

PRINTER

This work is to be printed on A2 (594mm X 420mm) white paper to make a single folded 4-page Newspaper A3 (420mm X 297mm).
2 outside pages in two colours (**bright red** and black).

2 inside pages black only.

The Front— Page 1:

“The Good News Paper” banner head to be printed in **bright red**.

Box beneath, solid **red** border with 10% **red** tint in the box. And the text overprinted in black. As the separations below.

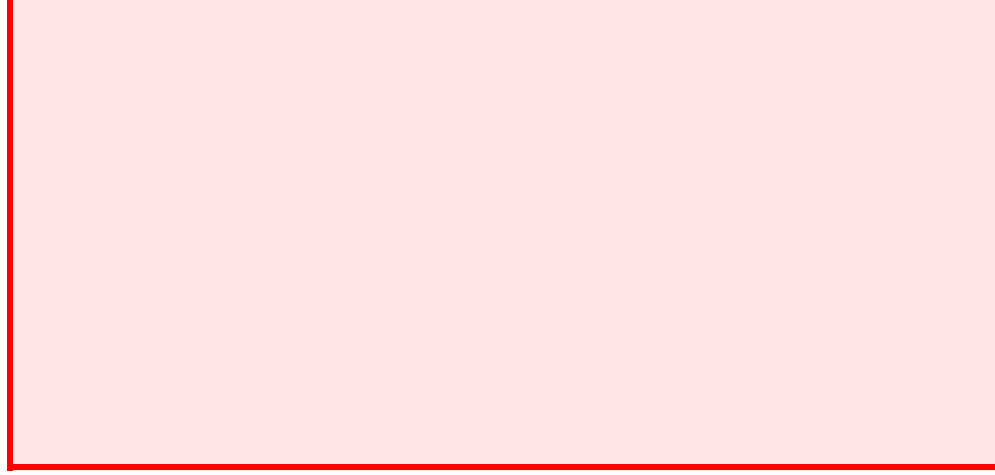
The Back—Page 4:

The same 10% **red** tint in the centre box and the text overprinted in black. With solid **red** borders for 3 boxes and 1 line of text **red**.

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Many thanks,

The GOOD NEWS Paper





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CHAPTER 1

The prophets Isaiah and Malachi speak about God's messenger

This is the beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son.

²Long ago, the prophets of God wrote about it in the holy writings: God said, 'See, I send someone ahead of you to tell about you. He will make the way ready for you. ³He calls out in the desert, "Make the way ready for the Lord! Make the pathway straight for him!"'

John the Baptizer is God's messenger

⁴John came to baptize people in the desert. He told them to stop doing wrong things and be baptized. He did this so that the people could turn back to God. Then God would forgive them for the wrong things that they did.

⁵All the people from the land of Judea and from the city of Jerusalem went out to John. He baptized them in the Jordan River when they said that they were sorry for the wrong things that they did.

⁶John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He had a leather belt round his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He told the people, 'Another person is coming soon. He is greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. ⁸Yes, I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Jesus comes to John so that John can baptize him

⁹Soon after this Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee. John baptized him in the River Jordan.

¹⁰As soon as he came up out of the water, Jesus saw the sky open. He saw God's Holy Spirit come down on him like a dove. ¹¹Then



a voice came from heaven and said, 'You are my Son and I love you very much. I am very pleased with you.'

Satan tests Jesus

¹²Immediately, the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. ¹³Jesus was in the desert for forty days. At that time Satan tried to make Jesus do something wrong. Wild animals were also there. But angels came and took care of him.

Jesus tells the people that now is the time for God's Kingdom

¹⁴John was put in prison. Then Jesus went to Galilee. He told people the good news of God's kingdom. ¹⁵'God's special time has come,' he said. 'His kingdom is here now. Stop your wrong ways, turn back to God and believe the good news.'

Jesus calls four fishermen to be his followers (disciples)

¹⁶Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. There he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a fishing net into the water. Their work was to catch fish. ¹⁷Jesus



Reported by John Mark — Jerusalem AD44

This is the second of four books written about the good news (the gospel) of Jesus Christ. A young believer named John Mark wrote it. He learned from Simon Peter most of the things that Jesus said and did. Peter was a follower of Jesus and told everything he knew to Mark. (These things took place in Judea and Galilee in Israel.) Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Whilst on earth Jesus called himself 'Son of Man' which shows that for 33 years he lived in the form of a human being.

The book tells us a lot about the teachings and miracles of Jesus during the last three years of his life on earth.

said to them, 'Come and follow me. The work that I give you will be to catch men.'

¹⁸Immediately, they left their nets and went with him. ¹⁹Jesus continued on his way and saw James and his brother John. Their father's name was Zebedee. They were in a boat mending their nets. ²⁰Jesus called them. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the workmen and they went with Jesus.

Jesus teaches with great power and authority

²¹They went to the town of Capernaum. As soon as it was the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the Jewish meeting house and taught the people. ²²They were very surprised at his teaching because he taught them with great power. He did not teach them like the Jewish teachers of God's Law taught.

Jesus heals a man with a bad spirit

²³A man who had a bad spirit in him was in the meeting house at that time. ²⁴He called out, 'Jesus of Nazareth, what do you want to do to us? Have you come to kill us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God.'

²⁵Jesus said to the spirit, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!'

²⁶The bad spirit threw the man around. It called out loud and then it came out of the man.

Very quickly, Jesus becomes well known

²⁷The people were all surprised. They said to each other, 'What is this? Is not this a new teaching? He tells the bad spirits what to do and even they obey him.' ²⁸The people who lived around Galilee soon heard about Jesus.

Jesus heals the mother of Simon's wife

²⁹As soon as they came out of the meeting house, they went to the home of Simon and Andrew. James and John went also. ³⁰The mother of Simon's wife was sick and was lying down. She had a fever. They quickly told Jesus about her. ³¹Jesus went to her. He took her hand and helped her to stand up. The fever left her immediately, and she began to do things to help them.

Jesus heals many people

³²That evening at sunset, people brought all the sick people to Jesus. They also brought people who had bad spirits to meet him. ³³All the people in the city crowded around the door. ³⁴He healed many sick people. He made the bad spirits leave people. And he did not let the bad spirits speak because they knew who he was.

Jesus goes out to talk with God

³⁵The next morning Jesus got up very early before sunrise. He went out to a place to be by himself. There he talked with God.

Jesus teaches and heals throughout Galilee

³⁶Simon and his friends went out after Jesus. ³⁷When they found him they said, 'Everyone is looking for you.'

³⁸Jesus said, 'We must go to the next towns. I must tell the good news to the people there too. That is why I came here.'

³⁹Then Jesus talked to the people in all the meeting places in all of Galilee. He also made the bad spirits come out of people.

Jesus heals a man with a bad skin disease

⁴⁰A man who was sick with leprosy came to Jesus. He knelt down and begged Jesus, saying, 'I know that you can heal me if you want to.'

⁴¹Jesus felt pity for him. He put out his hand and touched him. He said, 'I want to. Be healed.' ⁴²As soon as he said this, the disease left the man and he was healed.



More and more people hear about Jesus

⁴³Jesus talked to the man to warn him. Then Jesus sent him away. ⁴⁴Jesus said, 'Do not tell anyone about this. But go and let the priest look at you. Moses gave a law about the gift that you must give to God when you are healed. Give it to prove to people that you are healed.'

⁴⁵But the man went out and told everyone everywhere what had happened to him. Because he did this, Jesus could not go into any large town freely. He stayed in places where only a few people were. There people came to him from everywhere.

CHAPTER 2

Jesus heals a man who could not walk

After a few days, Jesus came back to Capernaum. People soon heard that he was at home. ²Immediately, many came to see him. The house was full. There was no more room, not even outside near the door. Jesus was telling them God's message.

³Four men brought a sick man to Jesus. The man could not move his arms or legs. ⁴But they could not get in the house where Jesus was, because there were so many people. So they went up on the roof. They made a hole in the roof. Then they let down the mat with the sick man on it. ⁵Jesus saw that they believed that he would be healed. So he said to the sick man, 'Son, the wrong things you have done are forgiven.'

⁶Some of the scribes were sitting there. ⁷They were thinking, 'Why does this man say such wrong things against God? He is not giving God respect! Who can forgive the wrong things that people do? No one but God can do that.'

⁸Jesus understood in his spirit what the scribes were thinking. He said right away, 'Why do you think these wrong things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the sick man, "The wrong things you have done are forgiven," or to say, "Get up. Take up your mat and walk"? ¹⁰I want you to know that the Son of Man (Jesus) has power on earth to forgive the wrong things people do.' So he said to the sick man, ¹¹'I tell you, get up! Take up your mat and go home.' ¹²Right

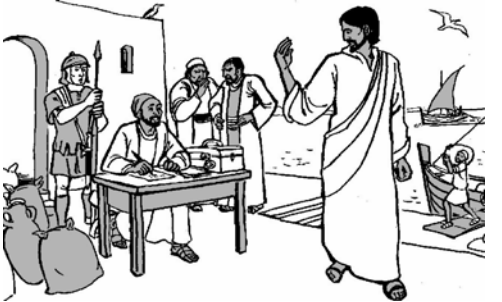
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away the man stood up in front of them. He took up his mat and went home.

They were all very much surprised, and they praised God. They said, 'We have never seen anything like this before.'

Jesus asks Levi (Matthew) to be one of his disciples

¹³Jesus went out again by the seaside. Many people came to him. So he taught them. ¹⁴As he went along, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus. He was sitting at the



place where people come to pay taxes. Jesus said to him, 'Come and follow me.' Levi stood up and went with him.

The religious leaders start to question Jesus — about eating with sinners

¹⁵Jesus was eating in Levi's house. Many tax collectors and bad people also came. They sat down to eat with Jesus and his disciples. There were many who went with him. ¹⁶The scribes and Pharisees saw that Jesus ate with these people. They said to the disciples, 'Why does he eat and drink with bad people?'

¹⁷Jesus heard it. He said to them, 'People who are well do not need a doctor. But sick people need him. I did not come to call good people. I came to call bad people to stop doing wrong things.'

— about needing to fast [that is, not eating food for a time]

¹⁸John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples were fasting. Some people came to Jesus and said, 'The disciples of John fast. And also the Pharisees. Why do your disciples not do the same?'

¹⁹Jesus answered them, 'The people at a wedding cannot be sad while the man who is getting married is with them. ²⁰But the time will come when he will have to leave them. Then they will fast. ²¹No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat. If they do, the new cloth will tear the old coat. Then the hole is bigger than it was before. ²²No one puts new wine into old wine skins. If they do, the new wine will break the skins. Then the wine will lose the wine and spoil the skins. You must put new into new skins.'

— about working on the Sabbath day

²³Jesus was walking through the fields of grain on the Sabbath day. His disciples began to pick some of the grain to eat as they went along. ²⁴The Pharisees said to Jesus, 'Why do your disciples do what is not right on the Sabbath day?'

²⁵Jesus answered them, 'Have you not read what King David did? He and his men who were with him were hungry. ²⁶He went into God's house when Abiathar was the high priest. Some bread was there for God. It was not right for them to eat it. Only the priests have the right to eat it. But David took the bread and ate it. He also gave some of it to the people who were with him.'

²⁷Then Jesus said, 'The Sabbath was made for man. Man was not made for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man rules over the Sabbath day.'

CHAPTER 3

— about healing on the Sabbath day

Jesus went into the meeting house again. A man was there and his right hand was thin

and weak. ²The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day. They wanted to find something wrong



about Jesus. ³He spoke to the man whose hand was thin and weak. He said, 'Come up here!'

⁴Then he spoke to the Pharisees. He said, 'Is it right to do good things on the Sabbath day or to do bad things? Is it right to heal people so that they will live, or is it right to let them die? But the Pharisees said nothing. ⁵Jesus was angry as he looked at them. And he was sad that their hearts were so hard. Then he said to the man, 'Hold out your hand.' The man held it out, and it was made well, like the other hand.

⁶The Pharisees went out. Immediately they planned together with the followers of King Herod how to kill Jesus.

Many people follow Jesus

^{7,8}Jesus and his disciples went to the Sea of Galilee. Many people went with Jesus. They came from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and from the other side of the River Jordan. And many more people came to him. A great many people came from around the cities of Tyre and Sidon. They also had heard about the great works that Jesus had done. ⁹Jesus saw that the crowd was very big. He told the disciples to have a small boat ready for him so that the crowd would not crush him. ¹⁰He did this because he healed many people: everyone who was sick tried to touch him. ¹¹When the bad spirits saw Jesus, they bowed down in front of him. They shouted, 'You are God's Son!' ¹²He told them that they must not tell anyone who he was.

Jesus chooses twelve disciples to teach and heal people

¹³Then Jesus went up on the hill. He wanted some of the people to come with him. So he called them and they came. ¹⁴He chose twelve followers to stay with him. He wanted to send them out to other places to tell people God's word. ¹⁵He wanted them to have the power to heal people and to drive bad spirits out of people. ¹⁶One of the twelve was Simon, and Jesus called him Peter. ¹⁷He also chose James and his brother John, who were the sons of Zebedee. He called them Boanerges, which means 'Sons of Thunder'. ¹⁸He also chose Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon of Canaan; ¹⁹also Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus to people who hated him.

Then Jesus and his disciples went to someone's house. ²⁰And so many people came to see him that they could not even eat.

The family of Jesus hear what is happening ²¹When Jesus' family heard about these things, they went to take him away. People told them, 'He is mad.'

The religious leaders hear what is happening

²²The scribes who came from Jerusalem also talked about Jesus. They said, 'Beelzebul, the chief of bad spirits, is in this man. He drives out bad spirits with the help of Beelzebul.'

Jesus starts teaching parables

²³Jesus called the people and talked to them in stories.

He asked, 'How can Satan drive out Satan?'

²⁴If one part of a country fights against another part of the country, that country cannot be strong. ²⁵If one part of a family fights against the other part of the family, it

cannot last. ²⁶If Satan fights against himself and the bad spirits fight against each other, he cannot last. It will be the end of him. ²⁷If anyone wants to go into a strong man's house and steal his things, he must first tie up the strong man. Then he can steal his things.

²⁸'I tell you the truth. All wrong things that people do and say about anyone will be forgiven. ²⁹But people who say wrong things about the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. A person who does that will be punished for ever.'

³⁰Jesus said all this because the scribes said, 'A bad spirit is in him.'

The family of Jesus try to take him away

³¹Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside. They sent someone to him. ³²Many people were sitting around him. They said, 'Look, your mother and your brothers are outside. They are asking for you.'

³³Jesus asked them, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴Then he looked at the people who sat around him. He said, 'These are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Anyone who obeys God is my brother, my sister and my mother.'

CHAPTER 4

The parable of sowing the seed

Jesus began to teach people beside the sea again. Many people came to him. So he went into a boat on the sea and sat down. The people were beside the sea on the land. ²He told stories to the people and taught them many things.

³He said, 'Listen! A man went out to sow some seed. ⁴As he sowed it, some of the seed fell on the road. Birds came and ate the seed. ⁵Some seed fell on the stony



ground. Not much soil covered the stones. The seed started to grow immediately because it was not deep in the ground. ⁶But when the sun began to shine, it was too hot for the new plants. They died because they had no roots. ⁷Some seed fell among the weeds. The weeds grew up and made the new plants die. So no new seed grew on them. ⁸But some seed fell on good ground. That seed grew and the plants gave more seed. Some plants gave thirty seeds. Some gave sixty. And some gave a hundred.'

⁹Jesus said to them, 'Everyone who has ears to hear, listen!'

Why Jesus used parables to teach the crowds

¹⁰Later, Jesus was alone. Then the twelve disciples and the other people who were there asked him about the stories. ¹¹He said to them, 'You have the understanding. You know the secret things about the kingdom of God. But we must use stories to teach the other people.'

What Isaiah, the prophet of God, said in the holy writings

¹²'They may look and look, but they will not see. They may keep on listening, but they will not understand. If they did understand, they would turn back to God and he would forgive them for the wrong things that they have done.'

What the parable of the seed means

¹³Jesus said also, 'Do you not understand this story? How then are you going to understand all the stories? ¹⁴The man who sows the seed tells God's message. ¹⁵The seed that is beside the road are like people who hear the message. But as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes it out of their

hearts. ¹⁶The seed that fell on the stony ground is the same. It is like people who hear the message and as soon as they hear it, they are very glad. ¹⁷They believe it for a short time. When trouble or a hard time comes because of the message, they stop believing. ¹⁸The seed that fell among the weeds is like people who hear the message. ¹⁹But they think about the things of this world. They want to get money and other things to be happy. These things push the message out of their hearts. No good comes from it. ²⁰But some seed fell on good ground. That is like people who hear the message and understand it. Much good comes from it. Some seed made thirty more seeds. Some seed made sixty. And some seed made a hundred.'

The parable of the light

²¹Then Jesus also said to them, 'People do not bring a light and put it under a basket or under a bed. But they put it on the place for a lamp. ²²You will see the things that are hidden and you will know the things that are secret. They will come into the open. ²³Everyone who has ears to hear, listen!'

Jesus speaks about giving and receiving

²⁴Then Jesus said, 'Take care how you listen. How much you give to others is how much will be given to you. If you obey God you will get more than you give. ²⁵Anyone who has something will get more. But people who do not have anything, even the little that they have will be taken away from them.'

The parable of the growing seed

²⁶And Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is like this. A man sows some seed in the ground. ²⁷Then he continues just as he did before. He sleeps at night and wakes up in the morning. The seed begins to grow but he doesn't know what makes it grow. ²⁸The ground itself makes the seed grow. First the plant comes up. Then it begins to have seed of its own. After a while the harvest is ready. ²⁹When the harvest is really ready, he cuts it immediately because the harvest time has come.'

The parable of the mustard seed

³⁰And Jesus said, 'What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I say that it is like? ³¹It is like this. A mustard seed is the smallest seed that is ever planted in the earth. ³²But the plant that grows from that seed is bigger than any other plant. It has very big branches. The birds come and live in its branches.' ³³Jesus told the people many stories like this. He told them as much of God's words as they were able to understand. ³⁴He did not tell them anything without making a story. When he was alone with his disciples, he told them the meaning of the stories.

Jesus stops the storm on the Sea of Galilee

³⁵In the evening of that day, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross over to the other side of the sea.' ³⁶The disciples left the people and took Jesus away in the boat that he was in. Other little boats were with him. ³⁷A very strong wind began to blow. Water came into the boat. It began to fill up with water. ³⁸Jesus was sleeping in the back end of the boat, with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up. 'Master,' they shouted. 'Master, we will die! Do you not care?'



³⁹Then Jesus got up. He told the wind to stop. Then he said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' The wind stopped. And the sea became very still. ⁴⁰Then he said to the disciples,

'Why are you afraid? Do you not believe in God?'

⁴¹The disciples were very surprised and afraid. They said to each other, 'What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

CHAPTER 5

Jesus tells bad spirits what to do and where to go

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarene people. ²There were graves in that place. As soon as Jesus came out of the boat, a man came from among the graves to meet him. The man had bad spirits in him. ³The man lived among the graves. No person could tie him, not even with chains. ⁴Many times, people had tied him with strong ropes and chains. But he broke the chains and tore the ropes



into many pieces. No person was strong enough to hold the man. ⁵All the time he stayed in the hills where the graves were. He screamed day and night and cut himself with sharp stones.

⁶Jesus was still far from him, but when he saw Jesus he ran to him. He kneeled down in front of Jesus and worshipped him. ⁷He called in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what are you going to do to me? I beg you not to hurt me.'

⁸He said this because Jesus said to him, 'You bad spirit, come out of this man!' ⁹Jesus asked, 'What is your name?'

He answered, 'My name is Army, for there are so many of us.' ¹⁰He begged Jesus saying, 'Do not send us out of the country.'

¹¹Many pigs were feeding on the hill there. ¹²The bad spirits begged Jesus saying, 'Send us to the pigs so that we can go into them.'

¹³Jesus let them go immediately. The bad spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. And the pigs ran fast down the steep hill into the sea. They died in the water. There were about two thousand pigs.

¹⁴Then the men who looked after the pigs ran away. They told the people in the city and the country about it. The people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵They came to Jesus. They saw the man who had the many bad spirits in him. He was sitting with clothes on and he was not crazy any more. The people were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the man with bad spirits. And they told them about the pigs.

¹⁷Then the people began to beg Jesus to go away out of their country.

¹⁸So Jesus went into the boat again. The man who used to have the bad spirits in him begged to go with Jesus.

¹⁹But Jesus did not let him. He said, 'Go home. Tell your friends what the Lord has done for you. Tell them that he has helped you.' ²⁰So the man went away and told people in the Ten Towns what Jesus had done for him. All the people were surprised.

A Jewish leader asks Jesus for help

²¹Jesus crossed over the sea again by boat to the other side. Many people came to him while he was still near the water. ²²One of the rulers of the Jewish meeting house came to him. His name was Jairus. When he saw Jesus, he knelt down before him. ²³He said, 'My little daughter is dying. I beg you, come and put your hands on her and heal her so that she will live.' ²⁴So Jesus went with Jairus.

A woman is healed as she touches Jesus

Many people followed Jesus and pushed against him. ²⁵A woman who was among them had a sickness for twelve years. She

was bleeding all the time. ²⁶Many doctors tried to heal her. She spent all the money that she had, to pay them. She was not better, but was worse.

²⁷When she heard of Jesus, she came among the people behind him. Then she reached out and touched his clothes. ²⁸She said to herself, 'If only I can touch his clothes, I will be well.' ²⁹The bleeding stopped immediately. She could feel inside her that he had healed her of her trouble.

³⁰Jesus knew immediately that power to heal left him. He turned round among the people and said, 'Who touched my clothes?'

³¹But his disciples said to him, 'You see all these people pushing around you. Why do you ask, "Who touched me?"'

³²He looked around to see who had done it.

³³The woman was afraid and trembled. She knew what had happened to her. She knelt down in front of Jesus and told him the truth about herself.

³⁴He said to her, 'Daughter, you were healed because you believed. Go and do not worry. You are healed.'

Jesus brings a dead girl back to life

³⁵While Jesus was still talking, some people came from the Jewish ruler's house. They said, 'Your daughter has died. Why trouble the Teacher any more?'

³⁶Jesus heard this. He said to the ruler, 'Do not fear. Only believe.'

³⁷Jesus did not let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and his brother John.

³⁸They came to the ruler's house. Jesus saw that there was a noisy crowd. People were crying and making a loud noise because the ruler's daughter had died. ³⁹When he came into the house, he said to them, 'Why do you make so much noise and cry? The girl is not dead, but she is sleeping.'

⁴⁰They laughed at him. So he sent them all outside.

Then he took the girl's father and mother and the three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. ⁴¹He took her hand and said, 'Talitha cumi!' That means, 'Little girl, I tell you, get up!'



⁴²The girl got up immediately and walked around. She was twelve years old.

The people were very surprised. ⁴³Jesus said, 'Do not tell anyone about this. Give the girl something to eat.'

CHAPTER 6

Jesus returns to his family in Nazareth

Jesus left that place and went back to his home town. His disciples went with him. ²On the Sabbath day he began to teach in the Jewish meeting house again. Many people who heard him were very much surprised and said, 'Where did he learn all this? Where did he get the power to do these great works?' ³Is he not the carpenter? Is not Mary his mother? Are not James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Are not his sisters here with us? The people did not understand Jesus.

⁴Jesus said to them, 'Other people honour a man who is a prophet of God. But the people in his own country, his own home and his own family do not honour him.'

⁵Jesus could not do any great works in that place. But he put his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶He was surprised that the people did not believe him.

Then he went out to the villages, teaching the people. He went from village to village.

Jesus sends out the twelve disciples

⁷He called the twelve disciples to him and sent them out two by two. He gave them power to drive bad spirits out of people. ⁸He

said, 'Take only a walking stick with you when you go. Do not take anything else. Do not take any food, or a bag, or money.'

⁹Wear shoes, but do not take extra clothing with you. ¹⁰When you go into a certain house, live there until you leave the town.

¹¹In some places the people will not take you in. They will not listen to what you say. When you leave such a town, shake the dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them. I tell you the truth: on the day when people are judged, the people in that town will be punished more than the people in the country of Sodom and Gomorrah.'



¹²The disciples went out and told the people that they should stop doing wrong things.

¹³They drove bad spirits out of many people. They also put oil on many sick people and healed them.

King Herod thinks that Jesus is John the Baptist

¹⁴King Herod heard about these things. People were talking about Jesus everywhere. Herod said, 'John the Baptist is risen from death. That is why he is able to do such great works.'

¹⁵Other people said, 'It is Elijah.' Others said, 'He is a prophet like the prophets of God who lived long ago.'

¹⁶Herod heard what other people said, so he said, 'I cut off John's head. He is alive again.'

What the king did to John

¹⁷Herod had sent his people to catch John. They tied him and put him in prison to please Herodias. Herod had married her, but she was his brother Philip's wife.

¹⁸John had told Herod, 'It is wrong for you to marry your brother's wife.'

^{19,20}So Herodias hated John. She wanted to kill him. But she could not, because Herod liked John. He knew that John did what was right and that he was a good man. So he kept John safe. When he heard John speak, he was troubled in his heart. But he was glad to hear him.

²¹One day, Herod made a feast on his birthday. He called all his rulers and the captains and the leaders of Galilee to come to the feast. ²²The daughter of Herodias came in and danced for them. This pleased Herod and the people at the feast.

Then the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you.'

²³He made a promise which he could not break. He said, 'Anything that you ask me for, I will give you even if you ask me for half of my kingdom.'

²⁴The girl went to her mother and said, 'What shall I ask for?'

Her mother said, 'Ask for the head of John the Baptist.'

²⁵The girl came quickly to the king and said, 'I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Give it to me immediately.'

²⁶The king was very sorry. But he had made a promise and all the people at the feast had heard him make the promise. He wanted to do what he promised her.

²⁷Immediately, he called one of the soldiers who was standing on guard. He told him to bring John's head. The soldier went to the prison and cut off John's head. ²⁸He brought the head on a plate and gave it to the girl. She gave it to her mother. ²⁹When John's disciples heard about this, they came and took his body and buried it.

The twelve disciples of Jesus come back

³⁰Then the apostles came back to Jesus. They told him all that they had done and had taught.

Jesus and his disciples try to escape from the crowds

³¹Jesus said to them, 'Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while.' Many people were coming and going. They could not even eat.

³²So they went away in a boat to a lonely place by themselves. ³³The people saw them going. Many people knew them. The people ran from all the towns and got there before them. ³⁴When the boat arrived there, Jesus saw that there were many people. He was very sorry for them because he loved them. But they were like sheep with no one to care for them. So he began to teach them many things.

Jesus feeds five thousand people

³⁵When it was late in the day, his disciples came to him. They said, 'This is a lonely place and the time is late. ³⁶Send these people away to farms and villages to buy food for themselves. They have nothing to eat.'

³⁷Jesus said, 'You give them food to eat.'

They said, 'Shall we go and buy a lot of bread and give it to them to eat?'

³⁸He said, 'Go and see how much bread you have.'

When they knew, they told him, 'We have five loaves of bread and two fish.'

³⁹Jesus told the disciples to make all the people sit on the grass in groups. ⁴⁰The people sat down in groups. Some groups were a hundred people and some were fifty people. ⁴¹Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up to heaven and thanked God for them. Then he broke



them in pieces. He gave them to the disciples to give to the people. Then he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²In this way they all ate and had enough.

⁴³Then they gathered twelve baskets full of pieces that were left. ⁴⁴The number of men who ate was about five thousand.

Jesus walks across the Sea of Galilee

⁴⁵Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'You get into the boat right away and go over to Bethsaida. I will send the people away.' ⁴⁶When he had sent the people away, he went up the hill to talk with God. ⁴⁷In the evening, the boat was far out on the water. Jesus was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw that the disciples were working hard rowing the boat. The wind was blowing the wrong way. When it was almost morning, Jesus came to the disciples. He was walking on the water. He was going to pass by them to the other side. ⁴⁹But when they saw him walking on the water, they thought that it was a spirit. They shouted loudly. ⁵⁰They all saw him and were very afraid. He spoke to them immediately. He said, 'Be glad! It's me. Do not be afraid.' ⁵¹Then he got in the boat with them. The wind stopped.

They were very much surprised and did not know what to say. ⁵²They did not understand the lesson about the bread either. Their hearts were hard and their minds were closed.

Jesus heals many people on the other side of the sea

⁵³They crossed over the sea and came to the land at Gennesaret. They came to the shore.

⁵⁴As soon as he got out of the boat, the people knew him. ⁵⁵The people went quickly around the whole region. Wherever Jesus went, they brought sick people in their beds to him. ⁵⁶He went into the villages, towns, and farms. And everywhere he went, the people laid the sick people in the market places. They begged him to let them touch his clothes. And everyone who touched him was healed.

CHAPTER 7

Jesus tells the religious leaders that they are wrong

Then some Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem came to Jesus. ²They saw some of the disciples eating food. The disciples did not wash their hands before they ate. The Pharisees said that was wrong. ³For they and all the Jews keep the ways of their fathers. And they do not eat until they wash their hands in a special way. ⁴And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat until they have washed themselves.



They also keep many other laws such as washing cups, pots, brass pans and tables.

⁵Then the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, 'Why do your disciples not keep the Law our fathers made? Why do they eat with hands that are not washed?'

⁶Jesus said to them, 'Isaiah spoke the truth about you people! You are not true to yourselves! He wrote about you this way: "These people respect me with their mouths. But their hearts are far from me. ⁷They do not mean it in their hearts when they worship me. Their teachings are only man-made rules."

⁸You do not keep the Law of God, but you keep the ways of men. Those ways are about washing pots and cups and many other things like that.

⁹You break God's Law so that you can keep your own law. ¹⁰Moses said, "Respect your father and your mother. Anyone who says wrong things to his father or his mother will die." ¹¹But you say, "Tell your father or your mother that what you were going to give to them is a Corban." (That means, a gift to God.) ¹²So you stop him from doing anything for his father and mother. ¹³You make God's Law to mean nothing so that you can keep your own laws. And you do many other things like that.'

The things that make a person dirty inside

¹⁴Then Jesus called the people to him again. He said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand what I say. ¹⁵What goes into a person's mouth does not make him dirty. But what comes out of a person's mouth makes him dirty. ¹⁶Everyone who has ears to hear, listen!'

¹⁷Jesus left the people and went into a house. His disciples asked him the meaning of the story. ¹⁸He said, 'Do you still not understand? Do you not know this? What goes into a person from the outside cannot make a person dirty. ¹⁹It does not go into his heart, but into his stomach and then it goes out of the body.' By saying this, Jesus meant that food does not make a person dirty.

²⁰But he said, 'What comes out of a person makes him dirty. ^{21,22}This is what comes from the heart: wrong thoughts, all kinds of wrong sex, stealing, killing, adultery, wanting things that other people have, doing wrong things, fooling or tricking people, bad behaviour, jealousy, saying wrong things about people, being proud, being foolish. ²³All these wrong things come from a person's heart and make him dirty.'

A foreign woman asks Jesus to help her daughter

²⁴Then Jesus went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He went into a house and did not want anyone to know that he was there. But he could not hide from the people.

²⁵Immediately, a woman heard about him. She came and knelt down in front of him. Her daughter had a bad spirit in her. ²⁶The woman was not a Jew and had been born in the region of Phoenicia in Syria. She asked

Jesus to drive the bad spirit out of her daughter.

²⁷But Jesus said to her, 'We will give the children all they want to eat first. It isn't right to take the children's food and give it to the dogs.'

²⁸She answered, 'Yes, Sir. But even the little dogs under the table eat the food that the children leave.'



²⁹Jesus said to her, 'Because you have said this, you may go home. The bad spirit has gone out of your daughter.' ³⁰When the woman came to her house, she found that the bad spirit had left. Her daughter was lying on the bed.

A man who is deaf and dumb is healed

³¹Jesus went away from Tyre and Sidon and came again to the Sea of Galilee. He passed through the region of the Ten Towns. ³²The people brought a man to Jesus who could not hear and could not talk well. They asked Jesus to put his hand on him. ³³So Jesus took him away alone. He put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spat and touched the man's tongue.

³⁴He looked up to heaven and sighed. He said, 'Ephphatha!' That means, 'Be opened!' ³⁵Immediately, the man's ears were opened and his tongue was set free. He could talk well.

³⁶Jesus said, 'Don't tell anyone.' But although he told them not to tell, they told people about it everywhere. ³⁷The people were very much surprised. They said, 'He has done everything well. The people who could not hear, now can hear. The people who could not talk, now can talk.'

CHAPTER 8

Jesus feeds four thousand people

During the next few days, many people came together. They had nothing to eat. Jesus called his disciples. He said, ²'I share the suffering of the people. They have been with me for three days and they have nothing to eat. ³If I send them home hungry, they will get weak and fall on the way. Some of them have come a long way.'

⁴His disciples answered, 'Where can anyone get enough food in this lonely place to feed so many people?'

⁵Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves of bread do you have?' They said, 'Seven'.

⁶He told the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves of bread and thanked God for them. Then he broke the bread and gave it to the disciples. They gave it to the people. ⁷They had a few small fish. Jesus told the disciples to divide the fish among the people also. ⁸The people ate and had enough. They gathered seven baskets full of pieces that were left. ⁹The number of men who ate was about four thousand.

Jesus sent them away. ¹⁰Then immediately he went into the boat with his disciples and went to the region around Dalmanutha.

The Jewish leaders make Jesus very sad because of their unbelief

¹¹The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus. They wanted to test him. So they asked him to show them a sign from God. ¹²He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why do people today want a sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to them.'

Jesus warns the disciples not to be like them

¹³He left them and went to the other side in a boat.

¹⁴The disciples forgot to take food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. Jesus said, 'Watch out! Take care. Do not let the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod spoil you.'

¹⁶The disciples talked to one another about the matter. They said, 'He says that because we have no bread.'

¹⁷Jesus knew what they were saying. He asked, 'Why are you saying, "We have no bread"? Do you not yet understand? Are your minds so slow? ¹⁸Can you not see with your eyes or hear with your ears? Do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke five loaves for five thousand people, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather?'

They said, 'Twelve.'

²⁰He said, 'When I broke seven loaves for four thousand people, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you gather?'

They said, 'Seven.'

²¹He said to them, 'How is it that you do not yet understand?'

How Jesus made the blind man see

²²Then they came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus. They asked him to touch the man. ²³Jesus took the blind man's hand and led him out of the town. He spat on his eyes and put his hands on him. Then he asked, 'Do you see anything?'

²⁴The man looked up and said, 'I see men, but they look like trees that are walking.'

²⁵Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes again. He made him look up. Then the man was healed and could see everybody clearly.

²⁶Jesus sent the man back to his home. 'Do not go into the town and do not tell this to anyone,' he said.

Peter believes that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah)

²⁷Jesus went with his disciples to the towns around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'



²⁸They answered, 'People say that you are John the Baptizer. Some say that you are Elijah. And some say that you are one of the other prophets from long ago.' ²⁹Then he asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Christ.'

³⁰Jesus said to them, 'Do not tell anyone about me.'

Jesus tells the disciples that he will die and then come back to life again

³¹Then he began to teach them. He told them that the Son of Man will have much trouble. The leaders, the chief priests, and the scribes will not believe him. He will be killed. After three days he will come back to life again. ³²Jesus spoke very plainly about it so that everyone could understand.

Peter does not believe what will happen to Jesus

Peter took him aside and told him not to say such things. ³³Jesus turned round and saw the disciples. He said to Peter, 'Get away from me, Satan! You are not thinking the way that God thinks, but the way that people think.'

Jesus tells everyone about the new life that they can have

³⁴Then Jesus called the people to him. The disciples were there with him. He said, 'If anyone wants to come with me they must forget about what they want to do. They must be ready to carry their own cross and come with me. ³⁵Anyone who tries to keep their life will lose it. And anyone who gives up their life for my sake and for the sake of the good news will find it. ³⁶What good will it do a person if they gain the whole world but lose their soul? ^{37,38}What can a person give in order to get back their soul? Many people at this time have gone away from God and are doing wrong things. If they are ashamed of me and the things that I say, the Son of Man



also will be ashamed of them when he comes again. The Son of Man will come with his holy angels and be great like his Father.'

The remaining eight chapters of Mark's Gospel tell more of the teachings and miracles of Jesus. They also tell us about the last week before Jesus was nailed to a cross to die (his crucifixion). It ends when Jesus comes to life again (his resurrection) and goes back to heaven to be with his Father, God (his ascension). The good news is that God loves us and he sent his son, Jesus, to die for us in this way. Jesus was the final sacrifice that God required for our sins. This means that all people everywhere who worship God and believe Jesus is his Son will have everlasting life with him.

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The Good News is for You!

GOD LOVES YOU even though you do wrong things and think wrong things. God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to show you the right way to God. God let him die on a cross to show his love. Jesus died for people like you.

After three days God gave him a new life. If you believe in Jesus and follow his teachings, he will forgive you and give you a new life. He will free you from your bad ways. Then you will be put right with God and you will live with him for ever.

God has freely done all this for you even when you think there is no hope. 'God loved the world so very, very much that he gave his only Son. Because he did that, everyone who believes in him will not lose his life, but will live for ever' (John 3:16).

Prayer of Faith and Commitment

Now spend a few minutes without talking. Think about the death of Jesus and the pain he suffered on the cross for each one of us. Do not be afraid to cry. Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you have done.

Your sins made it necessary for Jesus to die. Thank God for what Jesus has done for you through his death. Thank God that Jesus had victory over death. Thank God that he is alive and has sent his Spirit to help you live your life in a new way.

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