

Matthew

Chapter 1

¹Matthew reports the ancestors of Jesus starting with Abraham, ²his son Isaac, and Isaac's son Jacob. ³After that, there was Judah and his son Perez (whose mother was Tamar). Perez's descendents were Hezron, Ram, ⁴Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, ⁵and Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz's descendants were Obed (whose mother was Ruth), Jesse, ⁶David, and Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

⁷Solomon's descendents were Rehoboam, Abijah, Asaph, ⁸Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Uziah, ⁹Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, ¹⁰Manasseh, Amos, Josiah, ¹¹and Jehoiachin, who was born when the Jews were exiled to Babylon. ¹²Jehoiachin's descendents were Shealtiel, Zerubbabel, ¹³Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, ¹⁴Zadok, Akim, Eliud, ¹⁵Eleazar, Matthan, and Jacob. ¹⁶Joseph was Jacob's son and the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus the Messiah.

¹⁷Fourteen generations are listed from Abraham to King David, fourteen from David's time to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

¹⁸The birth of Jesus the Messiah happened this way: His mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before the marriage, while still a virgin, she became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹When Joseph discovered that his fiancée was pregnant, he did not want to subject her to public disgrace, so he decided to break their engagement quietly. ²⁰While still contemplating exactly what he would do, an angel appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to get married. The child has been

conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will have a son, and you must name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what God had spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ²³*Watch for this! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son named Immanuel*, meaning “God with us.” ²⁴Aroused from sleep, Joseph did as the angel had commanded. He took Mary to be his wife ²⁵but avoided intimacy with her until after the baby was born. And he named him Jesus.

Chapter 2

¹After Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem from lands beyond the eastern horizon. ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” they asked. “We have seen the star signaling his birth and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard about them, he and most of Jerusalem were mystified. ⁴He called a meeting of the chief priests and teachers of the Law and asked, “Where is the Anointed One supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they told him. “This is what the prophet Micah wrote: ⁶*But you, Bethlehem near Ephrath, are only a small village among the people of Judah. Yet out of you will come one who will rule Israel, whose origin is from ancient times.*”

⁷Herod called a private meeting with the wise men to determine exactly when the star had first appeared. ⁸“Go to Bethlehem,” he told them, “and diligently search for the child. When you find him, come tell me where he is so I may also worship him.”

⁹After receiving the king’s instructions, they knew where to go. ¹⁰On the way to Bethlehem, they were filled with joy as the star they had seen in the east appeared again and guided them to the place where the child was. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the

child with his mother, Mary. After bowing in worship, they opened their treasure chests and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Warned by God in a dream, they did not return to Herod but left for their own country by another route.

¹³After they had gone, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” the angel said. “Herod will search for the child to kill him. Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother, and stay there until I tell you to return.”

¹⁴While it was still night, Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵This fulfilled Hosea’s prophecy: *I called my son out of Egypt.*

¹⁶Herod was furious when he realized the wise men had tricked him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and areas nearby—all who were two years old and under—in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men’s report. ¹⁷His brutality fulfilled what Jeremiah had prophesied: ¹⁸*A cry is heard in Ramah, mourning and bitter weeping. Rachel weeps for her children and will not be comforted, because they are gone.*

¹⁹After Herod’s death, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ²⁰“Get up and take the child and his mother to Israel. Those who tried to kill the child are now dead.”

²¹So Joseph left Egypt with his family and would have settled in Judea ²²but heard that Archelaus reigned in place of his father, Herod. Afraid to go there and warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and Jesus ²³to Nazareth, a village in the Galilean hills. That fulfilled what the prophets had written: *He will be called a Nazarene.*

Chapter 3

¹The word of God came to John the Baptizer in the Judean wilderness. ²“Repent,” he said, “for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

³Long ago, the prophet Isaiah referred to John when he wrote: *Listen! Someone is shouting, "Clear a path in the wilderness, for the Lord our God is coming. Fill the valleys and flatten the mountains. Straighten the curves and smooth the rough places."*

⁴He wore camel's hair clothing with a leather belt around his waist and lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey.

⁵People came from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and the Jordan valley ⁶to see and hear John. They confessed their sins and were baptized in the Jordan River.

⁷When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming, he said, "You bunch of snakes. Who warned you to flee God's judgment? ⁸The way you live proves whether you have left your sins and turned to God. ⁹Do not say to one another, 'We are all right because we are Abraham's descendents.' That does not mean anything. God can make these stones into children of Abraham. ¹⁰His ax is raised, ready to sever the roots of every tree that does not produce good fruit. You will be chopped down and thrown into the fire!

¹¹"One is coming after me," he cried, "who is so great I am not worthy to carry his sandals. I baptize with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. ¹²He holds his threshing fork and will thoroughly clean his floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn but burn the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹³From Galilee, Jesus came to be baptized of John.

¹⁴John objected, saying, "I should be baptized by you. Why are you coming to me?"

¹⁵"This is what should be done," Jesus said. "We must do all that God requires of us."

So John consented and baptized him.

¹⁶As Jesus came up out of the water, the sky opened, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, lighting upon him.

¹⁷A voice spoke from heaven: “You are my son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

Chapter 4

¹The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. ²For forty days, Jesus fasted, eating nothing at all. Afterward, it was time to eat.

³The tempter came and said, “Since you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus refused, quoting from Deuteronomy: “*People do not live by bread only but by everything God says.*”

⁵After that, Satan took him to the Temple in Jerusalem and stood him on a high place.

⁶“Since you are the Son of God, jump. For it is written in the Psalms: *God will command his angels to protect you. They will hold you in their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.*”

⁷“It is also written,” Jesus said, quoting from another Deuteronomy passage, “*You must not test the Lord your God.*”

⁸Once more, Satan took him to a high mountain and showed him the magnificence of the kingdoms of this world. ⁹“I will give you all of this,” he said, “if you will bow and worship me.”

¹⁰Again, Jesus refused. “Get out of here, Satan. The scriptures say: *Love the Lord your God and serve only him.*”

¹¹Then Satan left, and angels came and ministered to Jesus.

¹²After Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he left Judea and went to Galilee.

¹³Jesus left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee, a town in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴This fulfilled the prophecy that Isaiah wrote: ¹⁵*Darkness will not last forever. The insignificant land of Zebulun and Naphtali, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, will be a glory to the nation.* ¹⁶*People who walk in*

darkness will see a bright light. Upon those who live under dark shadows of death, the light will shine. ¹⁷After that, Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

¹⁸As Jesus walked along the seashore of Galilee, he saw Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the water, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰At once, they left their nets and followed him.

²¹A little farther up the shore, he saw James and his brother John in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their nets. ²²As soon as he called out to them, they left their boat and followed him.

²³Throughout Galilee, Jesus taught in the synagogues, preached the good news of the Kingdom, and healed people who had every kind of disease and sickness. ²⁴News spread all the way through Syria. Soon, people brought those who suffered from various diseases, seizures, or paralysis, and were tormented by evil spirits. He healed them all. ²⁵Great multitudes from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond Jordan followed him wherever he went.

Chapter 5

¹When Jesus saw a crowd gathering, he went up on the hillside, and his disciples came to him. ²He taught them, saying, ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who recognize their need for God, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. ⁴Blessed are the mourners, those who are grieving, for God will bring comfort, joy, and laughter to their aching hearts. ⁵Blessed are the humble, those who are content with their identity, for they will inherit the land.

⁶“Blessed are the righteous, those who hunger and thirst to please God, for they will find true satisfaction. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, those who care for others, for ⁸they will receive mercy. ⁸Blessed

are the pure in heart, those who are inwardly clean, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, those who respond to an offense with kindness, for they will be called God's children.

¹⁰“Blessed are the persecuted, those who suffer because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹¹Blessed are the hated, those who are rejected, insulted, and falsely accused because of me. ¹²In their day of abuse, they will rejoice because their reward in heaven is great. The ancient prophets were treated the same way.

¹³“You are like the salt of the earth,” Jesus said. “But if salt no longer tastes like salt, where is its seasoning value? It's worthless, so it's thrown out and people walk on it.

¹⁴“You are here to give light to the whole world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. It is placed on a stand to give light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, you should let your kindness shine before men so they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think I am here to abolish the Law or the words of the prophets. I came to fulfill their purpose. ¹⁸The truth is, until heaven and earth disappear, the smallest letter or the least meaningful pen stroke will not go away until its purpose is achieved.

¹⁹“Anyone who regards one of the commandments as unimportant and leads others to agree is the lowest of the lowly. But those who obey God's Law set an example for others and will rank high in the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁰I am telling you, unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law, there is no way you will enter the Kingdom.

²¹“Since ancient times, you have heard it said, ‘Do not commit murder,’ and, ‘A murderer must be brought to trial.’ ²²But I tell you, anyone who is angry with his brother will stand trial. For

slander, someone may be brought to court, but anyone who calls another person stupid is in danger of hell's fire.

²³“So if you are praying at the altar and remember a grudge against another person, ²⁴leave your offering and seek reconciliation. Then come and offer your gift.

²⁵“When you are headed for court, settle your obligations quickly, or your accuser may take you to the judge, who will tell the officer to throw you into prison. ²⁶If that happens, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny owed.

²⁷“You have heard it said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say that anyone with a lustful look has already committed adultery in his or her heart.

²⁹“If your right eye leads you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one eye than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

³⁰“If your right hand causes you to sin, it would be better to cut off your hand than to have your whole body go to hell.

³¹“You have been taught that a man who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. ³²But I say that anyone who divorces his wife, except for being unfaithful, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“For ages, you have heard it said, ‘Do not swear falsely, but keep the vows you make to God.’ ³⁴I say you should not swear at all, not by heaven, because it is God's throne, ³⁵not by earth, because it is his footstool, and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. ³⁶“Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷Simply mean what you say, your ‘yes’ meaning ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ meaning ‘no.’ Anything more is of the devil.

³⁸“You have heard it said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,’³⁹but I say you should not try to get even. If people slap you on the cheek, do not retaliate, but allow them to slap the other cheek. ⁴⁰If someone wants your shirt, be willing to give up your coat as well. ⁴¹If a soldier demands you carry his pack for one mile, carry it for two. ⁴²Give to everyone who asks, and do not refuse those who want to borrow something.

⁴³“People usually say, ‘Love your neighbor, and hate your enemy,’⁴⁴but I say you should show kindness to your enemies, doing good to those who persecute you. ⁴⁵Your Father in heaven causes the sun to rise on the evil as well as the good and sends rain on both the righteous and unrighteous. You should show kindness as he does. ⁴⁶What is commendable about loving only those who love you? Even greedy tax collectors and other sinners do that. ⁴⁷If you warmly greet only your brothers, you accomplish no more than the pagans.⁴⁸Show mercy to others, just as your Father has shown mercy to you.”

Chapter 6

¹“Be careful not to do your good deeds publicly so others will admire you. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to the needy, do not call attention to yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and streets. They want people to praise them. Without a doubt, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³Instead, when you help someone, do it quietly, without fanfare. ⁴Then your Father will see what you have done in secret and will reward you.

⁵“Do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so people will see them. I assure you, they already have their reward. ⁶Go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father without being seen. Then your Father will see what you have done in secret and will reward you.

⁷“When you pray, do not repeat empty words like the pagans, who think they will be heard because of their incessant babbling. ⁸Do not be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask.

⁹“Pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us the bread we need for today. ¹²Forgive our wrongs as we forgive the wrongs of others. ¹³Keep us from temptation and protect us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

¹⁴“If you forgive others for the wrongs they have done, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive them, he will not forgive you.

¹⁶“Do not make your fasting obvious like the hypocrites, who look hungry and miserable so people will admire them for their sacrifice. I am telling you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷Instead, comb your hair and wash your face ¹⁸so no one will know. Your Father will see what was done in secret and will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up treasure for yourselves on the earth, where moths and rust can eat it up and thieves break in and steal. ²⁰Instead, store your treasure in heaven, where it is safe from moths and rust and thieves. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“Your eyes are like a lamp for the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are bad, darkness fills your body. If the light you think you have is really darkness, how terrible is that darkness!

²⁴“You cannot be the slave of two masters. You will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and earthly treasure. ²⁵That is why you should not worry about your life, whether you have

enough food and drink or clothes to wear. Isn't life more important than food and the body more important than clothes?

²⁶“Look at the birds. They do not plant seeds, gather a harvest, or store grain in barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷Can all of your worrying increase your lifespan? ²⁸Why worry about clothes? Look how the wildflowers grow in the fields. They do not spin yarn or weave fabric. ²⁹Yet Solomon in his greatest splendor was never dressed like one of them. ³⁰If God clothes the wildflowers that are here now and gone tomorrow, don't you suppose he will care for you? Why do you have such weak faith?

³¹“Do not trouble yourselves with questions like ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²People who do not know God seek such things, but your heavenly Father already knows what you need. ³³Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have its own worries. Today's problems are enough for today.”

Chapter 7

¹“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. ²In the way you judge others, you will be judged. The standard you apply in condemning others will be the standard used against you.

³“Why do you worry about the sawdust in your brother's eye but never notice the board in your own eye? ⁴How can you say, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and not admit the existence of something much larger in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First take the large object from your eye. Then you can see clearly to remove the small piece from your brother's eye.

⁶“Do not give something holy to dogs. They will turn and attack, tearing you to pieces. Do not toss your pearls to pigs. They will only trample them under their feet.

⁷“Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock.

⁹“Would any of you give a stone to a son who asks for bread? ¹⁰Would you give him a snake if he asked for fish? ¹¹Bad as you are, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your heavenly Father give only what is good to those who ask him.

¹²“Do what you would have others do to you, for this is the intent of everything taught in the Law and the prophets.

¹³“Enter through the small gate. For many take the wide gate and broad road that lead to destruction. ¹⁴Only a few find the small gate and narrow road that lead to life.

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets who come disguised as sheep but inwardly are vicious wolves. ¹⁶Recognize them by their actions. No one picks grapes from thorn bushes or figs from briars. ¹⁷Good trees produce good fruit, and bad trees produce bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and burned. ²⁰Each tree is identified by its own fruit.

²¹“Not everyone who calls me master will enter the Kingdom of Heaven but only those who do the will of my heavenly Father. ²²On Judgment Day, many will say, ‘Lord, didn’t we prophesy, cast out evil spirits, and do many wonderful deeds in your name?’ ²³Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you disobedient lawbreakers.’

²⁴“Everyone who not only hears my words but also puts them into practice is like a wise man who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on solid rock. ²⁵When a storm brought torrential rain, flooded streams, and hurricane-force winds, his house did not collapse, because it was well built on an unshakable foundation.

²⁶“Anyone who hears my words but never acts on them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand, without a foundation. ²⁷The rain fell, causing the streams to rise. As soon as the high winds came, the house fell with a great crash and was completely destroyed.”

²⁸When Jesus finished teaching, the crowds were amazed ²⁹because he spoke with authority, nothing like the teachers of the Law.

Chapter 8

¹When Jesus came down from the mountain, a huge crowd followed him.

²A leper kneeled before him, begging, “Sir, you could make me well if you wanted to.”

³“I want to.” Jesus touched him. “Be cleansed.”

Immediately, all signs of the leprosy disappeared.

⁴“Do not tell anyone about this. Show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices commanded by Moses. Your healing will become public record so you will no longer be regarded as a leper.”

⁵At Capernaum, a Roman officer sent a message to Jesus, pleading for help. ⁶“Sir, my young servant lies at home, paralyzed with intense pain.”

⁷“I will go and heal the servant,” Jesus said.

⁸But the officer felt unworthy for Jesus to come. “I am not important enough to have you enter my house. Just give the order, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority. At my

command under Caesar, my soldiers come and go and do exactly what I say.”

¹⁰Jesus marveled at the message. To those following him, he said, “In all of Israel, I have never seen such faith. ¹¹I tell you, outsiders will come from everywhere to dine with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, ¹²but many Israelites will be on the outside in the darkness, where there will be bitterness and weeping.”

¹³He turned to the messengers. “You can go home now,” he said. “As you have believed, so it will be.”

At that moment, the servant was healed.

¹⁴When Jesus went to Peter’s home, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law sick in bed with a burning fever. ¹⁵He went to her bedside and took her by the hand, and the fever left. At once, she got up and began to prepare dinner for them.

¹⁶That evening, people brought many who were possessed by an evil spirit. With a few simple words, he commanded the evil spirits to leave and healed those who were sick. ¹⁷His actions fulfilled what the prophet Isaiah wrote long ago: *Truly, he has taken our infirmities and carried our pain.*

¹⁸Jesus saw how large a crowd had gathered around him and told his disciples to take him to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹A teacher of the Law said to him, “Teacher, wherever you go I will follow.”

²⁰“Foxes have dens, and birds have nests,” Jesus said, “but the Son of Man has no home where he can lay his head.”

²¹Another would-be follower said, “Sir, let me first go and care for my father until he dies.”

²²Jesus replied, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”

²³Then he climbed into a boat with his twelve disciples. ²⁴While he slept, a violent wind struck the lake and sent large waves crashing over the side.

²⁵His disciples woke him, crying, “Sir, help us or we are going to drown!”

²⁶“Why are you so afraid? You have such weak faith.” Standing, Jesus ordered the wind and waves to be still.

Suddenly, the wind died and the waters became calm.

²⁷The disciples looked at one another with amazement. “What sort of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

²⁸After crossing the lake, Jesus came to the region of the Gadarenes, where two men possessed by evil spirits met him. They lived among the tombs and were so fierce that no man dared pass their way.

²⁹“What do you want with us,” they screamed, “Jesus, Son of God? Have you come to torment us before the appointed time?”

³⁰In the distance, a large herd of pigs was feeding.

³¹“If you force us out,” the spirits begged, “send us into the herd of pigs.”

³²“Go!” Jesus commanded. So the evil spirits came out of the men and went into the pigs. Suddenly, the whole herd stampeded down the steep bank, plunged into the water, and drowned.

³³The herdsmen ran into the town and told what had happened, how the men had been delivered and the pigs were lost. ³⁴So all the townspeople went out to see Jesus and begged him to leave their country.

Chapter 9

¹Jesus took a boat across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum.

²People carried a paralyzed man on a mat. Impressed by their faith, Jesus said, “Do not worry, my friend. Your sins are forgiven.”

³Some of the teachers of the Law murmured among themselves, “What is he saying? That is blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins.”

⁴Immediately, Jesus recognized their reaction. “Why are you thinking I’ve done something wrong? ⁵Which is easier to say, ‘Your

sins are forgiven,' or, 'Stand and walk'? "So you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He turned to the paralyzed man. "Get up. Take your mat and go home."

⁷Without hesitation, the man stood and walked to his own house.

⁸Everyone marveled and glorified God for sending a man with such authority.

⁹As Jesus walked along, he saw the tax collector, Matthew, sitting at the place where people paid taxes. "Follow me," he said, and Matthew got up and followed.

¹⁰Later, Matthew had a big feast for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors and other outcasts were among the dinner guests who ate with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such people?"

¹²Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people do not need a doctor. The sick do. ¹³Go learn what the prophet meant when he said, *I wanted you to show love, not make sacrifices*. I have not come to invite to repentance those who think they are righteous. I have come for those who know they are sinners."

¹⁴One day, the followers of John the Baptizer asked Jesus, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples never do?"

¹⁵Jesus answered, "At a wedding, the friends of the bridegroom do not go without eating while he is still with them. But the day will come when he will be gone. Then they will fast."

¹⁶"No one uses a piece of new cloth to patch old clothes. The patch would shrink, pull away from the old, and make the tear worse. ¹⁷Men do not pour new wine into old skins. If they did, the wineskin would burst, ruining both the wine and the wineskin. New wine is always kept in fresh skins so both are preserved."

¹⁸While Jesus taught, an official came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died, but if you will come lay your hand on her, she will live.”

¹⁹So Jesus and his disciples followed him.

²⁰On the way, a woman who had suffered twelve years from constant bleeding walked up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his robe. ²¹She had thought, *If I can just touch his clothes, I will be healed.*

²²Jesus turned and saw the woman. “Be joyful, daughter, because your faith has made you well.” From then on, the woman’s health was restored.

²³At the house, Jesus saw musicians and mourners crying their funeral dirge. ²⁴“You can leave,” he said to the crowd. “The girl is not dead, only sleeping.”

They laughed and said he was crazy, because they knew she was dead.

²⁵After the people had been sent outside, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up.

²⁶Report of this miracle spread throughout the area.

²⁷When Jesus left, two blind men followed him, crying out, “Son of David, have mercy on us.”

²⁸He entered the house and watched the blind men make their way to him. “Do you believe I can make you see?”

“Yes,” they answered. “We do.”

²⁹He touched their eyes. “Let it be according to your faith.”

³⁰Immediately, they could see.

In a demanding tone, Jesus said, “Do not tell anyone about this.”

³¹But as soon as they were out the door, they spread the news throughout the area.

³²As the blind men left, people brought to Jesus a man who could not speak because of an evil spirit. ³³After Jesus cast out the evil spirit, the man began to speak.

In amazement, the crowd said, “We’ve never seen anything like this in Israel.”

³⁴But the Pharisees said, “He casts out devils by the power of Satan.”

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and small communities, teaching in the synagogues and preaching the good news of the Kingdom. He healed all kinds of sicknesses and infirmities.

³⁶As he looked at the large crowd, he was moved with compassion because he saw them as helpless and confused, like sheep that had no shepherd. ³⁷He turned to his followers. “The harvest is huge, but there are not many workers. ³⁸Pray for the lord of the harvest to send more workers into the fields.”

Chapter 10

¹He called the twelve disciples and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and heal all kinds of sicknesses and infirmities. ²Their names were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee, ³Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus known as Thaddaeus, ⁴Simon the zealous, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.

⁵These were his instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or into any Samaritan city. ⁶Concentrate on the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷Wherever you go, preach the good news that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. ⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out evil spirits, and raise the dead. Give as freely as you have received.

⁹“Do not take any money, ¹⁰a bag with extra clothes and sandals, or a walking stick. Let your work earn your support as you go.

¹¹“When you enter a town or small community, look for a godly man who will let you stay in his home until you leave for the next town. ¹²As you enter a home, greet the people with kindness. ¹³If