable to them, and said, "If any of you have a hundred sheep and one of them becomes lost, you would leave the ninety nine sheep and go look for the lost one. You would search until you found it, taking it home on your shoulder with joy. When you arrive home, you would tell your neighbors and friends and they would also be full of joy. "Even as you have joy in finding your lost sheep, so there is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents of his sin than over ninety nine people who do not need to repent.

If a woman had ten pieces of silver and she lost one piece, she gets a light, sweeps the house, and searches until she finds it. When she has found it, she tells her friends and neighbors that they may rejoice with her. Jesus is teaching the meaning of the stories said, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents of his sin."

Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. The youngest son grew up and was not happy working around the farm. He wanted to look for adventure. He said to his father, "Father, give me all the goods that I am to receive as a son."

The father divided his goods and gave them to his son as he had asked. Soon the son took all that he had and took a journey into a country far away from his home. In this country, he wasted his money by wicked living. In time, a mighty famine came to the land, and he had no money or a job. He found a job working for a man who raises pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food given to the pigs, but no one gave him any food.

One day, the son said, "The servants of my father have bread to eat, and here I am dying with hunger. I will go to my father and tell him that I have sinned against God and against him, and am not worthy to be called his son. I will say, "Make me a hired servant."

When the father saw his son coming, he ran to meet him, made a great feast, and welcomed his son home.

Jesus told a story about a rich man who had a certain to manage his property. This man was called steward. He had been a poor manager and had wasted the rich man's goods. When the rich man called the steward to him, he said, "I hear that you have not managed my goods in a good manner. Give an account of your deeds. You can no longer be my steward."

The steward answered, "What shall I do? I cannot work as a servant. I am ashamed to beg." The steward came upon a plan. He would call all his lord's debtors and ask them how much money they owed the rich man. As he did this, he had each one pay half of what he owed. Some even paid more than half of what they owed. When the lord heard of the steward's actions, he was pleased with him.

In teaching the meaning of this story, Jesus said, "He that is faithful in small things will also be faithful in large things. You that are faithful in that which belongs to another man shall be given that which is your own."

The Pharisees, or religious leaders demanded Jesus to tell them when the Kingdom of God would come. Jesus answered them, and said, "The Kingdom of God does not come where it can be seen with your eyes, for the kingdom of God is within you.

Jesus then told his disciples that the days would come when they would desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but it could not be seen. Jesus said, "Some shall say to you, see here, or see there. Do not follow such stories. As the lightning shines from one end of the sky to the other end of the sky, so shall it be when the Son of Man comes in his day."

First, Jesus must suffer many things and be rejected of his generation. Jesus said, "People will be busy with life as they were when the flood came in the days of Noah. They will not prepare for the destruction that shall come upon them. Always be ready for the coming of the Son of Man."

Another story Jesus told was to teach the people to always pray. He said, "There was a judge who lived in a certain city. He did not fear God, or care what men thought about his decisions. In the same city, there was a widow who had an enemy. The widow asked the judge to make this enemy stop troubling her. At first the judge paid her no attention, but she continued to ask him over and over to answer request. In order to get the woman to leave him alone, he made her enemy stop troubling her.

In this story, Jesus was teaching the people that if an unjust judge of this world would answer the request of the poor widow that the God of love would answer much more quickly

As Jesus was teaching, some mothers brought little children him so that he would bless them. When the disciples of Jesus saw this they felt that Jesus was much too important to be concerned with little children, and told the mothers to keep the children away from Jesus.

When Jesus knew of this, he called the little children unto him, and said, "Let the little children come to me, for such is the kingdom of God." Jesus continuing to teach, said, "Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall not enter into the kingdom of God."

Jesus teaches about divorce. The religious leaders came to Jesus and said, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for every cause?" Jesus answering them, said, "Have you read the law? It says that from the beginning, God made both men and women. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and take a wife. They shall be as one. When a man and a woman are divorced, they are not as one, but separated. God has joined them. Do not try to separate them."

The Pharisees' said, "Now tell us why Moses told them to give your wife a divorce in writing and put her away?" Jesus said to them. "Moses did this because of the hardness of your hearts. He let you put away your wives, but in the beginning, this was not allowed. Whoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another woman does commit adultery, and whoever marries a wife that has been put away from her husband by divorce does commit adultery."

On another occasion, a rich young ruler came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good things shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? There is no one good but God, but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments."

The man answered, "Which commandment shall I keep?" Jesus said to him, "If you will be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor. By doing this, you will have treasures in heaven. After you have done this, come and follow me."

The young man left Jesus, for he had great riches and was not willing to give his wealth away. He felt great sorrow.

Among the stories we read was the story of the great supper. When those who were bidden to the supper refused to come, the invitation was opened to every one. Jesus is offering you the invitation to come to him. No matter who you are, or what you have done, the invitation is open to you.

The Kingdom of Heaven

Chapter 10

Matt. 20-21, Mark 10, Luke 18-19, John 12

Jesus gave examples of the Kingdom of Heaven. He compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the master of a vineyard who went out early in the morning to hire people to work in the vineyard. The man said to these early morning workers,

"Go out to work in my vineyard, and I will give you a penny for your work." Later in the day, he found others standing idle in the market place. Four times throughout the day he hired additional workers. Each time the workers responded immediately to the opportunity to work.

In the evening, each worker received an equal amount of money. Those who came to work at dawn felt they should have received more money than those that were hired later in the day. The man in charge of the vineyard, said, "Do you look upon me with evil because I am good?"

Jesus is teaching in this parable that all will be rewarded according to their response to opportunities.

Two disciples who were brothers came to Jesus and said, "Master, we have a request we wish you to grant." Jesus replied, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said, "When you come into your glory, allow one of us to sit at your right side and the other at your left side."

Jesus said to the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you suffer the things I suffer, and be baptized with the things I am baptized with?" They replied, "We can." Jesus replied to James and his brother John, "You shall suffer the things I suffer, and will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit on my right side and on my left side is not for me to give, but will be given to those for whom it is prepared.

When the other disciples heard this, they were not pleased at this request, but Jesus said to them, "He who wishes to be the most important shall be servant of all. For the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others and to give his life as a payment for the salvation of many."

Jesus heals two blind men. As he came near the city of Jericho, two blind men sat by the side of the road begging. When they heard the multitude pass by, they asked what all of this meant. When they were told that Jesus was passing by, they cried, "Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on us."

Those people traveling before Jesus told the blind men to keep quiet, but they cried even more, "Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on us." Jesus stopped and asked that these crying men be brought to him. He then asked them what they wanted him to do for them. They answered, and said, "That we may receive our sight."

Jesus said to them, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." They immediately received their sight, and followed him, glorying God.

All the people that saw this gave praise to God.

There was a man whose name was Caches. He was chief among the publicans and was very rich. Caches sought to see Jesus when he was passing by, but he could not see him, for Caches was a short man. Because of this, he climbed into a tree to see Jesus when he passed by.

When Jesus reached the tree in which Caches was watching, he told him to come down, for he was going to his house for dinner. Caches quickly came down to receive Jesus as his guest. As Caches stood in the presence of Jesus, he said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods, I give to the poor. If I have falsely taken from others, I will repay them four times the amount I took from them."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today, salvation has come to your house, for the son of man is come seek and to save those who are lost."

To help understand the Kingdom of God, Jesus told a story concerning a nobleman. He said, "A man of high rank, called a nobleman, went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then to return home." Before he left, he called ten servants unto him and gave each of them a portion of money called a pound, and said, 'Engage in a business where you can put my money to good use. When I return, I will have gain.'

In time the nobleman returned and called the servants together to see how much they had gained by trading. The first came, saying, "Your pound has gained ten pounds." The nobleman said, "Because you have been faithful in little, you shall have authority over ten cities." A second servant came, and said, "Your pound has gained five pounds." The nobleman replied, "You shall have authority over five cities."

Another servant came and said, "Lord, here is your pound, I was afraid, because you are a harsh man, so I hid the pound in a napkin." The nobleman was very angry, and had the money taken away from the unfaithful man and given to the man who had ten talents.

Six days before the Passover feast, Jesus and his disciples came to the town of Bethany. It was here that Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, now

lived. While they were there, they made Jesus a supper. Martha, the sister of Lazarus served. The other sister, Mary, took a pound of very costly ointment and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair. The odor of the ointment filled the house.

Judas, the disciple who would betray Jesus, said, "This is a waste. Why wasn't the ointment sold and given to the poor?"

Jesus said, "Let her alone. She has done this against the day of my burying. You shall always have the poor with you, but I shall not always be with you." Jesus said this, meaning that soon he would die for the sins of the world.

As Jesus came near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples into a village, and said, "Go into the village, and you shall find a colt tied. A man has never ridden this colt. Untie him and bring him to me. If any man ask you why you are untying the colt, tell him that the Lord has need of him."

As the disciples went their way, they found the colt as Jesus had said, and they untied him. The owner said, "Why do you loose the colt?" The disciples answered, and said, "The Lord has need of him."

As the disciples brought the colt to Jesus, they put their coats upon him. Jesus sat upon the colt. As he went, the people spread their clothes in the way. When he was near the descending point of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen. They cried out, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Some of the Pharisees said, "Master, rebuke your disciples." Jesus answered, "I tell you that if these disciples would hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out in praise to God."

In the morning times as Jesus and his disciples were leaving the city of Bethany where they had spent the night, they saw a fig tree along the way. Jesus came to it hoping to find some fruit on it, but there was no fruit. Jesus said, "Let no fruit grow on this tree for ever." When Jesus had spoken these things, the fig tree withered away.

When the disciples saw what had happened to the fig tree, how it had died so quickly, they were surprised. Jesus said to them, "If you have faith and do not

doubt, you shall not only see this which is done to the fig tree, but also if you shall say unto this mountain, "Be removed, and be cast into the sea, it shall be done. For all things that you shall ask in prayer, and believe, you shall receive."

Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all the people who sold and bought in the temple. He over threw the tables of the moneychangers, and upset the seats of those who sold doves, saying, "It written, my house shall be called the house of prayer. You have made it a den of thieves."

The blind and the lame came to Jesus in the temple, and he healed them. When the chief priests and the scribes saw the things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, saying, "Hosanna to the son of David," they were displeased. They said to him, "Do you not hear what the children are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes I hear. Have you not read that out of the mouths of babes, even those who are yet nursing, shall come perfect praise?"

Jesus tells a story about two sons who received orders from their father. The father said to the first son, "Today, you are to work in my vineyard." The son answered his father and said, "I will not work in your vineyard today." Later he repented for disobeying his father and went to work in the vineyard.

The father came to the second son and said the same thing to him, "Today my son, you are to work in my vineyard." The second son answered, "I will sir," but he did not go to work in his father's vineyard.

Jesus asked the chief priest and others who had asked him by what authority he did miracles, "Now you tell me, which son did the will of his father?" They answered him, "The first son." Jesus said, "Publicans and harlots should go into the kingdom of God before you". John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him. The publicans and harlots believed him and repented. And you, when you have seen the work of God, you do not believe."

The Great Commandment

Chapter 11

Matt. 22-26, Mark 12,13, Luke 21, John 13

There was a religious group called the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, and had come to question Jesus. He answered them in such a way that they knew not what else to ask him. When the Pharisees heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered together to question him.

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, trying to set a trap for Jesus, said, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to the lawyer, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great

commandment. The second great commandment is like unto the first. You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself. On these two commandments are based all the laws and the prophets."

In the temple, there was a place where the people left their gifts. Jesus had observed the manner in which people were giving. Many were rich and had put in much money. There was a certain poor widow who threw into the offering place only two mites. A mite is the smallest copper coin that was made. It is equal to about one eighth of one cent.

Jesus called his disciples to him, and said, "This poor widow has put in more than any who have cast money into the treasure. For others did not put in of necessity, but out of their abundance. She has put in all that she had. She has even put in all her living."

Jesus went out of the temple and his disciples came to him to show him the great buildings of the temple. Jesus said to them, "Do not look at these things, for the time will come when the temple will lay waste. Not one stone shall remain in place, but shall be thrown down."

Later, when they set upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples asked Jesus, saying, "When shall these things come to pass? What shall be the sign of your coming, and what shall be the sign of the end of the world?"

Jesus answered, and said, "Many false Christ's shall come and deceive many. You shall hear of wars, but do not be troubled for these things must come to pass. This is not the end. For nations shall war against nations. There shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in different places. All of these things are the beginning of sorrow.

You shall be afflicted and some shall be killed. You will be hated of all nations for my name's sake. Many shall be offended and shall betray one another. Many false prophets shall come and deceive many. Because sin is everywhere, many will forget God. If you are faithful to the end, you shall be saved.

Jesus told his disciples that a time would come when a man of sin would set himself up in God's temple and declare himself God. In giving a warning, he said, "When you see this come to pass, do not try to maintain your home, or continue your job. Make haste to leave the city and get away from this abomination. Pray that this will not happen in bad weather, or when natural or spiritual laws hinder

your flight. For great tribulation shall come upon the world like none that has ever been, or shall ever come on the earth again.

Because of those who cry out to God, the time of great trouble will be shortened by the appearance of Jesus. Jesus told his disciples that during this time, there would be false Christ's and false prophets appear with great signs and wonders. They will try to deceive the Christians. "Believe none of these reports," warned Jesus. "For as the lightening cometh out of the east and shines unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. You do not have to hear about the coming of Jesus, for you shall see him for yourselves. For the Son of Man shall come with power and great glory."

To better understand the kingdom of heaven, Jesus tells a story about a bridegroom and ten virgins. These ten virgins took their lamps and went to meet the Bridegroom. Five of the virgins were wise, and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their lamps with them, but the foolish took no oil with them.

While they were waiting for the bridegroom, it grew late, and all went to sleep. At midnight, there was a cry made, "Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him." All the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have gone out." The wise answered, "No, we cannot give you oil, or we will not have enough for ourselves. You will have to go to those who sell oil and buy for yourselves."

While the foolish virgins went to buy oil, the bridegroom came and those that were ready went into the marriage. After the door had been shut, the others came, saying, "Open the door." But the bridegroom answered, "Go away, I don't know you."

Jesus told the disciples to always keep a watch, because no one knows when he will return.

When Jesus had finished teaching his disciples, he said, "You know that in two days there will be the feast of the Passover. At this time, the Son of man will be betrayed and be crucified."

The chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people gathered together at the palace of the high priest. They asked how they might take Jesus in a crafty way so they could kill him.

Judas Iscariot, a disciple of Jesus, went to the chief priest, and said to him, "What will you give me if I deliver Jesus unto you?" They agreed on thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Jesus tells of the judgment. In teaching his disciples, Jesus said, "The Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels will come with him. He shall sit upon the throne of his glory. All the nations of the world shall stand before him. He will divide them as a shepherd would divide sheep from goats."

He will say to those on his right, "Come you are blessed of my father. You shall inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you from the beginning of the world. I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me water to drink. I was a stranger in your land, and you invited me in. I was without clothing and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me."

The righteous shall answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you a stranger, or naked, or in prison or sick?" The king shall answer, "When you have helped even the least important of my children, it was counted as though you had done these things for me."

The king shall say to those on his left hand, "Depart from me into everlasting fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food. I was thirsty and gave me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not invite me in. I was naked, and you did not clothe me. I was sick, and in prison and you did not visit me."

Those on his left hand shall answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison and did not help you?" Then the king shall answer them, saying, "You have not done this for the least, so you have not done it for me."

The first day of the Passover feast was the day of unleavened bread. This bread had no rising in it, but was flat bread. The disciples came to Jesus, saying to him, "Where shall we prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

Jesus said, "Go into the city to such a man as I tell you, and say to him, "The Master says, my time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."

The disciples did as Jesus had said and made ready for the Passover. In the evening, he set down with the twelve disciples and they did eat.

After the Passover supper was finished, the Devil put into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus arose from supper and took a towel, wrapped it around him, and poured water into a basin. He began to wash the disciples feet and to wipe them with the towel.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wish to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash your feet, you can have no part with me." Simon Peter said, "Lord, wash not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

Jesus said, "You are not all clean," for he knew who it was that was to betray him. After he had washed the disciples feet and was set down again, he said, "Do you know what I have done? You call me Master and Lord, and this you should do, for I am Lord and Master. If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."

As Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, broke it, and gave to his disciples. He said, "Eat this bread. This is my body." Then he took the cup and gave thanks and gave to the disciples, saying, "Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which was shed for many." Then Jesus said, "I will not drink this fruit of the vine again until the day when I drink it with you in Father's kingdom."

Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn, and went out into the Mount of Olives.

The Bible says the he that has the Son hath life. He that does not have the Son does not have life. Those that believe on the name of the Son of God shall have eternal life

Jesus is Brought into Judgment

Chapter 12

Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13-18

At the Passover supper, Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me." The disciples looked at one another wondering which disciple would betray Jesus. Simon Peter told a young disciple who was sitting next to Jesus to ask him who it was that would betray him. He said to Jesus, "Lord, who shall betray you?" Jesus answered, "The one to whom I will give a token of friendship when I have dipped it." When he had dipped the token of friendship, called a sop, he gave to Judas Iscariot.

After the sop, Satan entered into Judas, Jesus said to him, "The thing that you are to do, do quickly." No one at the table knew what this saying meant. Some thought that Judas was going to buy some things because he carried the moneybag. Judas immediately went out into the night to betray Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples that he was the true vine and his Father was the keeper of the vineyard. Jesus said, "Any branch that does not produce fruit will be taken away from the vine. Every branch that bears fruit shall be cared for so it will bear more fruit."

In this illustration, Jesus is teaching the disciples that they cannot have a ministry apart from God, for he said, "A branch cannot bear fruit unless it is attached to the vine, nor can you bear fruit unless you receive your life from me. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in me and I abide in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without me, you can do nothing."

Jesus continued to teach, saying, "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what ever you will ask and your request will be answered. For it brings glory to the Father when you bear much fruit. Do this and you shall be my disciples."

Jesus told the disciples these things that they might be filled with joy.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is given. In teaching his disciples, Jesus said, "It is necessary that I go to my Father, for if I go not away the Holy Spirit will not come and comfort you. When I depart, I will send him to you." He will reprove the world of sin because they did not believe on him. He would reprove the world of righteousness because he was going to his Father, and they would see him no more. The world would be reproved of judgment, because the prince of the world has been judged.

Jesus spoke, saying, "When the Holy Spirit which is the Spirit of Truth shall come, he will guide you into all truth. He shall not speak of himself, but shall glorify me. For he shall receive of me and show you things to come."

Jesus prays for himself and for others. Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, this is the hour when you are to glorify your Son and your Son will glorify you. You have given him power over all flesh that he should give eternal life to all those you have given him. This is the eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and that they may know Jesus Christ, your son, whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. Now, O Father, glorify me with your own self, with the glory which I had with you before the world was."

"I have shown plainly your name unto those that you have given me. I have kept your word. They have known that all the things you have given me are of you. For I have given them the words you gave me, and they received them and have known that I came from you. They have believed that you did send me."

"I pray for them which you have given me, for they belong to you. For all that is mine is yours, and the things that belong to you also belong to me. I am glorified in this. Holy Father, keep those you have given me through your own name that they may be one, as we are one. I do not pray that you would take them out of the world, but that they would be kept from the evil one. Sanctify them through thy truth for your word is truth."

"I do not pray for these alone, but for all that shall believe on me through their witness. I pray that they may be one as we are one. The glory which you have given me, I have given them that they may be one, even as we are one."

O righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have declared your name, and will declare it that the love wherewith you have loved me may be in them, and I will be in them."

After the feast of the Passover, Jesus took his disciples with him to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, "Sit here, while I go and pray." He took Peter, James and John and began to pray with great sorrow and heaviness was upon him. Jesus told the three disciples that his would greatly sorrowful, even unto death. He said, "Stay here, and keep watch with me." He went a little further and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it is possible, let his cup pass from me, nevertheless, let it not pass if it is not your will."

Jesus came to the disciples and found them asleep and said to Peter, "Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray. Do not be tempted to sleep. Your spirit is willing, but your flesh is weak."

Jesus went away again and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me except that I drink it, your will be done." Jesus came to the disciples again and found their eyes were heavy.

He went away the third time and prayed the same words. When he returned to the disciples, he said, "Sleep on now, and take your rest, the hour is at hand when the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, and let us be going. He that is to betray me is near at hand."

While Jesus was speaking to his disciples, telling them about the coming events, Judas, one of the twelve, came with a great multitude. They were carrying swords and staves. To give a sign to those who had hired Judas, he kissed Jesus and said, "Hail Master."

Jesus said, "Friend, why have you come?" Those with Judas came and took Jesus. One of the disciples drew his sword and cut the ear off of a servant of the high priest. Jesus said, "Put your sword away, for all who take the sword shall die with the sword." Jesus touched the severest ear and healed it.

Jesus said to Peter, "Have you not thought that I could pray to my Father and he could give me thousands of angels. These things must come to pass so that the scripture will be fulfilled."

Jesus spoke to the multitude, "How is it that you come to take me with swords and shields. I set daily with you teaching in the temple and you used no force against me." All this was done to fulfill the writings of the prophets.

It was the religious leaders who bargained with Judas to betray Jesus. They were the ones who constantly tried to trap him with questions. Within a group of religious leaders there were priest who were leaders of the people. The final say for the church was the office of the High Priest.

When the multitude had taken Jesus to bring him to trial, they first brought him to the High Priest named Caliphs. Here, the scribes, who wrote and copied law, the elders of the temple, were gathered.

Jesus stood alone. All people forsook him. Those who sought to take his life sought for false witnesses.

As Jesus was taken into the high priest's office, Peter went into the palace and set with the servants so that he might see what would happen to Jesus.

The high priest found two false witnesses who testified against Jesus. He asked Jesus if the things they said were true. Jesus did not answer him. The high priest demanded that Jesus tell him if he was the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus answered him, and said, "you have said that I am the Christ, the Son of God. After this, you shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Upon hearing Jesus say this, the high priest tore his clothes, and said, "We have heard this man speak blasphemy. We have no further need of witnesses. Do you agree?" The people answered, "He is guilty of death."

The people spit in the face of Jesus, struck him with leather straps, and with their hands, saying, "Prophesy to us."

Peter had watched from a far as the multitude spit upon Jesus and hit him. As Peter was watching the things that were happening, a young woman came to him and said, "You were with Jesus in Galilee." Peter denied having been with Jesus before all who heard her.

Peter went out on the porch of the palace and another young woman saw him and said, "This man was with Jesus at Nazareth." Peter again denied, saying with an oath, "I do not know Jesus."

A while later, those who stood by Peter, said, "Surely you are one of the disciples, for the accent in your speech tells all that you grew up in Galilee." Peter again denied Jesus and said, "I do not know the man Jesus." He then began to curse and to swear.

Immediately upon doing this, he heard the morning cock crow, and remember that Jesus had said, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter left the porch and went out and wept bitterly.

They now led Jesus away from the High Priests office to the judgment hall. Because the day for the Passover had not passed they went not in the judgment hall. Pilote, the governor, came out unto them and said, "What charges do you bring against this man?"

They answered him, "If he had not done evil, we would not have brought him to you."

When Pilote saw that their reason for requesting the death sentence was not what he considered a death sentence, he said "Take him away and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."

When Pilote had questioned Jesus more, he told the Jews, "I find no fault in him, but as the custom is, I will release unto you the king of Jew, or the robber, Barabbas." The people cried out, "Give us Barabbas and let Jesus be crucified."

Jesus was willing to give up his earthly life for the sins of the world. He has paid the price for your salvation. He suffered that you would not have to suffer.

Jesus Suffers Death

Chapter 13

Matt. 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23, John 19-20

As Jesus stood before Pilate, he was asked if he was from Galilee. When Pilate learned that Jesus was from that part of Israel, he sent him to King Herod.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had heard much about him, and hoped to see him do a miracle. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus did not answer him. The Chief Priest and scribes stood by and spoke bitter words to Jesus, but he still made no reply.

Herod did not know what to do with Jesus because he did not answer him. He mocked him by putting a purple robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

As Pilate was set down in his judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with this just man, for I have suffered many things in a dream because of him."

The chief priests and the elders got the people to ask for Barabbas, a robber, rather than to ask for Jesus. When Pilate, the governor, asked the people, saying, "Who shall I release unto you? Jesus, who is called the Christ, or Barabbas?" The people answered Pilate, saying, "Release Barabbas."

Pilate said, "What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?" They all said unto him, "Let him be crucified." Pilate said, "What evil has he done?" but the people continued to cry out even more, "Let him be crucified."

When Pilate saw that the people were determined to crucify Jesus, he took water and washed his hands and said, "I am not guilty of the blood of this just man." All the people answered, "Let his blood be upon us and upon our children."

Pilate released Barabbas, and when he had stripes laid on the back of Jesus, he released him to be crucified.

Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, saw that he was condemned. He repented of the thing he had done and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." They answered him, 'what is that to us. That is your problem.' Judas threw down the money and went out and hanged himself.

The chief priests said, "It is not lawful to put the money into the temple treasury for it is the price of blood." So they bought a place in which to bury strangers with the money. The place is called, 'The Field of Blood.'

When the people had finished mocking Jesus, they took the royal robe off of him and put his own robe on him. They lead him away to be crucified.

The torture, the pain and the shame that was placed on Jesus were the same as that that was placed on those who were convicted of a terrible crime. Jesus suffered alone the agony of the trial and his death on the cross.

As they came out from the place where they had tried Jesus, they met a man from the country of Cyrene. His name was Simon. They made him carry the cross of Jesus. When they reached a place outside the city, called Golgotha, they made ready to nail Jesus to the cross that he might die there.

When Jesus had been brought to the place called Golgotha, they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink, but he would not drink it, even though it might have helped to stop the pain.

Jesus was nailed to the cross. The soldiers gambled to see who would get the garments that Jesus wore, he has crucified in shame. This fulfilled a prophecy which was written by godly prophets many years before, which said, "Thy divided my garments among them, and did cast lots to see who would receive my cloak."

As Jesus hung on the cross, the people sat down and watched him. Pilate, the governor, had a sign made to be place above the head of Jesus, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Also crucified at the same time with Jesus were two thieves. One thief was placed on the right side of Jesus, and the other thief was placed on the left side of Jesus.

As Jesus hung on the cross, the people passed by and mocked him. They wagged their heads, and said, "You said you could destroy the temple and build it again in three days. Let us see if you can save yourself." "If you are the Son of God, make yourself come down from the cross." The priests and the scribes also mocked Jesus, and said, "He said he could save others, but he cannot save himself." He trusted in God, now let us see if God will deliver him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God'."

One of the thieves yelled in mockery at Jesus, and said, "If you are Christ, save yourself, and save us." But the other thief, who also hung on a cross, said to the first thief who had spoken, "Do you not fear God? We are in the same condition as Jesus, but we suffer justly. He has done no crime." He then turned to Jesus, and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, saying, "Today you will be in paradise with me."

As Jesus hung from the cross, his mother, her sister Mary, and Mary Magdalene, stood by the cross. When Jesus saw his mother standing by the cross, he said, "Woman, look at your son." Meaning for her to look at John. Then he said to his disciple John, "Let my mother be your mother." From that time, John took the mother of Jesus into his own home to care for her as he would care for his own mother.

As Jesus hung on the cross, darkness came upon the earth. This darkness remained for three hours. At the end of the third hour of darkness, Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the people standing by said, "This man is calling for Elijah the prophet." One man took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar and put it on a stick and gave to Jesus to drink. The others said, "Let us see if Elijah will come to save him."

Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and died.

When Jesus died, the great curtain in the temple, called veil, which separated the priest from the people, was torn from the top to the bottom. There was an earthquake and the rocks rolled the hills. Many graves were opened, and many of the saints who had died, came to life and came out of their graves. They went into the cities. Many people saw them.

When the man who was in charge of the burial grounds saw this, he said, "Truly, this was the Son of God.

In the evening time, as Jesus hung lifeless on the cross, a rich man named Joseph, asked Pilate, the governor, for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave an order for Jesus body to be taken down and given to Joseph to be buried.

When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in the tomb that he had prepared for his own burial. This burial place had been cut out of a very large rock. When the body of Jesus was placed in the tomb, there was a large stone rolled to the door, so that no one might enter.

The day following the crucifixion was a day called 'the preparation day'. This was the day before the Passover Feast. Every one was to keep the strict laws that were made for this day.

The chief priests and the Pharisees came together to see Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this Jesus who deceived the people said, that after he was dead, he would rise the third day. We request that soldiers be placed at the tomb to keep his disciples from stealing his body away and telling the people that he is risen from the dead. If this happens, it would be worse than what has already happened." Pilate said, "Your request is granted, go you way. Make the guard as sure as you can."

The priests and Pharisees went their way. They sealed the tomb where the large stone sat against the door and left soldiers to guard the tomb.

When the Sabbath day ended, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb. There was a great earthquake, for the angles of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His face shone like lightening, and his clothing was as white as snow. Those who were keeping watch over the grave were very afraid. They did shake and were unable to move.

The angel said unto the woman, "You do not need to be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus which was crucified." He is not here, for he has risen from the dead. Come, and I will show you where he did lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples that Jesus is raised from the dead and has gone before them into Galilee. Go there, and you shall see him." The women departed quickly with fear and great joy. They did run to bring the news to his disciples.

The Bible says, "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. You can know that you have that eternal life right now.

Jesus is Alive

Chapter 14

Matt. 28, Mark 16, Luke 21, John 20-21, Acts 1-2

When Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene out of whom he had cast out seven devils. Mary and the other women told the disciples the good news how that Jesus had risen from the grave. Jesus met them and said, "All Hail, do not be afraid to tell my brethren that they are to go into Galilee, and there they shall see me."

Upon hearing the good news, Peter, ran quickly to the place where Jesus had been buried and looked into the tomb. He saw only the linen clothes laid by them. As he left he wondered what had come to pass.

After Jesus was raised, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She told them that Jesus was alive, and they did not believe her. After that he appeared unto two of his disciples as they walked in the country.

As they walked together, they did not know that this was Jesus who walked with them, but thought him to be a stranger. Jesus said, "Why are you sad? What is this thing that has happened?" One of the disciples answered and said, "Are you a stranger in Jerusalem, and have you not known of the things that came to pass in Jerusalem these last few days?"

They then told Jesus concerning the mocking, the trial, and have the crucifixion. One disciple said, "We thought that he would be the one who would deliver Israel. Even today is the third day since these things were done. A certain woman told us that they found not his body, and said that an angel had told her that he was alive. Some of the disciples went to the sepulcher, and his body was not there."

Jesus said, "Your hearts are slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Should Christ not have suffered these things that he might enter into his glory?" Jesus began with Moses and all the prophets and explained the scriptures concerning him.

When they reached the place the disciples were to spend the night, Jesus sat to eat with them. When he took the bread, and blessed it, and gave to them, their eyes were opened and they knew that this was Jesus. Jesus immediately left from their sight.

Two disciples who had talked with Jesus as they walked in the country went to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples that Jesus was alive. As they were speaking, Jesus stood in the midst of them and said to them, "Peace be unto you." They were afraid and thought him to be a spirit. He said, "Why are you troubled? See my hands and my feet. You may touch me and see me. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see me have." Jesus then took some fish and honey and did eat before them.

Jesus said to them, "These are the things I told you would come to pass." He told them of scriptures which were written in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and the Psalms concerning him. Their understanding was opened and they knew the meaning of the fulfilled scripture.

When Jesus had first appeared to his disciples, the disciple, Thomas, was not present. The other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas answered. "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Eight days after Thomas had expressed his doubt, the disciples were again gathered and Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared unto them and stood in the midst of them, even though the doors were shut. Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach your fingers and feel my hands, and reach your hand into my side and believe."

Thomas answered and said, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said to Thomas, "You have seen me and have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me, and yet have believed.

Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples.

The disciples went to Galilee where Jesus had appeared unto them sometime before. While they were there, Jesus again showed himself to the disciples.

Peter and the others had gone fishing with their ships. They had worked all night, but had caught nothing. In the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They answered, "No." Jesus said, "Throw your net over on the right side of the ship and you will find fish." When the disciples had done as Jesus said, they caught more fish in their nets than they could pull into the ship.

When this miracle happened, one of the disciples told Simon Peter that the man on the shore was the Lord. Peter jumped into the sea and swam to the shore. The other disciples came in a little ship, dragging the net with fish.

When they reached the land, they saw a fire of coals there and fish on the coals. He also had bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring fish which you have caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fish. There were one hundred and fifty three great fish. Even though there were many fish, their nets did not break.

When Jesus met with his disciples, he gave them the authority to carry out the ministry that was left for them to do. This authority is often called, 'The Great Commission'.

Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel of Christ to all people every where. Those who believe the things you preach and are baptized in water to show that they believe shall be saved. Those who do not believe shall not be saved."

Concerning signs, Jesus said, "Proof of the power of the Gospel shall follow those who believe. In my name they shall cast out devils. They shall speak with a new tongue. They shall be protected from harm. When bitten by a serpent, or poisoned, it shall not hurt them. When they pray for those who are sick, with the laying on of hands, the sick shall recover.

Just before Jesus was taken into heaven, he was with his disciples teaching them things that would come to pass and answering their questions. Jesus said, "You shall be given power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. You are to witness the Gospel of Christ in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and unto the whole earth."

When Jesus had finished speaking these things, as they watched, he was taken up. A cloud blocked their view of Jesus as he was taken from their sight. While they looked toward heaven, two men in white clothing stood by them. These men said, "You men of Galilee, why do you look into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall come again, even as you have seen him go into heaven."

Jesus had chosen twelve disciples. They were called apostles. Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus would no longer be counted among the twelve. Simon Peter

explained to those present that because of the betrayal and death of Judas, that another disciple must be chosen in his place.

There were others who had been with Jesus and the twelve disciples during the ministry of Jesus on earth. Among those were two men named Joseph and Matthias. The disciples prayed and said, "Lord, which of these have you chosen that he may take part of this ministry and of the apostleship, that he may take the place of Judas who sinned and fell?"

The apostles voted, and the vote was cast for Matthias. He was then numbered with the other eleven apostles.

At the end of the Pentecostal feast, which was a celebration of the end of harvest, there were one hundred and twenty believers gathered in an upstairs room waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind. It filled the entire house where they were sitting. There appeared divided tongues, like fire, over each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other languages by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Jerusalem, at the time, there were religious men gathered from throughout the world. When the news was told that the Disciples of Christ were speaking in many languages, those men came to hear them. They were confused, and amazed, for each of them heard his language spoken. They asked, "How is this possible? Are not all these that speak Galileans? We hear our own language in which we were born.

Signs Follow the Apostle's Preaching

Chapter 15

Acts, 2-8

Peter standing up with the other apostles said, "You men of Judea, and all of you that live at Jerusalem, listen to my words. These men who speak are not drunk as you suppose, but this is the fulfillment of the prophecy spoken by the prophet Joel."

Peter quoted Joel's prophecy and said, "It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, and I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. On my servants and handmaidens, I will pour out in those days of my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and will show signs in the earth beneath. There shall be blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and notable day of the Lord comes. It shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Peter continued, "You men of Israel, hear these words, Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God, who was among you and did miracles and wonders and signs as you know, was taken by wicked hands and crucified and slain.

God has raised Jesus up. It was not possible that death could hold him, for David spoke concerning him when he said that he saw the Lord always before his face. For he is on my right hand, that he should not be removed. Because of this, David said that his heart did rejoice and his tongue was glad, for God would not allow his body to see corruption."

When the people heard this, they were convicted in their hearts and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent of your sins, believe and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Your sins will be forgiven and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Peter continued with the good news by saying, "This promise is unto you and unto your children and to all that are everywhere. All that the Lord our God shall call, shall receive this promise." With many words, Peter continued to preach to the people that they might save themselves from the unbelief of their generation. The people gladly received the things Peter had spoken and three thousand believers were baptized that day confessing their faith in Jesus Christ.

Peter and John went into the temple at the hour of prayer. A crippled man, who had been lame all his life was laid daily at the gate of the temple to beg. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for some money. Peter

said to him, "Look on us." The man looked up, thinking he would receive some money. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Peter took the lame man by his right hand and lifted him up. Immediately, strength came into his feet and anklebones. He leaped up and stood. He walked and went into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God.

All the people saw him walking and praising God and they knew that he was the one who asked for money at the gate of the temple. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what they saw.

The people came to Peter and John on the porch of the temple, wondering at this great miracle. Peter explained to them the power of God through Jesus, and said, "Repent, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, that the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

While Peter and John were in the temple, the Sadducees, a religious group who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, came upon them. They took hold of them and put them in a prison ward until the next day.

The next day, the rulers, elders, scribes, the high priests and many others gathered together to question Peter and John. When they sat them in the midst of them, they asked, "By what authority and by what name have you done this?"

Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost, and said, "You rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are being examined for the good of this crippled man, be it known to you that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, God raised from the dead. Even by him does this man stand here before you whole."

When the people saw the boldness of Peter and John and knew they were not trained men, they knew that they had been with Jesus. They told them to go their way and speak no more in the name of Jesus.

To help have money to support the spread of the gospel of Christ, many people sold their land, houses and goods and brought the money to the disciples. There was a certain man named Ananias whose wife was named Sapphira. They sold some land and agreed to lie to the apostles about how much money they received for the land.

Ananias brought a certain amount of money and gave to the apostles. He told them that this was the price they had received. Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost to keep back part of the price of the land? While you had it, it was yours, and after it was sold, it was in your own power to do with it as you wished. You have not lied unto men, but unto God. Ananias, hearing these words, fell down dead. Fear came to all those who heard these things.

In about three hours, the wife of Ananias came and did not know what had happened to her husband. Peter said unto her, "Tell me if you sold the land for so much. She said, "Yes." Peter said unto her, "Why have you agreed with your husband to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Those who took your husband away to burry him shall also carry your dead body out. Sapphira fell down dead. Great fear came upon all the church and upon as many as heard these things.

When the high priest and those that were with him heard about the work of the apostles, they were filled with anger and put them into prison.

During the night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, and brought them out of prison and said, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." When they heard the angel speak this, they entered the temple early in the morning, and taught.

When the high priest came and those that were with him, they called the council together and sent to the prison to have Peter and John brought to them. When the officers came, they could not find them and returned, saying, "The prison was shut with all safety, the keeper of the prison stood before the doors, but when he had opened the door, there was no man within the prison."

When the high priest and others heard this, they doubted. Then one man came, saying, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

When Peter and John were brought before the high priest, he said, "Didn't we tell you not to preach in the name of Jesus?" Peter answered, "We ought to obey God, rather than to obey man."

As the Gospel was preached, many signs happened. The number of believers greatly increased. Soon, some of the people began to complain about the way

some of the widows were treated. They thought that they did not give certain groups enough care.

The twelve apostles called the multitude of disciples unto them and said, "It is not good that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Search out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. We will appoint these men over this business, but we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to preaching the word."

This pleased the people and they found seven such men and brought them to the apostles. The apostles laid their hands on them and prayed for their new ministry. Stephen, one of the chosen seven was full of faith and power. He did great wonders and miracles among the people.

There arose a certain one who sought to cause trouble among the people. He was able to get the people to bring Stephen before the council. Here, they found false witnesses to testify against Stephen. The high priest asked Stephen, "Are these things true?" Stephen answered, and said, "The God of glory appeared unto Abraham, our father. He told him to get out of his country and come into a land which he would show him." Stephen continued to recount the journey of Israel up to the present day, continuing through Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness. He told the sin of the golden calf and the worship of idols.

Stephen said, "Solomon built a house unto God, but the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as said the prophet. Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." Stephen then spoke harshly against those who accused him and said, "You are stiff-necked and have unclean hearts. You have received the law by the work of angels, but have not kept it."

When the people heard this, they were very angry and bit Stephen with their teeth. Stephen said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." The people ran upon him and cast him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen calling upon God, said, "Lord Jesus receives my spirit." He kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, "Lord Jesus, laid not this sin to their charge." When he said this, he died.

After the death of Stephen, great trouble came to the church at Jerusalem. A leader, named Saul, was going into the houses of believers and taking men and women to prison. Because of this, the Christians were scattered throughout the country. Phillip, went down to Samaria and preached the good news of Christ to

the people of Samaria. The people believed on Jesus because of Phillip's preaching and the great miracles, which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many and many who were crippled or sick were healed.

There was great joy in the city until a man named Simon, who was a sorcer, bewitched the people, making them believe that he was a great man of God. The people listened to him, because he had bewitched them for a long time.

As Phillip continued to preach, many believed and were baptized. Simon also believed and was baptized. He was amazed at the miracles that Phillip did and stayed by him as he preached.

The apostles heard of the revival in Samaria. They sent Peter and John to that place. When they came, they prayed for the people to receive the Holy Ghost. Simon watched as Peter and John laid hands on the people and prayed for them to receive the Holy Ghost. He said, "Give me this power, so that when I lay hands on someone, he may receive the Holy Ghost."

Peter said to Simon, "You money perish with you. Because you thought that the Gifts of God could be purchased with money, you have no part in this matter. Your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent and pray to God that the thought of your heart may be forgiven. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of sin."

Simon answered Peter and said, "Pray to the Lord for me that none of the things that you have said shall come upon me".

When Peter and John had preached and testified in many villages of Samaria, they returned to Jerusalem.

The Gospel is for all

Chapter 16

Acts 8-12

While Phillip was in Samaria, the angel of the Lord spoke to him and said, "Go toward the south unto Gaza which is in the dessert." Phillip went to Gaza as the angel had said. He saw a man of authority from the country of Ethiopia. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and returning home in a chariot. As he was riding, he was reading the writings of Isaiah the prophet.

The Spirit said to Phillip, "Go join the chariot." Phillip ran to the chariot and head the man read. Phillip asked, "Do you understand what you read?" The man from

Ethiopia, asked, "How can I understand unless someone teach me?" He asked Philip to come up into the chariot to sit with him.

The man read, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and like a lamb who could not speak before his shearer, so he did not speak. In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away. Who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. "The man asked, "About whom is the prophet speaking?"

Phillip preached unto him Jesus. As they went on their way, they saw place water. The man said, "See, here is some water, what would hinder me from being baptized?" Phillip answered, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The man answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He stopped the chariot and Phillip baptized the man.

When they came out of the water, the Lord caught Phillip away and he was found preaching at Azotes. He preached in many cities until he reached Caesarea

Saul, determined to bring trouble to all Christians, continued to threaten and kill certain ones. He went to the High Priest, and asked for papers to go to Dacamus to the synagogues. If he found any Christians along the way, he wanted permission to bind them and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial.

As Saul journey near Damascus, suddenly, a great light from heaven shone round about him. He fell to the earth, and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Saul answered, "Who are you Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus whom you persecute. It is hard for you to live a trouble mind."

With much fear, Saul said, "What will you have me do?" The Lord answered, "Arise and go into the city and it will be told you what you must do."

Those that were with Saul were speechless, as they could hear a voice, but could see no man. Saul arose from the earth, opened his eyes, but could not see. They led him to Damascus. He was there three days without sight. He ate no bread or drank no water those three days.

In the city of Damascus, there was a disciple named Ananias. In a vision, the Lord called Ananias by his name. He said, "I am here, Lord." The Lord said unto him. "Arise, and go to the street which is named Straight, and ask in the house of Judas

for a man named Saul of Tarsus. He is now praying, and has seen a vision of man names Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him that he might receive his sight."

Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard how much evil this man has done to the saints at Jerusalem. He has the authority from the chief priest to bind all that call on your name." But the Lord said, "Go your way. He is a chosen vessel unto me. He will bear my name before the Gentiles, and before kings, and before the children of Israel. I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

Ananias went on his way and entered the house where the Lord had told him to go. When Ananias put his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, who has appeared unto you in the way, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost."

Immediately, his eyes were opened and he was baptized.

Saul stayed for a while with the disciples that were at Damascus and preached Christ in the synagogues. All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man that destroys them which call on the name of Jesus? He has come here to Damascus to bring Disciples of Christ, bound unto the chief priests."

Saul became a great preacher of Christ and proved by the scripture that Jesus truly is the Christ.

Living at Joppa, there was a woman whose name was Dorcas. She did many good works and gave money when she could. It happened that she was sick and died. When they had prepared her for burial, they laid her in an upper room.

The disciples heard that Peter was at Joppa and sent for him to come to them. Peter came to them and was taken to the upstairs room where the body of Dorcas lay. Dorcas made for them. Peter put them all out of the room and kneeled down, and prayed. When he came in, the widows were weeping and showing the coats and garments which. Turning to the body, Peter said, "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up. He gave her hi hand lifted her up. He called the saints and widows and presented her alive.

The news of the resurrection of Dorcas spread throughout the land and many believed in the Lord.

When Cornelius, a gentile, explained to Peter concerning his vision, Peter said, "I understand that God is not a respecter of persons. In every nation those who fear God and work righteousness are accepted by him."

Peter continued to tell the people concerning Jesus and his ministry. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Ghost fell on them, which heard the word. The Jews were amazed because the Gentiles also received the Holy Ghost. They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Peter asked. "Can any man forbid that these be baptized in water who have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

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After Saul became a disciple of Christ, the Jews sought to kill him. When the disciples heard of the plot, they took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket, for they watched the gates of the city day and night to kill him.

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he sought to join the disciples, but they did not believe that he was a disciple. Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles, and told of the experience that Saul had while on the road to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to him.

Upon being accepted, Saul, went throughout Jerusalem and out of the city speaking boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputing against the Grecians. The Grecians were angry for the change that Saul had made and sought to kill him.

When the disciples knew that they intended to kill Saul, they took him to Caesarea and sent him forth to Tarsus.

After the conversion of Saul, the churches were at peace throughout all Judea and Galilee and in Samaria. They were built up in faith and walked in the fear of the Lord. In the comfort of the Holy Ghost, the church was multiplied.

There was a man in Caesarea whose name was Cornelius. He was a leader of a group called the Italian band. He was a man who feared God. He gave gifts to people and never neglected to pray.

Once when Cornelius was praying, he saw a vision. In the vision, an angel of God came to him and said, "Your prayers and your giving are come up as a reminded to the Lord. Send men to Joppa and call for Simon Peter, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside. He will tell you what you should do." When the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and sent them to Joppa.

The next day, as they came near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. Because he was very hungry, He fell into a trance. He saw heaven open and a certain vessel descending unto him as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth. There came a voice from heaven saying, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." Peter said, "No Lord, I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." This was done three times and the vessel was taken up again into heaven. While Peter thought on this thing, the men sent from Cornelius came to the house to ask for Peter.

Peter went with the men to the house of Cornelius and preached to them the gospel of Christ. For God had shown Peter through the vision that he accepted the gentile people.

The disciples that were in Judea, heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, these from Judea argued with him. They said, "You went to the home of uncircumcised men and did eat with them."

Peter told the entire happening and reminded them of the words of Jesus when he said, "John baptized with water; but he shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost." When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God saying, "God has also given to the Gentiles the way of repentance that they may receive eternal life."

As the Disciples of Christ grew in number, Herod, the king, began to persecute them. He killed James the brother of John with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he also took Peter. He was placed in prison, but a strong guard to keep him there until he could be brought to trial.

When Herod would have brought him to Trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. The keepers were before the door. The angel of the Lord came to him, and a light shone in the prison. The angel said, "Rise up quickly." When he got up, his chains fell off from his hands. The angel said. "Put on your coat and your sandals, and follow me."

Peter followed the angel out of the prison. The thing that he saw was really happening, but Peter thought it was a vision. When they were past the first and second ward. They came to the Iron Gate that leads into the city. The gate opened of its own accord. They went out and passed on through one street. The angel departed and Peter knew then that he had really seen an angel and that he had been delivered out of the hand of Herod.

When Peter came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, many were gathered there praying. When Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a young woman came to see who was there. When she saw that it was Peter, she did not open the gate, but ran with excitement to tell the others that Peter was standing before the gate. The people said to her, "You have lost you mind." When she conceived them that it was so, they said, "It is his angel."

Peter continued knocking. When they opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison and said, "Go show these things unto the brethren. He left there and went to another place.

When it was day, there was much excitement because Peter was no longer in the prison. Herod was very displeased with those who kept the prison.

The same Jesus Christ who helped Peter and the other disciples wants to help you today. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

For by his grace, you are saved.

The Disciples Become Missionaries

Chapter 17

Acts 13-24

There were certain ones in the church at Antioch. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for a work whereunto I have called them." When they had fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them and sent them to minister to other towns and countries.

Being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, Barnabas and Saul, who was also called Paul, went into many towns preaching the gospel of Christ. While in the place called Pathos, the deputy of the country wanted to hear the word of God. When the disciples came to show him the ways of the Lord, a sorcerer withheld them, and sought to turn the deputy away from the faith.

Saul looked upon the sorcerer and said, "O man full of all deceit and mischief. You are a child of the devil and an enemy of all righteousness. Will you seek to change the right ways of the Lord? The hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind for a season." Immediately, the man became blind.

When the deputy saw what had happened, he believed the teachings of the Lord. The disciples went to several other places and then returned to Jerusalem.

There was a certain man at Lystra who was crippled and had never walked. He heard Paul speak. Paul knew that he had faith to be healed, and said with a loud voice. "Stand upright on your feet." He leaped and walked.

When the people saw what Paul had done, they said, "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men." They called Barnabas and Paul names of their gods. The priest of the false God Jupiter, brought oxen and garlands and planned to sacrifice them.

When the apostles heard of this, they ran in among the people and said, "Sirs, why do you these things? We also are men of like passions with you and preach unto you that you should turn from these ways unto the living God, which made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein. He in times past allowed all nations to walk in their own ways, but has left a witness, in that he gave us rain from heaven for a fruitful season, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

With these sayings, they were able to stop the people from their attempt to worship them.

While Paul and Barnabas were at Lystra, there came certain Jews from other places where they had preached, and persuaded the people to stone Paul. After he was stoned, they took him out of the city thinking that he was dead. While the disciples stood around him, he rose up and came into the city. The next day they left the city.

After they had preached in the city of Derbe, they returned again to Lystra and then traveled to other cities where they had first ministered so they could encourage the disciples to continue serving the Lord.

They ordained elders in every church and prayed with fasting as they commended them to the Lord.

When Paul and Silas went to Philippi, which was a chief city, they sat down to speak to women who were there by the river. A woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira asked the disciples to abide at her home.

It came to pass, as they went to prayer, a certain young woman who was possessed with a spirit of fortune telling met them. She brought her masters much money by soothsaying. The same woman followed Paul and the other disciples, and cried, saying, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation." After she had done this for many days, Paul was grieved and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." The evil spirit came out the same hour.

When the masters of this young woman saw that she was longer a soothsayer, they brought Paul and Silas before the rulers. They said, "These men do greatly trouble our city." The rulers tore off the disciple's clothes and commanded them to be beaten. After they had laid many stripes on them, they cast them into prison.

At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God. The prisoners heard them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaking. The doors were opened and every one's bands were loosed. The keeper of the prison would have killed himself, but Paul said, "Do not harm yourself, we are still here." He came to them in much fear and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved."

Paul went to Athens. He was stirred because of the many idols the people worshipped there. He talked with them in the synagogue and in the market places each day.

Certain scholars said, "What will this babbler say? He seems to set forth strange gods, for he preaches Jesus and the resurrection." They took Paul and brought him before a leader and told of this doctrine of Jesus. Paul stood in the middle of Mars' hill and said, "You men of Athens, I see that you are too superstitious. For as I passed by and saw your devotions, I found a found an altar with this inscription, 'to the unknown God'. This God whom you worship, not knowing who he is, I declare unto you."

Paul then preached to them the story of Jesus and how that he made all men under the earth one flesh. Paul said, "he was appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus. He has given assurance to all men in that he has raised him from the dead."

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked and others said, "We will hear you again of this matter." So Paul departed from them.

Paul was in the city of Troas on the first day of the week. He preached to them. Paul continued his preaching until midnight. There were many lights in upper rooms where the people were gathered together. In a window sat a certain you man who fell asleep and fell down from the third loft. He was taken up dead.

Paul went down; fell on him, embracing him, and said, "Trouble not you for there is life in the boy."

After the disciples had finished eating and talking, it was day, so they made plans to depart, for he wished to be at Jerusalem to celebrate the Pentecostal feast. While they were making plans to sail, the young man who fallen from the window was brought unto him. They were greatly comforted to see him alive and well.

Paul had been preaching at Caesarea and staying in the home of Phillip, the evangelist. A man in the temple sought to stir up the people and laid hand on Paul, saying, "Men of Israel, help. This is the man that teaches all men everywhere against people and the law. He has also brought Greeks into the temple."

The entire city was moved and the people ran together and took Paul and put him out of the temple and shut the door. As they set about to kill him, news came to the chief captain of the band and that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

As Paul was led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, "May I speak to you?" The captain said, "Can you speak Greek? When he had given him the right to speak, Paul told him in the Hebrew tongue concerning his conversion.

When the people had heard him, they said, "Away with this fellow. He is not fit to live." As they bound Paul he said to the centurion that stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge amen that is a Roman and uncondemned?" When the centurion told this to the cheif captain, he came to ask Paul if he was Roman? Paul said, "Yes." They let Paul go because he was a Roman citizen.

Paul stand before the Sanhedrin. Paul in standing in trial before the Sanhedrin, said, "Men and breathern, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Ananias, the high priest commanded those that stood by Paul to strike him on the mouth. Paul said, "God shall smite you, you white wall, for you set to judge me after the law and you command me to be smitten contrary to the law."

Those that stood by said to Paul, "Do you speak evil of God's high priest?" Paul answered, "I did not know he was the high priest, for it is written, thou shall not speak evil of the ruler of the people."

When Paul knew that those that accused him were Pharisees and another part Sadducees, he cried out, "I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. Is it for my hope in the resurrection of the dead for which I am called into question."

This caused contention among his accusers, and there was much confusion, for the Sadducees do not believe in a resurrection. The chief priest, being afraid they were going to pull Paul apart, took him to the castle.

That night, the Lord stood by Paul and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul, for you have testified of me in Jerusalem and you must bear witness of me at Roam."

Paul had escaped death by the council, but some members of the council were determined to see him destroyed. Certain of the Jew bound themselves under an oath, saying, we will neither eat nor drink until we have killed Paul.

The leaders of the group told the chief priests and elders that they had made this vow. The Nephew of Paul heard this and told one of the chief captains. When the chief captain heard this, he provided seventy horsemen and 200 men carrying spears to take Paul to Felix, the governor. He sent a letter, saying, "This man would have been killed, but, seeing he was a Roman citizen, I took an army and rescued him. I know nothing he has done to be worthy of bonds or to put in prison.

The soldiers took Paul to Antipathies. From there, he was taken to Caesarea and presented to Felix, the governor. Felix said to Paul, "When those who accuse you are come, I will hear you.

After Paul was in Caesarea for five days, an orator came to accuse Paul before Felix. After much talk between the accusers and Paul, Felix said he would wait until a certain time later to hear him. Felix would not allow Paul's friends to help him, but gave him some liberty.

After certain days, Felix with his wife, who was a Jewess, sent for Paul so they could hear him speak concerning the faith of Christ. As Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled and answered, Go your way for now. When I have a convenient time, I will call you."

Felix also hoped that Paul would give him money to free him, so he sent for him often. Two years later, Felix wishing to show favor to another leader that was against the ministry of Paul left him bound.

The Need to be saved

Chapter 18

Acts 25-28, Romans 1-6, I Cor. 5-11

When a man by the name of Festus began to rule the area of the country was Paul was bond, the high priest and the chief of the Jews spoke against Paul. They asked him to send Paul to Jerusalem. Here, men would be hiding along the way so that they might kill Paul.

Festus answered the people by telling them that Paul would be kept at Caesarea, for he himself would go to Jerusalem in a short time. "You may go down then and accuse this man, if you find wickedness in him," said Festus.

After ten days, Festus called for Paul to be brought to him. The Jews had many complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. Festus wanting to please the Jews said to Paul, "Will you go up to Jerusalem and be judged of these things before me?"

Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat where I ought to be judged. To the Jews, I have done no wrong. If I had done anything worthy of death, I would not refuse to die, but none of these things these men accuse me is cause for me to be delivered to them. I appeal to Caesar."

Festus spoke with the council and said, "You have appealed to Caesar, and unto Caesar you shall go."

When Paul appeared before King Agrippa, the king said, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Paul thanked the king and said that he was glad to stand before him, for he knew the king to be much learned in the laws. Paul told how that he had persecuted the Christians and how he would go to other cities outside Jerusalem for imprisonment and trial.

Paul said, "At midday, O King, I saw a light from heaven, more bright than the sun, shinning around me and those with me. When we were fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me. The voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? When I asked the Lord who he was, he said, "I am Jesus whom you persecute."

Paul continued to recount his experience and told the king how he had told the vision to both small and great so that he might obey the Lord. After hearing Paul speak, King Agrippa said, "You almost persuade me to be a Christian." King

Agrippa said to the counsel, "If this man had not appealed to Caesar, he could have been set free, for he has done nothing worthy of death or bonds."

When it was decided that Paul should go to Italy to be judged by Caesar, he and certain other prisoners were given to the custody of a man and boarded a ship for Italy. When the ship was launched, they intended to sail by coasts of Asia. On their way to Cyprus, the winds gave the ship much trouble.

When they had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and came to the city of Myra, they found another ship bound for Italy and put Paul on that ship. They sailed slowly for many days because sailing was dangerous. Paul said to those in charge of the ship. "Sirs, I know that this voyage will be of hurt and much danger, not only to the ship, but all our lives." The man in charge of the ship did not believe Paul.

As they sailed, they could no longer control the ship, but it went where ever the wind blew it. On the third day, they cast many things overboard. After many days, all hope that they would be saved was gone. Paul said, "Sirs, you should have listened to me and not started this journey, but now I ask you to be of good cheer, for there shall be no loss of any man's life, but the ship shall be lost. For this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, stood by me and said that I should not fear, for I would yet appear before Caesar, and the lives of all who sail with you shall be saved. We will be cast upon an island."

When the fourteenth night had past, they knew they were near land. When they were fifteen fathoms away from land, they cast four anchors out and waited for the day. When they were about to get into the boat, Paul said, except you stay in the ship, you would be killed." On hearing this, the soldiers cut the ropes and let the boat fall into the water. Paul encouraged the people to eat, as they had fasted for fourteen days. When it was day, they were able to reach land.

When Paul and the others on the ship had come to the land of Militia, the people showed them great kindness. They built a fire that they might dry themselves and be warm. When Paul was gathering a bundle of sticks to lie on the fire, a viper came out of the heat, and bit Paul on the hand.

When the people of the land saw the poisons snake on Paul's hand, they said, "No doubt this man is a murderer. He has escaped the sea, but he cannot live." Paul shook the snake off into the fire and it did him no harm.

When the people saw that he did not fall down dead or have swelling, they changed their minds about Paul, and thought him to be a god.

After three months stay on the island were Paul and others were ship wrecked, they began their journey again for Rome. When they reached Rome, Paul and the other prisoners were given to the charge of a guard there. Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier that kept him.

After three days, Paul called the chief of the Jews together. He told them of his false trial, and how he would have been let go if he had no appealed to Rome. Paul said, "For this cause, I called for you, that you may have hope for Israel." The people answered, "We have received no letters concerning you out of Israel, nor has anyone come that spoke any harm of you. But we wish to hear you, so we may know what you think."

When Paul exhorted them with the story of Jesus, some believed him some did not believe.

Paul lived for two years in his own hired house, and spoke to all that came in to hear him. He preached the kingdom of God, and taught those things that concerned the Lord Jesus Christ. He spoke boldly and no man stopped him.

As Paul preached in Rome, he said, "I am a debtor to all people, so as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believes. The gospel is given to the Jews first, but also to the Greek. For the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, for as the prophets said, "The just shall live by faith."

Paul continued to preach, saying, "In times past, men served the creature more than they served God who is blessed and eternal. For this cause God gave them over unto unnatural ways of life and they became even more evil and did not want to think about the ways of God."

Paul sought to show the people that without honoring God by serving his son, Jesus Christ, that man's minds would be turned to evil, and they would destroy their own bodies. To honor Christ, is to know peace.

Paul spoke to the people at Rome about their sins. He said, "God forbid that we should continue in sin. "How can the grace of God grow, if we sin?" asked Paul.

He continued to say, "We that are dead to and should no longer live in sin. When one is baptized into Jesus Christ, he is baptized into his death. Therefore, we are buried with Christ by baptism into death. Like Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in the newness of life. Let no sin rule your mortal body. Do not obey your body desires, or allow any of your body members to be used for sinful purposes. For if you sin, then sin will be your ruler."

It was reported that the church at Corinth had those who committed fornication and still were part of the church. Paul wrote to the church group and told them that they should not be a proud church, but there were sinful deeds among them. He told them that when they have such a person among them to deliver him to Satan for his destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

"Glorying is not good," says Paul, "Don't you know what a little rising in your bread will do? It will make the whole loaf rise. Cleanse away the sin that it may not spread."

Others who were angry with another in the church were taking their problems before unbelievers. They were told, "Do you not know that saints shall judge the world? If you are worthy to judge the world, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?"

"Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionist, shall inherit the kingdom of God." "Some of you were among this group, but now you are washed clean and sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," declared Paul.

To avoid fornication, every man should have his own wife, and every woman should have her own husband. The husband is to give unto the wife due respect, and the wife should respect her husband. Neither husband nor wife, have power over his or her own bodies, but they are to give themselves to one another.

Paul said by permission, rather than command, that it would be better for the unmarried and widows to stay as they were, but if they desire companionship, they should marry, For it is better to marry than to live in lust.

Those who are married should not seek to break that marriage. Do not use liberty you receive in Christ become a stumbling block to those that are weak. Through

your knowledge of Christ's freedom, do not let a weak brother perish. If you know something is offensive to a weak brother, do not do that thing.

The church at Corinth had departed from the example Christ had given concerning coming together to observe the Lord's Supper. Paul said, "When you come to gather, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. Paul said, "When you come together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. Every one takes with him his own supper. One is hungry and another one is drunken. Eat your meals in your own houses. So not shame the house of the Lord.

To explain the true meaning of Lord's Supper, Paul said, "The same night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and gave thanks and gave to his disciples. Jesus said that this was his body, which was broken for them, and they should honor the Lord's Supper in remembrance of me. As Jesus took the cup, he told them that this was his blood. Paul said, "As often as they partake of the Lord's Supper, they would do so in remembrance of Jesus."

Jesus said, "Whoever shall eat this break, or drink this cup of the Lord without being worthy, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. Those who eat and drink without being worthy eat and drink damnation to themselves"

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jesus has come that all might have abundant life. To receive that life, please pray this prayer in sincerity:

Victory Over Death

Chapter 19

I Cor. 13-15, II Cor. 5,15, II Peter 1, Galatians 5, Peahens 4,

Phil. 4, II Theses. 2, I Tim. 3, II Tim 2, Phileman 1

In teaching the attitude of the true believers heart concerning love, Paul writes, ":If I had the gift of all languages, but didn't love others, I would only be a noise. If I had the gift of prophesy and knew everything that was going to happen, and if I had enough faith to move a mountain and no love, I would be worth nothing.

"If I gave everything I have to the poor, and if I were burned alive for preaching the gospel, but didn't have love, I would be of no value." All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. There are three things that remain. They are faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these three is love."

Paul wrote to the Galatians and told them that once they were set free from sin, they should not get involved with the practices of sin again. He lists the works of the flesh that can be seen. They are: "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, loudness, the worship of idols, witchcraft, hatred, making your own doctrine, haughtiness, wrath, strife, encouraging others to do wrong, false doctrines, envying, murder, drunkenness and retellings." Those who do these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The fruit of the spirit is: "Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, gentleness, meekness, and temperance." There are no laws against these. If we live in the spirit, we should walk in the spirit and not desire self-glory.

Christians should agree. Paul told the Ephesian that they should not act like children, always changing their belief, and constantly searching for something new. There are many people who look for someone to deceive. Paul writes, "Always speak the truth. There is one body and one spirit, even as you have one hope. There is one God, and Father of all, who is above all, and through all in you all."

The Lord gave to some the ministry of Apostles, to others, he gave prophets, to some he gave the ministry of an evangelists and some, he gave pastors and teachers ministry. These are given so that the saints might be perfect before God, and also to encourage the body of Christ. Paul declared, "Therefore, do not be confused by false doctrine."

Paul wrote to the Philippians concerning wants. He said, "My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Such a promise was given after he had instructed them concerning their care for him, and the promise of their reward for faithfulness. Paul said, "I have learned that whether I have much or nothing, to be content. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. The offerings you have sent to me have a sweet smell, and are a

sacrifice that is acceptable and well pleasing to God. Let the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he told them of the man of sin. The man of sin, often called the anti-Christ, is coming to deceive many. Paul said to not be shaken in your minds or be troubled by spirit or word or by letter, for the day of Christ's coming is near. Before the day of the Lord, many will fall from their faith. A man of sin, called the son of damnation, will be revealed. He will exalt himself above God and set himself up in the temple of God, telling all that he is God.

Those working the works of God are now keeping him from being revealed, but his spirit is already at work in the world. When his hindering force is taken out of the world, he will reign in his evil power. He will show great signs and lying wonders. He will receive the power to do these things from Satan.

This man of Sin shall deceive those who have not loved and accepted the truth of Jesus Christ. Because they would not receive the love and truth of Christ and be saved, they will believe a lie and be lost. They had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Paul gives instructions to Timothy on the qualifications of a church bishop. He said, "A man who is a church bishop must be blameless. He is to be a man who has not been previously married. He is to be watchful, sober and of good behavior. He is to be a man who welcomes guests, and is able to teach. He is not to drink wine, be a striker, or be greedy. He is not quarrel, or covets. The Bishop must rule his family well. His children are to obey him. He is not to be a new believer, but one who has proven his faith in God. He must be a man who others highly esteem."

Deacons are too extremely serious and meet the requirements laid down for the bishop in family and in conduct. They are to hold the faith with a pure conscience.

The wives of the deacons must be serious minded. They are not to be tale borers, and they must be faithful in all things.

Those who use the office of the deacon will obtain great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Study the Word of God. Paul, in writing to Timothy, said, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who knows what the word of God says so you won't be ashamed." "Stay away from foolish talkers, for such things will lead to

more ungodliness. Their words will be like a running sore. The foundation of God stands sure. For the Lord knows his children. Let all who hold the name of Christ depart from sin."

In a fine home, there are vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of stone. Some are vessels of honor and some are vessels of dishonor. If a man will cleanse himself from sin, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified and fit for the master's use. He will prepare himself for every good work.

Paul writes to Phileman encouraging him by telling him that he always prayed for him. After hearing of his love and faith toward the Lord and toward all saints. He prayed that his witness would be effective. The news of his work was refreshing to the saints. Paul asks Phileman to receive Onesimus, who was once a slave. Now as he returns to Phileman, he asks him to accept him, as he would receive Paul's own son, for he had carefully cared for Paul. Paul said, "If you count me as a partner, receive him as myself. If he has done you wrong and owes you anything, change it to my account. I have faith in you, knowing you will do more than I say.

The religious leaders in the days of Christ were divided concerning the resurrection of the dead. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They constantly debated concerning these things.

Jesus taught that the resurrection of the dead was through him, the Christ. Jesus was buried, and arose again the third day according to the scriptures. Paul said, "If Christ did not raise, then our preaching is in vain, and we are yet in our sins. If in this life only, we have hope, we are of all men most miserable. But Christ is now risen from the dead and become the first fruits of those that have died."

Paul continued to teach, saying, "By man came death. By man came also the resurrection of the dead. For in Adam, all die. So in Christ all shall be made alive. Christ shall receive his first fruits at his coming, for he has put all things under his feet."

Death is the enemy of man, but there is victory over death. In this earthly body, there is a house not made with hands, but is eternal in the heavens. In this body we long to be clothed with our spiritual house." God has made us for himself. He has given the down payment on eternal life by his Spirit.

"We can always be full of faith, knowing that while we are living in our natural body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith and not by what we see. We are willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Therefore, we work that we may be accepted of the Lord, for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ and receive the reward for the things done in this life, whether they be good things or evil things."

The Last Invitation

Chapter 20

Heb. 5,11, James 3,5, I Peter 2

I Cor. 12, III John, Rev. 1, 22.

Aaron, the brother of Moses, was the first high priest. He was the one who lead the people in their worship to God. After the time of Moses, there have been many high priests. Some of them were evil and kept laws, but they did not regard God or man.

Jesus is the true order of the high priest. He did not honour himself, neither did he glorify himself to be made a high priest, but was born of God. Christ was like the high priest named Melchisedec, for his father was not a priest, nor did he have a son to become a priest. He blessed Abraham as he returned from battle.

Jesus, after this order, is called of God as a high priest. He is ever praying to God for us that we shall be accepted by God.

Things that do not exist are made into an existing substance when faith is present. By faith, those of old time received a good report. By faith, we have understanding of the worlds that were framed by the word of God. The world was not made of things that can be seen.

By faith, Abel offered unto God an acceptable sacrifice. By faith, Enoch was taken to be with the Lord and escaped death. Without faith, it is impossible to please the Lord. For a man who comes to God must believe that God exists. He must also believe that God will reward those who seek him.

By faith, Noah prepared an ark in which he and his family were saved from the flood, bringing condemnation to the world. By Faith, Abraham went into his place of inheritance without knowing where he was going. He mourned in a land of promise as a stranger. He looked for a city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Through Faith, Sarah received strength to conceive and bear a child when she was an old woman, because she judged God faithful to do what he had promised.

All these died in faith, but now desire a better country, that is, the heavenly kingdom. God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith others who believed God left a good report. God has provided a better place for those who serve him in faith that they might be made perfect.

A man can keep from offending by not speaking the wrong things. If a man offends not in word, he is a perfect man and able to control his whole body. Horses have bits in their mouths so that they will obey. Ships, which are great in size, are turned about with a small helm. Even so, the tongue is a little member, and boasts great things. How great a matter a little fire begins to burn. The tongue is a fire. It is a world of iniquity. The tongue defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature. It is set on fire of hell.

Every king of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea are tamed by mankind, but the tongue can no man tame. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue, men bless God the Father, and then will curse men that were made after the image of God. Out of the same mouth comes blessings and cursing. These things should not be. Does a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter water? Can the fig tree bear olive berries? Can a grape vine bear figs? Can a fountain give both salt water and fresh water?

Whoever is wise; let him use his knowledge to have good conduct with meekness and wisdom.

Those who submit themselves to God, and resist the devil will cause the devil to leave them. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

If any are sick or afflicted, let him pray. If any of you are merry, let him sing psalms. If any are sick, let him call for the elders of the church. Let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The Prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord will heal him of that sickness. If he has committed sins, those sins shall be forgiven. Confess your needs to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. Honest, fervent prayer of the righteous will be answered.

Those who profess the name of Jesus should lay aside all guild and evil speaking. They should not be a hypocrite, or envy others. As a newborn baby needs milk in which to grow, so a new Christian needs to feast in the word of God.

Peter encouraged the people by saying, "Do not partake of fleshly lusts which will destroy the soul. Keep the things you say honest among the Gentiles, that when they speak of you as evildoers, they will be speaking of your good works, and may behold God when he visits them.

Submit yourselves to the laws of man for the Lord's sake, whether it is the laws of the king, or the governors, or those that are sent by him. It is the will of God that in well doing, you will put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Do not use your liberty as a means to stir up strife. As servants of God, honour all men. Love your brothers in Christ. Fear God and honour the king.

Concerning spiritual gifts, there are different gifts, but the same Lord gives them. There are different operations of the same gifts, but the same God who worketh all things gives them. These gifts are given to every man that he may profit. To one man is given the spirit of the word of wisdom. To another is given the word of knowledge by the same spirit. To another, the same spirit gives faith. To another is given the gifts of healing by the same spirit. To another is given the working of miracles. To another is given prophecy. To another is given the discerning of spirits. To another is given different kinds of tongues. To another is given the interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts work by the same spirit. Several of these gifts are divided to every man as the spirit wills. As the body is one, yet have many members, so also are the members of Christ. The body of Christ is not one member, but many members.

The best way to expect a miracle from God is to know that God loves you, and that he longs to come to you where you have a need. He is the absolute source of your life.

John said that God wished about everything else in the world that his people would prosper and be in health. The way to prosper in every area of your life is for your soul to prosper in God's word.

John wrote, saying, "Beloved, I wish above all things, that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul does prosper. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

The book of Revelation sums up the whole of God 's working with man, and the destroying of the devil.

A special promise is given to those who hear the words of the Lord and obey them. John wrote, saying, "Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein. For the time of the Lord is at hand."

All men of the earth shall wail because of his appearing, for the Lord is the almighty who is to come.

In speaking of his coming, Jesus, appearing to John in a vision on a deserted island, said, "Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be. I am the beginning and the end. I am the first and the last."

In describing the place the Lord has prepared, John said, "He has shown me a pure river of water of life, coming out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of the street and on either side of the river, there is the tree of life. This tree bears twelve kinds of fruits and yields her fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were used for the healing of the nations.

There shall be no more curses, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in this place. His servants shall serve him. They shall see his face, and his name

shall be in their foreheads. There shall be no night there. They do not need a candle or the light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

A great last invitation to worship God is given by John in the last verses of the book of Revelation.

"The Spirit of the Lord and the bride of Christ say, come. Let all who hear, say, come. Whosoever will, may take the water of life freely."

John wrote, saying, "As I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, that if any man shall add to these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city and from the things that are written in this book.

He that testified these things, smith, surely, I come quickly, Even so Lord Jesus, come."

The invitation to accept Christ Jesus is still open. You can answer that invitation by praying this prayer, or a prayer of your own. Please pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that you died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite you to come into my heart. I want to trust you as saviour and follow you as Lord. Amen.

The word of the Lord is true. If you have prayed this prayer in sincerity, you are saved. Determine to live for the Lord all the days of your life.

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