

The Gospel According to Mark

Jesus Brings Liberation | Mark 1:1—3:6

^{1,1} The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ, the Creator's Son. ² Just as it was written in Isaiah the prophet:

"Look! I am sending my messenger before your face, the one who will prepare your way. ³ A voice is crying out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths level!'"

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of a change-of-mind for the forgiveness of selfish-actions. ⁵ All the land of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem were coming out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, renouncing their selfish-actions. ⁶ John was wearing camel's hair and a belt made of hide around his waist and was eating insects and wild honey. ⁷ He was proclaiming,

"One more powerful than me is following me! Even after bowing down, I am not worthy to loose the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit!"

⁹ It was in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. ¹⁰ Suddenly, while he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending into him. ¹¹ A voice came from the heavens,

"You are my Child, the one I love! I am pleased with you!"

¹² Immediately the Spirit cast him out into the wilderness ¹³ and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the Adversary. He was among the wild animals and messengers were serving him. ¹⁴ Now after John was given over, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of the Creator, ¹⁵ saying,

"The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of the Creator has come near! Because of the Gospel, change-your-mind and be faithful!"

¹⁶ As he passed beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw the fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, casting nets into the sea. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them,

"Come, follow me! I will make you fishers for humans!"

¹⁸ Releasing their nets, they immediately followed him. ¹⁹ After advancing a little, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John as they were mending their nets in the boat. ²⁰ Immediately he called them and, after releasing their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers, they followed him.

²¹ They went to Capernaum and immediately, entering the assembly on the Sabbath-days, Jesus was teaching. ²² They were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority and not like the scholars. ²³ Immediately there was in their assembly a man occupied by an impure spirit and he cried out,

²⁴ *"What of you and us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of the Creator!"*

²⁵ Jesus rebuked him,

"Be silent and come out from him!"

²⁶ After convulsing him and crying out in a great voice, the impure spirit came out of him. ²⁷ They were all so astonished that they conversed among themselves, saying,

"What is this? A new teaching with authority? He even commands the impure spirits and they obey him!"

²⁸ The report of Jesus immediately spread everywhere into the whole surrounding area of Galilee.

²⁹ After leaving the assembly, they immediately went into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying down, having a fever, and immediately they were speaking to Jesus concerning her. ³¹ After going to her, he lifted her up by taking her by the hand and the fever released her and she was serving them. ³² Now when evening had come, while the sun was setting, they were carrying to him all those who were weak and occupied by demons. ³³ The whole city was gathering to the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were weak with various diseases and he cast out many demons, but he did not release the demons to speak because they had knowledge about him. ³⁵ After rising exceedingly early in the dark, Jesus left and went out to a place in the wilderness and was praying. ³⁶ Simon and the others with him, followed after him, ³⁷ found him and said,

"Everyone is inquiring about you."

³⁸ He said to them,

"Let us go elsewhere, to the accompanying towns, in order that I can preach there also, for this is why I have come out."

³⁹ He went preaching in their assemblies throughout all Galilee and casting out demons. ⁴⁰ A man with diseased skin came to him, pleading with him,

"If you want, you are able to purify me!"

⁴¹ Having compassion and stretching out his hand, Jesus touched him and said,

"I want to. Be purified!"

⁴² Immediately the diseased skin departed from him and he was purified. ⁴³ Being moved to anger concerning him, Jesus immediately sent him away ⁴⁴ and said to him,

"Make sure you say nothing to no one, but go away to show yourself to the priest and offer for your purification what Moses commanded as a testimony against them!"

⁴⁵ But after going out, he began to proclaim and to spread the word around so extensively that Jesus was no longer able to openly enter

a city, but was living outside in wilderness areas and people were coming to him from everywhere.

^{2,1} After again entering into Capernaum for some days, it was reported that Jesus was in a house. ² So many were gathering there that it could hold no more, even at the door, and he was proclaiming the word to them. ³ Some people came to him, bringing a paralyzed man who was being carried by four of them. ⁴ But they were not able to bring the man to him through the crowd, so they removed the roof where he was and, after digging through, they lowered down the cot on which the paralyzed man lay. ⁵ After seeing their faithfulness, Jesus said to the paralyzed man,

“Child, your selfish-actions are forgiven!”

⁶ Now there were some scholars sitting there and they were discussing in their hearts,

⁷ “Why does this man speak in this way? He insults! Who is able to forgive selfish-actions other than the one Creator?”

⁸ Immediately after Jesus recognized by his Spirit that they were discussing this among themselves, he said to them,

“Why do you think this way in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, ‘Your selfish-actions are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your cot, and walk’? ¹⁰ But in order that you may know that the Child of Humanity has authority over the earth to forgive selfish-actions,”

he said to the man who was paralyzed,

¹¹ “Rise, pick up your cot, and go to your home!”

¹² He was raised and, immediately after picking up his cot, he went out in front of everyone so that all were utterly astonished and thought about the Creator, saying,

“We have never seen anything like this!”

¹³ Jesus again went out beside the sea and the whole crowd was coming to him and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ While he was passing by, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax office and he said to him,

“Follow me!”

After rising up, he followed him. ¹⁵ Then Jesus dined in Levi’s house. Many tax collectors and selfish-people were dining together with Jesus, for there were many who were also following him. ¹⁶ The scholars of the Pharisees, after seeing that he ate with selfish-people and tax collectors, were saying to his followers,

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and selfish-people?”

¹⁷ After hearing this, Jesus said to them,

“It is not those who are powerful that have need for a doctor, but those who are weak. I did not come to call those who are ‘righteous,’ but selfish-people.”

¹⁸ Now John’s followers and the Pharisees were continually going-without-food and some came and asked him,

“What is the reason that John’s followers and the followers of the Pharisees go-without-food, but your followers do not?”

¹⁹ Jesus said,

“The guests of a wedding are not able to go-without-food while the groom is with them, right? As long as they have the groom with them, they are not able to go-without-food. ²⁰ But the days will come when the groom will be taken away from them and then they will go-without-food on that day. ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, otherwise the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and makes a worse tear. ²² No one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise the wine will burst the wineskins and the wine is destroyed along with the wineskins. New wine is for new wineskins!”

²³ On the Sabbath-days he was passing through the grainfields and his followers led the way, picking heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees began saying to him,

“Look! Why do they do what is not right on the Sabbath-days?”

²⁵ He said to them,

“Have you never read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? ²⁶ How he entered into the house of the Creator, in the time of high priest Abiathar, and ate the bread of offering, which is not right to eat if you are not a priest, and also gave it to those who were with him?”

²⁷ He began saying to them,

“The Sabbath was made for mankind—not mankind for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Child of Humanity is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

^{3,1} He again entered into the assembly and a man was there with a dried up hand. ² They were watching him to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath-days, in order that they might bring charges against him. ³ He said to the man having the withered hand,

“Rise up into the middle.”

⁴ Then he said to them,

“Is it right on the Sabbath-days to do good or to do harm, to rescue a soul or to kill?”

But they were silent. ⁵ After looking around at them with anger, grieving at the stubbornness of their hearts, he said to the man,

“Stretch out the hand!”

He stretched it out and his hand was restored. ⁶ After going out, the Pharisees were immediately making plans with the Herodians in order that they might destroy Jesus.

A New Reality | Mark 3:7—5:20

⁷ Jesus went back to the sea with his followers and a great multitude followed him from Galilee, Judea, ⁸ Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region of Tyre and Sidon. When the great multitude heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ He told his followers to have a boat close at hand for him because of the crowd, so they wouldn't crush him. ¹⁰ He had healed so many people that all who had afflictions pressed against him in order to touch him. ¹¹ Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they were falling down before him and crying out,

“You are the Child of the Creator!”

¹² But he repeatedly rebuked them so that they would not make him known. ¹³ He went up on a mountain, summoned those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He brought together twelve to be his companions, so they might be sent out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out demons: ¹⁶ Peter (the name he gave to Simon), ¹⁷ Boanerges (which means “sons of thunder”; the name he gave to James the son of Zebedee and his brother, John), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the nationalist, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, the one who also gave him over. ²⁰ He went into a house and again a crowd gathered so that they were not even able to eat bread. ²¹ When his family heard what Jesus had done, they came to take control of him for they were saying,

“He is insane!”

²² After the scholars from Jerusalem came down, they began saying,

“He is occupied by the lord-of-feces!”

And

“By the ruler of the demons he casts out demons!”

²³ After he summoned them, Jesus spoke to them in parables,

“How is the Adversary able to cast out the Adversary? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom is not able to stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ If the Adversary has risen up against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand and has come to an end. ²⁷ But no one, after entering the house of a powerful one, is able to plunder his goods, unless he first binds the powerful one and then he will be able to plunder his house. ²⁸ Truly I say to you, all selfish-actions and insults as much as they might be insulting the children of humanity will be forgiven, ²⁹ but whoever might insult the Holy Spirit will not have forgiveness throughout the age and is guilty of an enduring selfish-action.”

³⁰ For they were saying,

“He is occupied by an impure spirit.”

³¹ His mother and brothers arrived and, standing outside, they sent for Jesus while calling for him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him and they said to him,

“Look! Your mother and your brothers are outside trying to find you.”

³³ He answered them, “Who is my mother? And who are my brothers?”

³⁴ After looking around at those sitting encircling him, he said,

“Look! My mother and my brothers. ³⁵ Whoever does the will of the Creator is my brother, sister, and mother.”

^{4.1} Jesus again began to teach beside the sea. A crowd so large gathered together around him that he entered into a boat on the sea and the whole crowd was on the earth close to the sea. ² He was teaching them in many parables and in his teaching he was saying to them,

³ “Listen! Look! A gardener went out to scatter seed. ⁴ It happened in the scattering of the seed that some fell beyond the Way and the birds came and consumed it. ⁵ Other seed fell on the rocks where there was not much earth and they sprouted immediately because the earth wasn't deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up they were scorched and they were dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns rose up and choked the seeds and they produced no fruit. ⁸ Finally, other seed fell into the good earth and was producing fruit, rising up, and growing, and began bringing forth thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

⁹ He was saying,

“Whoever has ears to hear, listen!”

¹⁰ When he was alone, the ones around him, along with the twelve, were questioning him about the parables ¹¹ and he was saying to them,

“To you has been given the mystery of the Kingdom of the Creator, but to those who are outside everything is in parables. ¹² So that *‘seeing they might see but not perceive, and hearing they might hear but not understand, otherwise they might turn back and be forgiven.’*”

¹³ He said to them,

“Have you not comprehended this parable? How then will you learn any of the parables? ¹⁴ The gardener scatters the Word. ¹⁵ These are the ones where the Word is scattered beyond the Way: when they hear, the Adversary immediately comes and removes the Word that has been sown in them. ¹⁶ These are the ones scattered upon the rocks: the ones who, when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with joy ¹⁷ but have no root in themselves and are temporary, for when oppression or persecution occurs because of the Word they immediately stop following. ¹⁸ Others are the ones scattered among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the Word ¹⁹ but the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for everything else, enter in to choke the Word and it bears no fruit. ²⁰ Those that were scattered upon the good earth are those who hear the Word, embrace it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

²¹ He was saying to them,
“Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or a bed, not to be put on a lampstand? ²² For nothing is hidden except that it might be revealed, neither has anything been made secret but in order that it might come into clarity. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, listen!”

²⁴ He was saying to them,
“Watch out for what you listen to! With the measure you measure with, it will be measured to you and it will be provided to you; ²⁵ for whoever has, it will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

²⁶ He was saying,
“Thus the Kingdom of the Creator is like a person scattering seed upon the earth. ²⁷ He sleeps and he rises night and day, while the seed sprouts and grows. How? He does not know! ²⁸ The earth bears fruit by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. ²⁹ But when the fruit is given over he immediately sends in the sickle since the harvest has arrived.”

³⁰ He was saying,
“How might we imagine the Kingdom of the Creator? Or with what parable might we present it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when scattered upon the earth, is the smallest of all the seeds of the earth. ³² But after it has been planted, it rises up, becomes larger than all the garden plants, and produces great branches so that the birds of the heavens are able to nest in its shade.”

³³ With many such parables he was speaking the Word to them in accordance to what they were able to hear. ³⁴ He was not speaking to them without parables, but in private he was explaining everything to his own followers.

³⁵ On that day, after evening had come, Jesus said to them,
“Let us cross over to the other side.”

³⁶ After releasing the crowd, they took him as he was in the boat and the other boats that were with him followed along. ³⁷ There was a great storm of wind and the waves were splashing into the boat so that the boat was beginning to fill, ³⁸ but Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said to him,
“Teacher, do you not care that we are being destroyed?”

³⁹ After he awoke, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea,
“Relax! Be still.”

The wind stopped and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them,
“Why are you afraid? Do you not yet have faith?”

⁴¹ They were overwhelmed with great terror and they were saying to one another,
“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea listen to him?”

^{5.1} They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² Immediately after he got out of the boat, a man from the tombs, occupied by an impure spirit, confronted him. ³ He was dwelling among the tombs and no one was able to bind him with a chain any longer. ⁴ He had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he had torn off his chains and broken his shackles—nothing and no one was powerful enough to subdue him. ⁵ All through the night and day he was among the tombs and mountains, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ After seeing Jesus from afar, he ran, fell down before him, ⁷ and, crying out with a loud voice, he said,

“What of you and me, Jesus, Child of the Highest Creator? I command you by the Creator, do not torment me!”

⁸ For Jesus was saying to him,
“Impure spirit, come out of the man!”

⁹ Jesus began asking him,
“What is your name?”

He replied,
“Legion is my name, for we are many.”

¹⁰ They began intensely pleading with Jesus so that he would not send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now there was a large herd of pigs grazing on the hillside ¹² and they pleaded with him saying,
“Send us to the pigs so that we may enter into them!”

¹³ Jesus dismissed them and, after the impure spirits came out, they entered into the pigs. The herd of two thousand charged down the steep bank, into the sea, and drowned. ¹⁴ The herders fled and reported it in the city and in the fields and many came to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man, who had been occupied by Legion, sitting there fully clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-controlled man and the pigs. ¹⁷ And so they began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. ¹⁸ While he was climbing into the boat, the one who had been demon-controlled pleaded to be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus did not release him and said to him,

“Go home to your own people and report all that the Lord has done for you, even showing you mercy!”

²⁰ He departed and began to proclaim in the Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was marveling.

The Bread of the Creator's Provision | Mark 5:21—8:26

²¹ After Jesus had again crossed over to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him and he was beside the sea. ²² One of the assembly-rulers, named Jairus, arrived and, after seeing Jesus, fell at his feet ²³ and was intensely pleading with him,

“My little girl is dying! Come place your hands on her so that she might be rescued and live!”

²⁴ He departed with him and a large crowd was following him and pressing in around him. ²⁵ A woman was there who had suffered a menstrual-flow of blood for twelve years. ²⁶ After greatly suffering under many doctors and after spending everything she had, she was no better but only grew worse. ²⁷ After hearing about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd to touch his garment, ²⁸ for she was saying,

“If I can just touch his garments, I will be rescued!”

²⁹ Immediately her menstrual-flow of blood dried up and she knew in her body that she had been rescued from her affliction. ³⁰ After realizing that power had gone out from him, Jesus immediately turned around in the crowd saying,

“Who touched my garments?”

³¹ His followers began saying to him,

“You are aware of the crowd pressing around you and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

³² Yet he was still looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Now the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her,

“Daughter, your faithfulness has rescued you. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction!”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some came for the assembly-ruler saying,

“Your daughter has died. Why bother the teacher any longer?”

³⁶ But Jesus, ignoring the report being spoken, said to the assembly-ruler,

“Do not fear. Only trust.”

³⁷ He did not permit anyone to follow with him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the assembly-ruler and he saw a commotion, with weeping and much wailing. ³⁹ After entering, he said to them,

“Why are you making such a commotion and weeping? The child has not died, but is asleep.”

⁴⁰ They were laughing at him, but, after he threw all of them out, he took the father and mother of the child and those with him and entered into where the child was. ⁴¹ After grasping the hand of the child, he said to her,

“*Talitha koum,*”

which means,

“Little girl, I say to you, arise.”

⁴² Immediately the little girl arose and was walking around, for she was twelve years old, and they were beside themselves in great astonishment. ⁴³ But he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this and then he told them to give her something to eat.

^{6.1} He went away from there and came to his homeland with his followers following him. ² After the Sabbath-day started, he began to teach in the assembly and, when they heard him, many were amazed, saying,

“Where did this one get these things? What is the wisdom given to this one and the powers that are happening through his hands? ³ Isn't this the builder? The son of Mary and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?”

They fell away from following him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them,

“A prophet is not dishonored except in his homeland, among his relatives, and in his house.”

⁵ He was not able to exercise any power there, except for healing a few powerless people after placing his hands on them. ⁶ He was marveling because of their unfaithfulness, even as he was going around teaching in the surrounding villages. ⁷ He summoned the twelve, began to send them out two by two, and was giving them authority over the impure spirits. ⁸ He commanded them to take nothing on the way except a staff (no bread, no bag, and no money in the belt) ⁹ and to wear sandals, but not to put on two shirts. ¹⁰ He was saying to them,

“Whenever you enter a house, remain there until you leave that place. ¹¹ If ever a place does not welcome you or listen to you, as you are leaving, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹² Going out, they proclaimed that people should change-their-minds ¹³ and they were casting out many demons and pouring oil on and healing many powerless people. ¹⁴ Now the king, Herod, heard about these things because Jesus's name had become well-known. Some were saying,

“John, who baptizes, has been raised from among the dead and, because of this, powers are working in him.”

¹⁵ But others were saying,

“He is Elijah,”

and still others were saying,

“He is a prophet like one of the ancient prophets.”

¹⁶ But after hearing about this, Herod was saying,

“John, the one I beheaded, has been raised.”

¹⁷ For after sending for John, Herod himself seized him and bound him in prison on behalf of Herodias, the woman of his brother Philip that he had taken for his own. ¹⁸ For John was saying to Herod,

“It is not right for you to have the woman of your brother!”

¹⁹ So Herodias was holding a grudge against John and was desiring to kill him. But she was not able ²⁰ because Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and was protecting him. After listening to John on many occasions, Herod was anxiously doubting himself and yet he was gladly hearing him. ²¹ But a suitable day arrived on one of Herod's birthdays when he gave a banquet for his high-status nobles, military officers, and the prominent people of Galilee. ²² When his daughter from Herodias entered and danced, she pleased Herod and those reclining with him. The king said to the young woman,

"Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you!"

²³ Then he swore to her,

"Whatever you might ask of me I will give to you, even up to half of my kingdom!"

²⁴ After leaving, she said to her mother,

"What should I ask for?"

She said,

"The head of John, the one who baptizes."

²⁵ After returning with haste to the king, she immediately asked,

"I want you to give me, right now, the head of John, the one who baptizes, on a plate."

²⁶ The king became deeply distressed because he did not want to refuse her on account of his oath and the ones who were dining with him. ²⁷ The king, immediately after sending for the executioner, commanded him to bring him John's head. After departing, he beheaded John in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ After hearing about this, John's followers came, took his dead body, and placed it in a tomb. ³⁰ The apostles gathered to Jesus and reported to him everything they did and taught. ³¹ He said to them,

"Come here by yourselves to a wilderness place and rest a little."

For many were coming and going and they were having no opportunity even to eat. ³² They went away in a boat by themselves to a wilderness place. ³³ But many saw them departing, recognized them, ran there on foot from all the cities, and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ After arriving, Jesus saw the large crowd and had compassion on them because "*they were like sheep having no shepherd.*" Then he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ After the hour became late, his followers came to him saying,

"This place is a wilderness and the hour is already late. ³⁶ Send them away so that after they depart into the surrounding fields and villages, they might buy for themselves something to eat."

³⁷ But replying to them Jesus said,

"You give them something to eat."

They said to him,

"After departing, should we buy eight months' wages of bread and then give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ But he said to them,

"How much bread do you have? Go look!"

After finding out, they said,

"Five loaves and two fish."

³⁹ He directed them to all sit down in food-sharing groups upon the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in land-sharing groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ After receiving the five loaves and two fish and gazing into heaven, Jesus said a blessing, broke the bread, and was giving it to the followers to share with the people. He also distributed the two fish to everyone. ⁴² Everyone ate and was filled, ⁴³ and they still gathered twelve full baskets of leftover bread and fish ⁴⁴ with five thousand eating.

⁴⁵ Jesus immediately compelled his followers to get into the boat and go before him to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶ After saying farewell to them, he went up on a mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea and he was alone on the earth. ⁴⁸ After seeing them tormented by rowing with the wind opposing them, he came to them between three and six in the morning, walking upon the sea and wanting to pass near them. ⁴⁹ After seeing him walking upon the sea, they thought that he was a ghost and they cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were shaking with distress. But immediately he spoke with them,

"Have courage! I AM. Do not fear."

⁵¹ He came up to them in the boat and the wind ceased. They were exceedingly confused within themselves, ⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves of bread and their hearts had been hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over they came up on the earth in Gennesaret and they tied up the boat. ⁵⁴ After they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran around that whole region and began to bring upon cots those who were injured to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he went, whether villages, cities, or fields, they were placing those who were weak in the public places and were pleading with him that they might touch even the hem of his garment. Any that touched him were rescued. ^{7.1} After coming from Jerusalem, the Pharisees and some scholars gathered around Jesus. ² After seeing some of his followers eating bread with defiled hands (that is unwashed, ³ for all the Pharisees and Jews do not eat unless they properly wash their hands, in accordance with the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat upon returning from a public place without first baptizing themselves; and there are many other rules that have been handed down, such as the baptisms of cups, jugs, and copper vessels), ⁵ the Pharisees and scholars questioned him,

"For what reason are your followers not walking according to the tradition of the elders, but are instead eating bread with defiled hands?"

⁶ He said to them,

"Isaiah prophesied well concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, '*This people honors me with speech, but their hearts are*

far away from receiving me. ⁷ They worship me in vain, passing along teachings that are the commands of mankind.’ ⁸ After releasing the command of the Creator you cling to the tradition of mankind!”

⁹ He was saying to them,

“You cleverly rebel against the command of the Creator in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and ‘The one who speaks against father or mother must be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say, if a man says to father or mother, ‘The gift that you might have gotten from me is now something that I have promised to give to the Creator later,’ ¹² then you no longer release him to do anything for father or mother, ¹³ making the Word of the Creator powerless by your tradition that you have given over. You also do many other similar things.”

¹⁴ After summoning the whole crowd, he was saying,

“Listen to me, all of you, and understand! ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person entering into him is able to make him defiled, rather the things that come out of a person are the things that make him defiled.”

¹⁷ When he entered a house away from the crowd his followers were asking him about the parable ¹⁸ and he said to them,

“So you are lacking understanding as well? Do you not comprehend that everything entering into a person from outside is not able to make him defiled, ¹⁹ because it does not enter into his heart but into his stomach and goes out into the toilet, purifying all foods?”

²⁰ He began saying,

“That which comes out of a person, this is what makes him defiled! ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of a person, comes harmful thoughts, prostitutions, thefts, killings, ²² adulteries, desires-for-more, ugliness, deceit, self-indulgence, an evil eye, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and they make a person defiled.”

²⁴ After rising up, he went away from there into the region of Tyre. Wanting no one to know, he entered a house, but he was not able to hide. ²⁵ After hearing about him, a woman, whose daughter was occupied by an impure spirit, immediately came and fell down before his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth, and she was asking him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He was saying to her,

“Release the children to be fed first, for it is not good to take the bread of the children and throw it to the dogs!”

²⁸ But she answered,

“Lord, even the dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs!”

²⁹ He said to her,

“Because of this answer, go! The demon has come out of your daughter.”

³⁰ After returning to her home, she found the child lying upon the bed and the demon gone. ³¹ After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus again went through Sidon, toward the Sea of Galilee, into the midst of the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a man, who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they pleaded with him to place a hand on the man. ³³ After taking him away from the crowd by himself, Jesus put his fingers in the man’s ears and, after spitting, touched his tongue. ³⁴ While gazing into heaven he sighed and said to him,

“*Ephphatha!*”

which means,

“Be open!”

³⁵ His ears were opened, the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he began speaking rightly. ³⁶ Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more they were proclaiming ³⁷ and were being completely amazed, saying,

“He has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!”

^{8.1} In those days a large crowd was again gathering and had nothing to eat. After summoning his followers, Jesus said to them,

² “I have compassion on the crowd because for three days they have remained with me and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them away hungry to their homes they will faint on the way, for some of them have come from far away.”

⁴ His followers replied to him,

“How would anyone be able to feed these people with bread in the wilderness?”

⁵ He began asking them,

“How much bread do you have?”

They said,

“Seven loaves.”

⁶ He commanded the crowd to sit upon the earth. After receiving the seven loaves, he gave thanks, broke them apart, and was giving them to his followers to share—and they shared them with the crowd. ⁷ They also had a few fish and, after blessing them, he said to share them as well. ⁸ They ate, were filled, and gathered seven hampers full of leftovers. ⁹ There were about four thousand people. He sent them away ¹⁰ and, after he entered the boat with his followers, he immediately went into the region of Dalmanutha. ¹¹ The Pharisees arrived and began to converse with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven in order to test him. ¹² After sighing deeply in his Spirit, he said,

“Why does this generation seek after a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation!”

¹³ After releasing them and again entering the boat, he crossed to the other side. ¹⁴ His followers forgot to bring bread and they only had one loaf of bread with them in the boat. ¹⁵ He began admonishing them,

“Look! Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod!”

¹⁶ Yet they continued to discuss among themselves that they had no bread. ¹⁷ After realizing this, he said to them,

“Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet comprehend or understand? Are your hearts

hardened, ¹⁸ *'having eyes that do not see and having ears that do not hear?'* Do you not remember ¹⁹ when I broke the five loaves of bread for the five thousand? How many baskets full of leftovers did you gather?"

They said to him,

"Twelve."

Jesus said,

²⁰ "And the seven for the four thousand? How many hampers full of leftovers did you gather?"

They said,

"Seven."

²¹ He was saying to them,

"Do you not yet understand?"

²² They came to Bethsaida and they brought to Jesus a blind man and pleaded with him to touch him. ²³ While taking hold of the blind man's hand, he led him out of the village. After spitting into the man's eyes and laying his hands on him, he was asking him,

"Do you see anything?"

²⁴ Looking up, he said,

"I see people that look to me like trees walking around."

²⁵ Then Jesus again placed his hands upon the man's eyes. The man looked through, was restored, and began clearly looking within all things. ²⁶ Jesus sent him to his home, saying,

"Do not enter the village!"

The Way of the Cross | Mark 8:27—10:52

²⁷ Jesus and his followers went into the villages of Caesarea of Philip and, on the way, he was asking his followers,

"Who do the people say that I am?"

²⁸ They replied to him,

"John who baptizes, others say Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

²⁹ He also was asking them,

"But what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered,

"You are the Christ."

³⁰ He rebuked them so that they would speak to no one about him. ³¹ He began to teach them,

"It is necessary for the Child of Humanity to greatly suffer, to be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scholars, to be killed, and after three days to rise up."

³² He was speaking this word confidently. After Peter took hold of Jesus, he began to rebuke him. ³³ But after turning and seeing his followers, Jesus rebuked Peter and said,

"Stop following after me, Adversary! For you are not focusing on the things of the Creator, but on those of mankind!"

³⁴ After summoning the crowd, along with his followers, he said to them,

"If anyone wants to follow after me then he must say 'no' to himself, pick up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to rescue his soul will destroy it, but whoever will destroy his soul, for me and the Gospel, will rescue it. ³⁶ For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole cosmos and to lose his soul? ³⁷ For what might a person give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and selfish generation, then also the Child of Humanity will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy messengers."

^{9.1} He was then saying to them,

"Truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not experience death until they see the Kingdom of the Creator having arrived with power!"

² After six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves. He was changed in front of them ³ and his garments were radiating bright white, such as no one upon the earth would be able to whiten them. ⁴ Moses and Elijah appeared before them and they were speaking to Jesus. ⁵ Peter responded by saying to Jesus,

"Teacher, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!"

⁶ For he did not know how to respond, for they were terrified. ⁷ A cloud enveloped them and a voice came from the cloud,

"This is my beloved Child. Listen to him!"

⁸ Looking around at once, they saw no one with them any longer, only Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, he ordered them that they explain what they saw to no one until after the Child of Humanity was raised up from among the dead. ¹⁰ They kept the word to themselves, conversing about what this "rising up from among the dead" was. ¹¹ They began asking him,

"Why do the scholars say that Elijah must come first?"

¹² He said to them,

"On the one hand, some say that after Elijah comes first, he restores all things. But how then is it written concerning the Child of Humanity that he must greatly suffer and be despised? ¹³ On the other hand, I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, but they did to him whatever they were wanting, just as it was written concerning him."

¹⁴ After coming to his followers, they saw a large crowd surrounding them and scholars conversing with them. ¹⁵ After the whole crowd saw Jesus, they were immediately terrified and were running out to greet him. ¹⁶ He asked them,

“What are you conversing about with them?”

¹⁷ One from the crowd replied,

“Teacher, I brought my son with a mute spirit to you. ¹⁸ Whenever it overtakes him it throws him down, he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes stiff. I told your followers to cast it out, but they were not powerful.”

¹⁹ Jesus replied to them,

“Oh faithless generation, up till what point will I be with you? Up till what point will I be patient with you? Bring him to me.”

²⁰ They brought him and, after the spirit saw him, it immediately convulsed him and he fell upon the earth, rolling around while foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father,

“How long has he been like this?”

He said,

“From childhood, ²² and often it has even thrown him into fire and water in order to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything to help us, have compassion upon us!”

²³ Jesus said to him,

“‘If you are able’? All things are possible for the one who is faithful!”

²⁴ Immediately after crying out, the father of the boy was saying,

“I am faithful! Help my unfaithfulness!”

²⁵ Seeing the crowd rushing together, Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, saying to it,

“Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again!”

²⁶ After crying out and greatly shaking, it came out and he was almost dead, so that many said,

“He is dead.”

²⁷ But after Jesus took his hand, he lifted him up and he arose. ²⁸ After entering a house, Jesus’ followers were asking him privately,

“Why were we not able to cast it out?”

²⁹ He said to them,

“This kind is not able to come out except with prayer.”

³⁰ After going out from there, they were passing through Galilee. He was not wanting anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his followers and saying to them,

“The Child of Humanity is being given over into human hands and they will kill him and, three days after being killed, he will rise.”

³² But they were not understanding the matter and were afraid to ask him. ³³ They entered Capernaum and, after he was in the house, he was asking them,

“What were you discussing on the way?”

³⁴ But they were being silent, for on the way they were discussing with one another who was greatest. ³⁵ After sitting down, he called the twelve and said to them,

“If someone wants to be first, he will be the last of all and the servant of all.”

³⁶ After receiving a child, he stood him in the middle of them and, after embracing him, he said to them,

³⁷ “Whoever welcomes a child such as this one on the basis of my name, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me.”

³⁸ John began saying to him,

“Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons with your name and we were preventing him because he was not following us.”

³⁹ But Jesus said to him,

“Do not prevent him, for no one who exercises power on the basis of my name will also be able to quickly speak against me.

⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us, is for us. ⁴¹ For whoever gives you a cup of water with the name, ‘You are the Christ’s,’ truly I say to you, he will not destroy his reward. ⁴² But whoever causes one of these lowly, faithful ones to stop following me, it is better for him if a massive grinding stone were tied around his neck and were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stop following, cut him off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled rather than to depart into the unstoppable fire of the city-dump having two hands. ⁴⁴ If your foot causes you to stop following, cut him off! It is better for you to enter into life lame rather than to be thrown into the city-dump having two feet. ⁴⁵ If your eye causes you to stop following, cast him out! It is better for you to enter into the Kingdom of the Creator with one eye rather than to be thrown into the city-dump with two eyes ⁴⁶ where ‘*the maggots do not stop and the fire does not extinguish.*’ ⁴⁷ Therefore, everything will be made salty with fire. ⁴⁸ Salt is good, but if the salt becomes salt-less, how will you season anything? Have salt among yourselves and be peaceful with one another.”

^{10.1} After rising from there, he came into the region of Judea, across the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again and, as was his habit, he was teaching them. ² After some Pharisees came to him, they were asking, in order to test him, if it was right for a man to send away a woman. ³ Answering, he said,

“What did Moses command you?”

⁴ They said,

“Moses allowed a man to write a document of divorce and to send her away.”

⁵ Jesus said to them,

“Because of your unyielding hearts he wrote this command for you. ⁶ But from the beginning of the creation *‘he made them male and female.’* ⁷ *On account of this a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his woman,* ⁸ *and the two will become one flesh.’* As a result they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore, what the Creator has joined together, man must not separate.”

¹⁰ Inside the house, his followers were again asking him about this ¹¹ and he said to them,

“Whoever sends away his woman and takes another for his own commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she sends away her man and takes another for her own, she commits adultery.”

¹³ They were bringing children to him so that he might touch them, but his followers rebuked them. ¹⁴ But after Jesus saw this, he was furious and said to them,

“Release the children to come to me! Do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of the Creator is for such as these! ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of the Creator like a child will not enter it!”

¹⁶ After embracing them, he was blessing them by placing hands upon them. ¹⁷ As Jesus was going on the way, one man ran up to him and knelt before him, asking,

“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit the life of the age?”

¹⁸ Jesus said to him,

“Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one Creator. ¹⁹ You know the commands: *‘do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not deprive others, honor your father and mother.’*”

²⁰ He said to him,

“Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a youth.”

²¹ As Jesus was looking within him, he loved him. Then he said to him,

“You lack one thing. Go! Sell all you have, give to those who are poor, and you will have heavenly treasure. Then come here to follow me.”

²² Being appalled by this word, he departed grieving, for he had a lot of property. ²³ After looking around, Jesus said to his followers,

“How difficult it will be for those having money to enter the Kingdom of the Creator!”

²⁴ His followers were astonished by his words, but Jesus again declared to them,

“Children, how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of the Creator! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a person abounding in material possessions to enter the Kingdom of the Creator!”

²⁶ They were all the more overwhelmed with amazement, saying to themselves,

“Then who is able to be rescued?”

²⁷ After looking within them, Jesus said,

“With mankind it is impossible—but not with the Creator, for all things are possible with the Creator.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him,

“Look! We have released everything and followed you!”

²⁹ Jesus said,

“Truly I say to you, everyone who has released house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or fields because of me and the Gospel ³⁰ will now receive, in this life, one hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, along with persecutions, and in the coming age, life of the age. ³¹ Many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

³² They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them. They were overwhelmed with amazement and those who were following were afraid. After again taking the twelve aside, Jesus began to speak to them about what was about to happen to him,

³³ “Look! We are going up to Jerusalem and the Child of Humanity will be given over to the chief priests and scholars, they will condemn him to death, give him over to the nations, ³⁴ they will mock, spit on, torture, and kill him—but after three days he will rise up.”

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him saying,

“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

³⁶ He said to them,

“What do you want me to do for you?”

³⁷ They said to him,

“Grant us to sit on your right and on your left in your glory.”

³⁸ But Jesus said to them,

“You do not know what you ask! Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

³⁹ They said to him,

“We are able!”

Jesus said to them,

“The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism that I am baptized with, you will be baptized. ⁴⁰ But to sit at my right or left is not mine to give, but it is for those he has prepared.”

⁴¹ Now after the ten heard this they became furious with James and John. ⁴² After summoning them, Jesus said,

“You know that the ones who are thought to be the rulers of the nations have power over others and their elites have authority over others. ⁴³ But it must not be like this among you! Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ Indeed, the Child of Humanity did not come to be served, but rather to serve and to give his soul to liberate many from slavery.”

⁴⁶ They went into Jericho and as he was coming out of Jericho with his followers and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting beyond the way. ⁴⁷ After hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to cry out,

“Jesus, child of David, show me mercy!”

⁴⁸ Many were rebuking him,
“Silence!”

But he began crying out even more,
“Child of David, show me mercy!”

⁴⁹ After stopping, Jesus said,
“Call him.”

They called the blind man, saying to him,
“Have courage! Rise up, he is calling you!”

⁵⁰ After throwing away his garment and jumping up, he came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Jesus responded to him,
“What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him,
“My teacher, let me look up!”

⁵² Jesus said to him,
“Go! Your faithfulness has rescued you!”

Immediately he looked up and began following him on the way.

Into the Heart of Civilization | Mark 11:1—13:37

^{11.1} Now when they came near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his followers ² and said to them,

“Go into the village across from you and, immediately upon entering into it, you will find a young donkey bound up, upon which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it. ³ If someone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and he will immediately send it back here.’”

⁴ They went and found a young donkey bound to a door outside on the street and they loosed it. ⁵ Some standing there were saying to them,

“Why are you loosing the young donkey?”

⁶ They told them just what Jesus said and they released them. ⁷ They brought the young donkey to Jesus, they threw their garments upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many arranged their garments on the way, others leafy branches cut down from the fields. ⁹ Those going before him and those following were crying out,

“*Rescue us! Blessings on the one coming with the name of the Lord!*” ¹⁰ Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our father David! Rescue us by the highest powers!”

¹¹ It was now evening and he entered the temple in Jerusalem and, after looking around at everything, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹² The next day, after leaving Bethany, he was hungry ¹³ and, seeing a fig tree with leaves from far away, he went to find out if there was any fruit on it. After coming upon it he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He said to it,

“No longer will anyone eat fruit from you in this age!”

His followers were hearing this. ¹⁵ They came to Jerusalem and, after entering the temple, he cast out those selling and buying in the temple, overturned the tables of the bankers and the chairs of those selling pigeons, ¹⁶ and was not releasing anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷ He began teaching them,

“Is it not written, *‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’?* But you have made it *‘a cave for terrorists!’*”

¹⁸ The chief priests and scholars heard this and began seeking how to destroy him, for they were fearing him because the whole crowd was overwhelmed with amazement by his teaching. ¹⁹ When it became evening, Jesus and his followers went outside the city. ²⁰ As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree dried up to the root. ²¹ Remembering, Peter said to him,

“Teacher, look! The fig tree you cursed has dried up!”

²² Jesus responded to them,

“Trust the Creator! ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea!’ and is not divided in his heart, but trusts that what he speaks is happening, it will be for him. ²⁴ Because of this I say to you, everything that you pray and ask for, trust that you have received it and it will happen for you! ²⁵ Whenever you stand praying, forgive everything you are holding against anyone so that your Father who is in the heavens will forgive your rebellions.”

²⁷ They again entered Jerusalem and, as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, scholars, and elders came to him ²⁸ and began saying to him,

“By what kind of authority are you doing these things or who gave you this authority to do them?”

²⁹ Jesus said to them,

“I will ask you one question and if you answer me then I will tell you by what kind of authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the

baptism of John from heaven or from humans? Answer me.”

³¹ They began discussing among themselves, saying,

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Then why did you not trust him?’ ³² But dare we say, ‘From humans?’”

For they were fearing the crowd, which all held that John was a prophet. ³³ So they answered Jesus,

“We do not know.”

Jesus said to them,

“Then neither will I tell you by what kind of authority I do these things.”

^{12.1} He began to speak to them in parables,

“A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, built a tower, lent it out to some farmers, and went on a journey. ² When it was in season, he sent a slave to the farmers to receive some fruit of the vineyard from them. ³

After receiving him, they beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent to them another slave and they repeatedly struck him on the head and dishonored him. ⁵ He sent another and they killed him. He sent many others, some they beat, some they killed. ⁶ Yet, having one beloved child, he at last sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my child.’

⁷ But those farmers said to themselves, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and the inheritance will be ours!’ ⁸ After receiving him, they killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Have you not read this writing, ‘*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*’ ¹¹ *This was done by the lord and it is remarkable in our eyes?*”

¹² Because they knew that he told the parable in reference to them, they began seeking to seize him, but they feared the crowd. After releasing him, they departed. ¹³ They sent to Jesus some Pharisees and Herodians in order to trap him with a word. ¹⁴ After arriving, they said to him,

“Teacher, we know that you are true and that you are not concerned about anything, for you do not look to the appearance of humans but upon the truth, the Way of the Creator. Do you teach that it is right to give tax to the emperor or not? Should we give or not give?”

¹⁵ But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them,

“Why do you test me? Bring me a coin that I might look at it.”

¹⁶ They brought one and he said to them,

“Whose image and inscription is this?”

They said to him,

“The emperor’s.”

¹⁷ Jesus said to them,

“Give back to the emperor the things belonging to the emperor and to the Creator the things belonging to the Creator.”

And they began marveling at him. ¹⁸ Sadducees, who say that there is no rising up, came to him and were asking,

¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that ‘*if a man’s brother dies and leaves a woman but releases no child from within her, then his brother must receive the woman and raise up offspring from her for his brother.*’ ²⁰ There were seven brothers. The first took a woman and, when he died, he released no offspring. ²¹ The second took her and died without leaving offspring. The third did the same. ²² The seven did not release offspring. Last of all, the woman also died. ²³ At the rising up, to which of them will the woman belong? For all seven possessed her as their woman.”

²⁴ Jesus said to them,

“You lead others astray because you do not know the writings or the power of the Creator! ²⁵ For when they rise up from among the dead, they will neither take another for their own nor be taken by another, but they will be like the messengers of the heavens. ²⁶ As for those among the dead that are raised, have you not read in the scroll of Moses, how the Creator said to him at the bush, ‘*I am the Creator of Abraham, the Creator of Isaac, and the Creator of Jacob?*’ ²⁷ He is not the Creator of those who are dead, but of those who are living. You are leading others astray!”

²⁸ After one of the scholars arrived, he heard them conversing and, after seeing that he was answering them well, asked him,

“What kind of command is the first of all?”

²⁹ Jesus answered,

“The first is ‘*Listen, Israel! The Lord our Creator is the only Lord!*’ ³⁰ *You will love the Lord your Creator with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your power.*’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘*You will love your fellow creature as you do yourself.*’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

³² The scholar said to him,

“Teacher, you speak well concerning the truth, that ‘*there is only one and there is no other besides him*’ ³³ and to love him with all the heart, all understanding, and all power, and to love the fellow creature as oneself’ is over and above all whole-burnt-offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ After seeing that he answered with understanding, Jesus said to him,

“You are not far from the Kingdom of the Creator.”

No one dared inquire of him any more. ³⁵ After answering, Jesus began teaching in the temple,

“How do the scholars say that the Christ is the child of David? ³⁶ David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘*The lord said to my lord, “Sit at my right until I put your enemies under your feet.”*’ ³⁷ David himself says he is lord, but where does it say he is his child?”

The large crowd was gladly listening to him ³⁸ and in his teaching he was saying,

“Watch out for the scholars who want to walk around in expensive clothes, want formal greetings in public places,³⁹ want seats of power in assemblies, and want positions of status at feasts.⁴⁰ They are the ones who consume the houses of widows and who pray for a long time for show. These will receive judgment that is over and above.”

⁴¹ Sitting across from the treasury Jesus was observing how the crowd was putting money into the treasury. Many who abounded in material possessions were putting in great amounts,⁴² but, after coming forward, one poor widow put in two coins of the smallest value.⁴³ After summoning his followers, he said to them,

“Truly I say to you, this widow, who is poor, has put in more than all of those who have been giving to the treasury!⁴⁴ For they were all giving out of their excess, but she, out of her essentials, has put in as much as she has, all of her daily need!”

^{13.1} As Jesus was exiting the temple, one of his followers said to him,

“Teacher, look! What stones and buildings!”

² Jesus said to him,

“Watch out for such great buildings! Not a stone will be released to stand upon another that will not be torn down!”

³ As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, across from the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew began asking him privately,

⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?”

⁵ Jesus began to say to them,

“Watch out, lest someone lead you astray!⁶ Many will come on the basis of my name, saying, ‘I AM!’ and they will lead many astray.⁷ But when you hear of wars and reports of wars, do not be troubled, they must happen and the end is not yet.⁸ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom and there will be earthquakes and famines. These things are the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ “But watch out for one another! Because of me they will give you over to councils, you will be beaten in assemblies, and you will stand before governors and kings as a testimony against them.¹⁰ Above all, it is necessary to proclaim the Gospel against all the nations!¹¹ Whenever they bring you in, giving you over, do not worry ahead of time what to say, but say whatever is given to you in that hour, for it is not you who are speaking but the Holy Spirit.¹² Brother will give brother over to death, a father his child, and children will rise up against parents and put them to death.¹³ You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be rescued.¹⁴ Whenever you see the detestable thing of abandonment standing where it must not (let the one who recognizes comprehend) then those in Judea must flee to the mountains,¹⁵ the one on the housetop must not go down nor enter to get anything out of his house,¹⁶ and the one in the field must not turn from following to get his garment.¹⁷ The horror for those who are pregnant or nursing in those days!¹⁸ Pray that it does not happen in bad weather,¹⁹ for in those days there will be oppression like there has never been, such a kind that has certainly never happened from the beginning of the creation that the Creator created until now!²⁰ If the Lord does not cut off those days, then no creature will be rescued. But for the sake of the chosen ones, the ones who have been called out, he will cut off those days.²¹ Then if someone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ! Look there!’ do not trust him,²² for false-christs and false-prophets will be lifted up and they will give signs and omens in order to lead astray, if possible, those who have been called out.

²³ “Now you, watch out! I have warned you of everything!²⁴ But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light,²⁵ the stars will be falling from heaven, the powers within the heavens will be overthrown,²⁶ and then they will see ‘*the Child of Humanity coming in clouds*’ with great power and glory.²⁷ Then he will send the messengers to gather those who have been called out from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.²⁸ But from the fig tree learn the parable. Now when its branch becomes tender and it puts out leaves, you know that summer is near.²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near at the door.³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will most certainly not move on until all these things happen,³¹ heaven and earth will move on, but my words will certainly not move on.

³² “Now concerning that day and hour, no one knows except the Father, not even the messengers of heaven nor the child.³³ Watch out! Stay awake! For you do not know when it is time!³⁴ Like a man on a journey when he releases his house and gives his slaves authority, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.³⁵ Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know when the lord of the house will come, whether evening, midnight, early morning, or at dawn,³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping.³⁷ What I say to you, I say to all! Stay awake!”

The Creator’s Kingdom Arrives | Mark 14:1—16:8

^{14.1} Now the Passover and the feast of unleavened bread was in two days and the chief priests and scholars were seeking how to kill Jesus, after first seizing him through trickery,² for they were saying,

“Not during the festival lest there be an uproar from the people.”

³ While he was in Bethany, dining in the house of Simon, who had diseased skin, a woman came with a flask of pure, valuable, fragrant oil, and, after breaking the flask, she poured it on his head.⁴ Now there were some who, being furious, said among themselves,

“For what reason was this oil destroyed?⁵ This oil could have been sold for over three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor!”

And they were scolding her.⁶ But Jesus said,

“Release her! Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me.⁷ You will always have those who are

poor in your company and whenever you want you are able to do good for them, but you will not always have me.⁸ This is what she has done: in advance she has poured oil on my body for burial.⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed in the whole cosmos, what she did will be told in her memory!”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to give Jesus over to them.¹¹ After hearing about it, they rejoiced and promised to give him money and he began seeking a favorable method to give him over.¹² On the first day of the feast of unleavened bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, Jesus’ followers said to him,

“Where do you want us to go to prepare, so that we may eat the Passover?”

¹³ He sent two of his followers and said to them,

“Go into the city and a man carrying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him¹⁴ and wherever he enters say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover with my followers?”’¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs already furnished. Prepare for us there.”

¹⁶ His followers left, came into the city, found it just as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.¹⁷ After it became evening, he came with the twelve¹⁸ and, while they were dining, Jesus said,

“Truly I say to you, one of you will give me over, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹ They began to grieve and say to him, one by one,

“Surely not I?”

²⁰ But he said to them,

“It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me,²¹ for the Child of Humanity goes just as it was written concerning him. But woe to the man through whom the Child of Humanity is given over, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²² While they were eating, he took bread and, after blessing it, broke it and gave it to them and said,

“Take. This is my body.”

²³ He took a cup and, after giving thanks, he gave it to them, they all drank from it,²⁴ and he said to them,

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.²⁵ Truly I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that new day when I drink it in the Kingdom of the Creator.”

²⁶ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives²⁷ and Jesus said to them,

“You will all stop following me, for it is written, ‘*I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,*’²⁸ but after I am raised, I will go before you into Galilee.”

²⁹ Peter said to him,

“Even if everyone stops following, I will not!”

³⁰ But Jesus said to him,

“Truly I say to you, this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will say ‘no’ to me three times.”

³¹ But he emphatically said,

“Even if it is necessary for me to die with you, I will never say ‘no’ to you!”

And they all began saying the same.³² They came to a garden called Gethsemane and Jesus said to his followers,

“Sit here while I pray.”

³³ He brought Peter, James, and John along with him and he began to feel terror and overwhelming unease.³⁴ He said to them,

“I am deeply distressed, as if dying. Remain here and stay awake.”

³⁵ After going a little further, he was falling upon the earth and praying that the hour might move on from him if possible.³⁶ He was saying,

“Abba, Father! For you all things are possible, carry this cup away from me! However, not what I want, but what you want.”

³⁷ He came, found them sleeping, and said to Peter,

“Simon, are you asleep? Are you not powerful enough to stay awake for one hour?³⁸ Stay awake and pray so that you will not enter into testing! The Spirit is ready, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹ He departed again and prayed, saying the same word.⁴⁰ After coming to find them again, they were sleeping, for their eyes were being weighed down, and they did not know how to answer him.⁴¹ He came the third time and said to them,

“You still sleep and rest! That is all you get, the hour has come! Look, the Child of Humanity is given over into the hands of selfish-people!⁴² Rise, let us go! Look, the one who gives me over has come near!”

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived with a crowd carrying swords and clubs, from the chief priests, scholars, and elders.⁴⁴ Now the one who was giving Jesus over had given them a signal, saying,

“He is the one I will show affection to, seize him and securely lead him away.”

⁴⁵ After arriving, he immediately went up to him saying, “Teacher,” and kissed him.⁴⁶ They threw their hands upon Jesus and seized him.⁴⁷ Now after one of those standing by drew a sword, he struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.⁴⁸ Responding, Jesus said to them,

“As though against a terrorist, you have come out with swords and clubs to arrest me,⁴⁹ even though during the day I was with you in the temple teaching and you did not seize me. But let the writings be fulfilled.”

⁵⁰ Abandoning him, all his followers fled.⁵¹ A young man, with a burial cloth wrapped around him because of nakedness, was following Jesus. They seized him,⁵² but, leaving behind the burial cloth, he fled naked.

⁵³ They led Jesus away to the high priest and all the chief priests, elders, and scholars gathered together.⁵⁴ Peter followed him from a

distance, up to the inside of the courtyard of the high priest, and he began sitting with the guards and warming himself with the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin council were seeking testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death. But they were finding none, ⁵⁶ for many were emptily testifying against him and the testimonies were not the same. ⁵⁷ Rising up, some began emptily testifying against him, saying,

⁵⁸ “We heard him saying, ‘I will tear down this temple made with human hands and within three days I will build another that is not made with human hands.’”

⁵⁹ But not even about this were their testimonies the same. ⁶⁰ After rising up in the middle, the high priest asked Jesus,

“Will you not answer any one of these who are testifying against you?”

⁶¹ But he was silent and would not answer anyone. Again, the high priest was asking him,

“Are you the Christ, the Child of the Blessed One?”

⁶² Jesus said,

“I AM. You will see the Child of Humanity sitting on the right side of power and coming with the clouds of heaven!”

⁶³ Then the high priest tore his shirts, saying,

“Why do we still need to have witnesses? ⁶⁴ You heard the insult! What is your verdict?”

They all condemned him to be guilty, deserving death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him, cover his face, beat him, and say to him,

“Prophesy!”

And the guards received him with blows. ⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the slave-girls of the high priest came there

⁶⁷ and, after seeing Peter warming himself, looked within him and said,

“You were also with Jesus of Nazareth!”

⁶⁸ But he said “no” to it, saying,

“I neither know nor understand what you say.”

He went outside to the front of the building and a rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ After seeing him, the slave-girl again began to say to those standing by,

“This man is one of them!”

⁷⁰ But again he was saying “no” to it. After a little while, those standing by were again saying to Peter,

“Truly you are one of them, for you are also a Galilean!”

⁷¹ He began to curse and swear an oath,

“I do not know this man of which you speak!”

⁷² Immediately a rooster crowed a second time and Peter was reminded of the word that Jesus said to him,

“Before a rooster crows twice, you will say ‘no’ to me three times.”

Throwing himself down, he wept.

^{15.1} In the morning, the chief priests immediately made council with the elders, scholars, and all the Sanhedrin, binding Jesus in order to carry him away and give him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him,

“Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered him,

“You said it.”

³ The chief priests were accusing him of many things, ⁴ but Pilate was again asking him,

“Will you not answer anyone? Look how much they accuse you!”

⁵ But Jesus no longer answered anyone to the extent that Pilate marveled. ⁶ Now during the festival Pilate would let one prisoner go for them, whomever they demanded. ⁷ Among the rebels, who were bound up for killing during the insurrection, there was a man called

“child of the father.” ⁸ After pushing forward, the crowd began to ask Pilate to do for them the usual. ⁹ He answered them,

“Do you want me to liberate the King of the Jews for you?”

¹⁰ For he knew that the chief priests had given him over because of jealousy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that he would liberate the “child of the father” instead. ¹² Pilate again answered them,

“What then should I do with the King of the Jews?”

¹³ They cried out again,

“Crucify him!”

¹⁴ But Pilate said to them,

“Why? What harmful thing has he done?”

But they cried out all the more,

“Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Now Pilate, desiring to satisfy the crowd, liberated the “child of the father” for them and, after whipping Jesus, gave him over to be crucified. ¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the governor’s palace and called together the whole company of soldiers.

¹⁷ They clothed him in a purple cloak and, after weaving together a crown of thorns, put it on him. ¹⁸ They began to greet him,

“Hail! King of the Jews!”

¹⁹ They were hitting his head with a rod, spitting upon him, and were bowing down before him while on their knees. ²⁰ After they mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, put his garments on him, and led him away in order to crucify him. ²¹ They forced Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), who had come from the field and was passing by, to pick up Jesus’ cross. ²²

They brought him to Golgotha, which means “place of the skull,” ²³ and they gave him wine with perfumed oil, but he would not take

it. ²⁴ They crucified Jesus. “*They divided up his garments, throwing dice for them*” to determine who would take what. ²⁵ Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified him ²⁶ and there was an inscription of the charge that read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷ With him they crucified two terrorists, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who were passing by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying,

“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ rescue yourself and come down from the cross!”

³¹ Likewise the chief priests along with the scholars mocked him, saying to each other,

“He rescued others, he is unable to rescue himself! ³² Christ, King of Israel, come down now from the cross so that we may see and be faithful!”

Even those who had been crucified with him reviled him. ³³ When it was noon, darkness came upon the whole earth until three in the afternoon ³⁴ and during that final hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani,*”

which means,

“*My Creator, my Creator, why have you left me in this?*”

³⁵ Some who were standing by, after hearing it, said,

“Look! He calls Elijah!”

³⁶ Now after running and filling a sponge with cheap wine and putting it on a rod, someone was giving a drink to Jesus, saying,

“Release him! Let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

³⁷ Then Jesus released a loud cry and breathed out his last ³⁸ and the temple curtain was split in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ After seeing him breathe out his last, the centurion, who stood by opposing Jesus, said,

“Truly this man was the Child of the Creator.”

⁴⁰ Women were also observing from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who, when he was in Galilee, were following and serving him, along with many other women who had gone up with him into Jerusalem. ⁴² When it was already evening, since it was the preparation day, which is the day before the Sabbath-day, ⁴³ Joseph from Arimathea, an influential member of the Sanhedrin who was expecting the Kingdom of the Creator, dared to approach Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that Jesus had already died and, after summoning the centurion, asked him if he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ After learning what had happened from the centurion, he gave the dead body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ After buying a burial cloth and taking him down, Joseph wrapped him in the burial cloth, put him in a tomb, which was cut out of rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were observing where he was put.

^{16.1} After the passing of the Sabbath-day, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought burial oils so that they could go and pour them on Jesus’ body. ² After the sun had come up, early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb ³ and were saying to each other,

“Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us?”

⁴ But, after looking up, they observed that the exceedingly large stone had been rolled away. ⁵ While entering the tomb they saw a young man with a white robe wrapped around him and they were terrified. ⁶ But he said to them,

“Do not be terrified! You are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified one—he was raised, he is not here! Look, the place where they put him! ⁷ Now go! Tell his followers and Peter that he is going ahead of you into Galilee! There you will see him, just as he told you!”

⁸ Going out, they fled from the tomb because they were shaking and beside themselves. They told nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.