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GENESIS

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky." ⁹ Evening came and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹² The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees

bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons^c and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with^d living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

^A1:1 Or *created the universe* ^B1:8 Or *"heavens."* ^C1:14 Or *for the appointed times* ^D1:20 Lit *with swarms of*

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^A in^B our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl^C on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man
in his own image;
he created him in the image
of God;
he created them male
and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." ²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given^D every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh^E day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested^F on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time^G that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land,^H and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.

⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went^I out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through

^A1:26 Or *human beings*; Hb *'adam*, also in v. 27 ^B1:26 Or *as* ^C1:26 Or *scurry* ^D1:30 *I have given* added for clarity ^E2:2 Sam, LXX, Syr read *sixth* ^F2:2 Or *ceased*, also in v. 3 ^G2:4 Lit *creation on the day*

^H2:5 Or *earth* ^I2:10 Or *goes* ^J2:10 Lit *became four heads*

the entire land of Havilah,^A where there is gold.¹² Gold from that land is pure;^B bdellium^C and onyx^D are also there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man^E no helper was found corresponding to him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone
of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;

this one will be
called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "In fact, God knows that when^F you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Sin's Consequences

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of

^A2:11 Or of the Havilah ^B2:12 Lit good ^C2:12 A yellowish, transparent gum resin ^D2:12 Identity of this precious stone uncertain ^E2:20 Or for Adam ^F3:5 Lit on the day

the evening breeze,^A and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard you^B in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹ Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than
any livestock
and more than
any wild animal.

You will move on your belly
and eat dust all the days
of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you
and the woman,
and between your offspring
and her offspring.^C
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶ He said to the woman:
I will intensify
your labor pains;
you will bear children
with painful effort.
Your desire will be
for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it':

The ground is cursed
because of you.

You will eat from it
by means of painful labor^D
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns
and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants
of the field.

¹⁹ You will eat bread^E
by the sweat of your brow
until you return
to the ground,
since you were taken from it.
For you are dust,
and you will return to dust."

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve^F
because she was the mother of all
the living. ²¹ The LORD God made
clothing from skins for the man
and his wife, and he clothed them.

²² The LORD God said, "Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain Murders Abel

4 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the

^A3:8 Lit at the wind of the day ^B3:10 Lit the sound of you ^C3:15 Lit your seed and her seed

^D3:17 Lit it through pain ^E3:19 Or food ^F3:20 Lit Living, or Life

LORD's help."^{A2} She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground.³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD.⁴ And Abel also presented an offering — some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,⁵ but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^B And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed.^{C12} If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment^D is too great to

bear!¹⁴ Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case,^E whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him.¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod,^F east of Eden.

The Line of Cain

¹⁷ Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son.¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah.²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the first^G of the nomadic herdsmen.²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the first^G of all who play the lyre and the flute.²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah,
hear my voice;
wives of Lamech,
pay attention to my words.
For I killed a man
for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

^{A4:1} Lit *the LORD* ^{B4:8} Sam, LXX, Syr, Vg; MT omits "*Let's go out to the field.*" ^{C4:11} Lit *blood from your hand* ^{D4:13} Or *sin* ^{E4:15} LXX, Syr, Vg read "*Not so!*" ^{F4:16} Lit *Wandering* ^{G4:20, 21} Lit *father*

²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged
seven times over,
then for Lamech it will be
seventy-seven times!

²⁵ Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given^A me another offspring^B in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

The Line of Seth

5 This is the document containing the family^C records of Adam.^D On the day that God created man,^E he made him in the likeness of God;² he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind.^F

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ Adam lived 800 years after he fathered Seth, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁵ So Adam's life lasted 930 years; then he died.

⁶ Seth was 105 years old when he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived 807 years after he fathered Enosh, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁸ So Seth's life lasted 912 years; then he died.

⁹ Enosh was 90 years old when he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived 815 years after he fathered Kenan, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹¹ So Enosh's life lasted 905 years; then he died.

¹² Kenan was 70 years old when he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived 840 years after he fathered Mahalalel, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So Kenan's life lasted 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel was 65 years old when he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived 830 years after he fathered Jared, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So Mahalalel's life lasted 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸ Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived 800 years after he fathered Enoch, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁰ So Jared's life lasted 962 years; then he died.

²¹ Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah. ²² And after he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch's life lasted 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah was 187 years old when he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived 782 years after he fathered Lamech, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁷ So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

²⁸ Lamech was 182 years old when he fathered a son. ²⁹ And he named him Noah,^G saying, "This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after he fathered Noah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ³¹ So Lamech's life lasted 777 years; then he died.

^A4:25 The Hb word for *given* sounds like the name "Seth." ^B4:25 Lit *seed* ^C5:1 Lit *written family*

^D5:1 Or *mankind* ^E5:1 Or *Adam, human beings* ^F5:2 Hb *'adam* ^G5:29 In Hb, the name *Noah* sounds like "bring us relief."

MARK

The Messiah's Herald

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.^A

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:^B

See, I am sending
my messenger ahead
of you;

he will prepare your way.^{C,D}

3 A voice of one crying out
in the wilderness:

Prepare the way

for the Lord;

make his paths straight!^E

⁴John came baptizing^F in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸I baptize you with^G water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. ¹⁰As soon as he came up out of the

water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

¹²Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving him.

Ministry in Galilee

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^{H,I} of God: ¹⁵"**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!**"

The First Disciples

¹⁶As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen.

¹⁷"**Follow me,**" Jesus told them, "**and I will make you fish for^J people.**"

¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. ²⁰Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

^A1:1 Some mss omit *the Son of God* ^B1:2 Other mss read *in the prophets* ^C1:2 Other mss add *before you* ^D1:2 Mal 3:1 ^E1:3 Is 40:3 ^F1:4 Or *John the Baptist came* ^G1:8 Or *in* ^H1:14 Other mss add *of the kingdom* ^I1:14 Or *gospel* ^J1:17 Or *you to become fishers of*

Driving Out an Unclean Spirit

²¹ They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. ²² They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

²³ Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, ²⁴ "What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ Jesus rebuked him saying, "**Be silent, and come out of him!**" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

²⁷ They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!^A He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

Healings at Capernaum

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew's house with James and John. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her,^B and she began to serve them.

³² When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town was assembled at the door, ³⁴ and he

healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Preaching in Galilee

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. ³⁶ Simon and his companions searched for him, ³⁷ and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸ And he said to them, "**Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come.**"

A Man Cleansed

³⁹ He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ⁴⁰ Then a man with leprosy^C came to him and, on his knees,^D begged him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with compassion,^E Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. "**I am willing,**" he told him. "**Be made clean.**" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ telling him, "**See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.**" ⁴⁵ Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in

^A1:27 Other mss read "What is this? What is this new teaching? For with authority at once" ^C1:40 Gk *lepros*; a term for various skin diseases, also in v. 42; see Lv 13–14 ^D1:40 Other mss omit *on his knees* ^E1:41 Other mss *Moved with indignation* ^F1:44 Or *against them*

deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

The Son of Man Forgives and Heals

2 When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home.² So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them.³ They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them.⁴ Since they were not able to bring him to^A Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying.⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, **"Son, your sins are forgiven."**

⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: ⁷ "Why does he speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, **"Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"** ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he told the paralytic — ¹¹ "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

¹² Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God,

saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

The Call of Levi

¹³ Jesus went out again beside the sea. The whole crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them.¹⁴ Then, passing by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, **"Follow me,"** and he got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While he was reclining at the table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating^B with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who were following him.¹⁶ When the scribes who were Pharisees^C saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat^D with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he told them, **"It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

A Question about Fasting

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees^E were fasting. People came and asked him, "Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, **"The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast."** ²⁰ But the time^F will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.²¹ No

^A2:4 Other mss read *able to get near* ^B2:15 Lit *reclining together* ^C2:16 Other mss read *scribes and Pharisees* ^D2:16 Other mss add *and drink* ^E2:18 Other mss read *The disciples of John and of the Pharisees* ^F2:20 Or *the days*

one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made.²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins."

Lord of the Sabbath

²³ On the Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to make their way, picking some heads of grain.²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ He said to them, "Have you never read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry — ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence — which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests — and also gave some to his companions?" ²⁷ Then he told them, "The Sabbath was made for^A man and not man for the Sabbath.²⁸ So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

3 Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a shriveled hand.² In order to accuse him, they were watching him closely to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath.³ He told the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand before us."⁴ Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.⁵ After looking around at them with anger, he was grieved

at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.⁶ Immediately the Pharisees went out and started plotting with the Herodians against him, how they might kill him.

Ministering to the Multitude

⁷ Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea,⁸ Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing.⁹ Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush him.¹⁰ Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him.¹¹ Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!"¹² And he would strongly warn them not to make him known.

The Twelve Apostles

¹³ Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him.¹⁴ He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles,⁸ to be with him, to send them out to preach,¹⁵ and to have authority to^C drive out demons.¹⁶ He appointed the Twelve:^D To Simon, he gave the name Peter;¹⁷ and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother John, he gave the name "Boanerges" (that is, "Sons of Thunder");¹⁸ Andrew;

^A2:27 Or because of ^B3:14 Other mss omit he also named them apostles ^C3:15 Other mss add heal diseases, and to ^D3:16 Other mss omit He appointed the Twelve

Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot,¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

A House Divided

²⁰ Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat.^A ²¹ When his family heard this, they set out to restrain him, because they said, "He's out of his mind."

²² The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons."

²³ So he summoned them and spoke to them in parables: "**How can Satan drive out Satan?** ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. ²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"^B — ³⁰ because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

True Relationships

³¹ His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to him and called him.

³² A crowd was sitting around him and told him, "Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters^C are outside asking for you."

³³ He replied to them, "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**"

³⁴ Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!** ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The Parable of the Sower

4 Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore.² He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them, ³ "**Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn't have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn't deep. ⁶ When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn't produce fruit. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times.**" ⁹ Then he said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen."

Why Jesus Used Parables

¹⁰ When he was alone, those around him with the Twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He answered them, "**The secret of the kingdom**

^A3:20 Or eat a meal; lit eat bread ^B3:29 Other mss read is subject to eternal judgment ^C3:32 Other mss omit and your sisters

of God has been given to you, but to those outside, everything comes in parables¹² so that

**they may indeed look,
and yet not perceive;
they may indeed listen,
and yet not understand;
otherwise, they might
turn back
and be forgiven.**"^{A,B}

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹³ Then he said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand all of the parables?"¹⁴ The sower sows the word.

¹⁵ Some are like the word sown on the path. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word sown in them.^{C16} And others are like seed sown on rocky ground. When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy.¹⁷ But they have no root; they are short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away.

¹⁸ Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word,¹⁹ but the worries of this age, the deceitfulness^D of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.²⁰ And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown."

Using Your Light

²¹ He also said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it to be put on a lampstand?"²² For there

is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light.

²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen."²⁴ And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. By the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and more will be added to you.²⁵ For whoever has, more will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ "The kingdom of God is like this," he said. "A man scatters seed on the ground.²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day; the seed sprouts and grows, although he doesn't know how.²⁸ The soil produces a crop by itself — first the blade, then the head, and then the full grain on the head.²⁹ As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it?"³¹ It's like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground.³² And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade."

Using Parables

³³ He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand.³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately,

^A4:12 Other mss read *and their sins be forgiven them hearts* ^D4:19 Or *seduction*

^B4:12 Is 6:9-10 ^C4:15 Other mss read *in their*

however, he explained everything to his own disciples.

Wind and Waves Obey Jesus

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he told them, **"Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."**

³⁶ So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.

³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, **"Silence! Be still!"** The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he said to them, **"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

⁴¹ And they were terrified^A and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Demons Driven Out by Jesus

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Ger-sa-senes.^{B 2} As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. ³ He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore — not even with a chain — ⁴ because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains,

he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!" ⁸ For he had told him, **"Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"**

⁹ **"What is your name?"** he asked him.

"My name is Legion," he answered him, "because we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. ¹² The demons^C begged him, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them."

¹³ So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

¹⁴ The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

¹⁶ Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg him to leave their region.

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. ¹⁹ Jesus

^A4:41 Or *were filled with awe* ^B5:1 Some mss read *Gadarenes*; other mss read *Gergesenes*

^C5:12 Other mss read *All the demons*

did not let him but told him, **"Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."** ²⁰ So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

A Girl Restored and a Woman Healed

²¹ When Jesus had crossed over again by boat^A to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the sea. ²² One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³ and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well^B and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following and pressing against him.

²⁵ Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years ²⁶ had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse. ²⁷ Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing. ²⁸ For she said, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well." ²⁹ Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

³⁰ Immediately Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, **"Who touched my clothes?"**

³¹ His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, **'Who touched me?'**"

³² But he was looking around to see who had done this. ³³ The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

³⁴ **"Daughter,"** he said to her, **"your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction."**

³⁵ While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ When Jesus overheard^C what was said, he told the synagogue leader, **"Don't be afraid. Only believe."** ³⁷ He did not let anyone accompany him except Peter, James, and John, James's brother. ³⁸ They came to the leader's house, and he saw a commotion — people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, **"Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep."** ⁴⁰ They laughed at him, but he put them all outside. He took the child's father, mother, and those who were with him, and entered the place where the child was. ⁴¹ Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, **"Talitha koum"**^D (which is translated, **"Little girl, I say to you, get up"**). ⁴² Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded. ⁴³ Then he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this

^A5:21 Other mss omit *by boat* ^B5:23 Or *she might be saved* ^C5:36 Or *ignored* ^D5:41 An Aramaic expression

and told them to give her something to eat.

Rejection at Nazareth

6 He left there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. "Where did this man get these things?" they said. "What is this wisdom that has been given to him, and how are these miracles performed by his hands?"³ Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?" So they were offended by him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his household.**"⁵ He was not able to do a miracle there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. He was going around the villages teaching.

Commissioning the Twelve

⁷ He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs and gave them authority over unclean spirits.⁸ He instructed them to take nothing for the road except a staff — no bread, no traveling bag, no money in their belts,⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on an extra shirt.¹⁰ He said to them, "**Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that place.**"¹¹ **If any place does not welcome you or listen to you, when you leave**

there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."^A

¹² So they went out and preached that people should repent.¹³ They drove out many demons, anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

John the Baptist Beheaded

¹⁴ King Herod heard about it, because Jesus's name had become well known. Some⁸ said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that's why miraculous powers are at work in him."¹⁵ But others said, "He's Elijah." Still others said, "He's a prophet, like one of the prophets from long ago."

¹⁶ When Herod heard of it, he said, "John, the one I beheaded, has been raised!"

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to arrest John and to chain him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.¹⁸ John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."¹⁹ So Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not,²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing he was a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him he would be very perplexed,^c and yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ An opportune time came on his birthday, when Herod gave a banquet for his nobles, military commanders, and the leading men of Galilee.²² When Herodias's own daughter^d came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests.

^{A6:11} Other mss add *Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom or Gomorrah on judgment day than for that town.* ^{B6:14} Other mss read *He* ^{C6:20} Other mss read *When he heard him, he did many things* ^{D6:22} Other mss read *When his daughter Herodias*

