

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS

Introduction

“Gospel” could mean many things: the Good News that Jesus announced; the preaching of the Good News; and the writings that gather that Good News.

In the Gospels we find a lot of history, the deeds and sayings of Jesus, and a lot of geography, the places where these things happened. But the intention of an evangelist is not to narrate facts and sayings as a reporter: they want to transmit their faith, their Faith in Jesus the Son of God. That is why their narrations are colored by their faith in Jesus; Jesus is alive from the faith in The Risen One.

These books were written with materials gathered from previous writings. The deeds and sayings of Jesus had witnesses, especially his closer and more constant disciples. When Jesus left this world, the communities of believers repeated in the Eucharist these deeds and sayings of Jesus. And when people wanted to be part of the community of believers they were taught the deeds and words of Jesus.

These writings were oral traditions first. There was no need to put them into writing because the witnesses were still alive and would not allow deviations. Little by little, with the passage of time and the disappearance of witnesses, the need to put it in writing arrived. At the beginning there were only fragments: stories of the Passion, collections of miracles, collections of sayings, of parables... These collections were used in the Eucharist and in catechesis.

Starting around the years 60 or 70, there were people who gathered these catechesis and made out of them a continuous writing about the activity of Jesus. These are our Gospels. These were not the only ones written. In the latest part of the First Century many “gospels” were written, but the Christian communities paid more attention to some of them over others to the point that some were rejected as not worthy of faith. Finally the four that we know today were accepted as “canonical”, that is, completely trustworthy and these are: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The first three ones are called “Synoptic” because they complement each other to the point that we could almost construct a detailed life of Jesus. The fourth gospel, called the gospel of John, is quite different in its presentation and style.

It seems that the first to be written was the one of Mark, and that Matthew and Luke knew it and copied it almost entirely adding materials from other sources that Mark did not know.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Introduction

As time went by, the followers of Jesus as Messiah are just one more group; there were looked upon with suspicion or tolerance. It seems that it is in this context that the gospel of Matthew finds its roots: perfectly familiar with the Jewish customs and traditions.

It presents continuity and newness. Continuity, because in Jesus, the awaited Messiah, the promises of the Scriptures are fulfilled. But it takes distance from Jewish customs and interpretations.

Matthew’s community feels in continuity with Israel: they are the authentic Israel that has already entered into the final stage. Jesus has proclaimed the imminence of the “reign of God” and through his death and resurrection has performed the final act. The community gathers now in fidelity to Jesus, the Messiah and Teacher, new Moses and son of David.

Old traditions have attributed this gospel to Matthew. The infancy narratives resemble an overture announcing what will follow: identification-persecution-liberation-acknowledgement from Jews and pagans.

Announcement to Joseph

1 18This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her. 20While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said:

—Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, 21and now she will bear a son. You shall call him ‘Jesus’ for he will save his people from their sins.

22All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23*The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel* which means: God-with-us. 24When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home. 25So she gave birth to a son and he had not had marital relations with her. Joseph gave him the name of Jesus.

Homage from the Magi

2 1When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, during the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. 2They asked:

—Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw the rising of his star in the east and have come to honor him.

3When Herod heard this he was greatly disturbed and with him all Jerusalem. 4He immediately called a meeting of all high-ranking priests and the scribes, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5They told him:

—In the town of Bethlehem in Judea; for this is what the prophet wrote: 6*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the clans of Judah, for from you will come a leader, the one who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

7Then Herod secretly called the wise men and asked them the precise time the star appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem with the instruction:

—Go and get precise information about the child. As soon as you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him.

9After the meeting with the king, they set out. The star that they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 10The wise men were overjoyed on seeing the star again. 11They went into the house and when they saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshiped him. They opened their bags and offered him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. 12In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their home country by another way.

John the Baptist

3 1In the course of time John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea and began to proclaim his message:

2—Change your ways, the Kingdom of heaven is now at hand!

3It was about him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said, *A voice is shouting in the desert: prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight.*

Baptism of Jesus

13At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14But John tried to prevent him, and said:

—How is it you come to me: I should be baptized by you!

15But Jesus answered him:

—Let it be like that for now that we may fulfill the right order.

John agreed.

16As soon as he was baptized, Jesus came up from the water. At once, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove and rest upon him. 17At the same time a voice from heaven was heard: “This is my Son, the Beloved; he is my Chosen One.”

Jesus being tested

4 1Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert that he be put to the test by the devil. 2After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. 3Then the devil came to him and said:

—If you are the Son of God, order these stones to turn into bread.

4But Jesus answered:

—Scripture says: *one does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

5Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city, set him on the highest wall of the temple, and said to him:

6—If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for scripture says, *God has given orders to his angels about you. Their hands will hold you up lest you hurt your foot against a stone.*

7Jesus answered:

—But scripture also says: *You shall not put to the test the Lord your God.*

8Then the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the nations of the world in all their greatness and splendor. And he said:

9—All this I will give you, if you kneel and worship me. 10Then Jesus answered:

—Be off, Satan! Scripture says: *worship the Lord your God and serve him alone.*

11Then the devil left him, and angels came to serve him.

In Galilee

12When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13He left Nazareth and went to settle down in Capernaum, a town by the lake of Galilee, at the border of Zebulun and Naphtali. 17From that time on Jesus began to proclaim his message:

—Change your ways: the kingdom of heaven is near.

Calling of the first disciples

18As Jesus walked by the lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19He said to them:

—Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people.

20At once they left their nets and followed him. 21He went on from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. 22At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23Jesus went around all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and curing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people.

Sermon on the mount: the Beatitudes

5 1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. 2Then he spoke and began to teach them:

3—Fortunate are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

5Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

6Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

7Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

8Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

9Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

10Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11—Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. 12Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

38—You have heard that it was said: *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* 39But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. 40If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. 41If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. 42Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you.

43—You have heard that it was said: *Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy.* 44But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, 45so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

46If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? 47And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? 48For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect.

Prayer

6 5—When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. 6When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

7When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do, for they hold that the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. 8Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him.

9This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven,

holy be your name,

10your kingdom come

and your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

11Give us today our daily bread.

12Forgive us our debts

just as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.

13Do not bring us to the test

but deliver us from the evil one.'

14—If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also forgive yours. 15If you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you either.

Several warnings

7 1—Do not judge and you will not be judged. 2In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. 3Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? 4How can you say to your brother: 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? 5Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

6—Do not give what is holy to the dogs, or throw your pearls to the pigs: they might trample on them and even turn on you and tear you to pieces.

7—Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. 8For everyone who asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; and the door will be opened to him who knocks. 9Would any of you give a stone to your son when he asks for bread? 10Or give him a snake, when he asks for a fish? 11As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

12—So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.

Healings

8 2A leper came forward. He knelt before him and said:

—Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean.

3Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said:

—I want to, be clean again.

At that very moment the man was cleansed from his leprosy. 4Then Jesus said to him:

—See that you do not tell anyone, but go to the priest, have yourself declared clean, and offer the gift that Moses ordered as proof of it.

5When Jesus entered Capernaum, an army captain approached him to ask his help:

6—Sir, my servant lies sick at home. He is paralyzed and suffers terribly.

7Jesus said to him:

—I will come and heal him.

8The captain answered:

—I am not worthy to have you under my roof. Just give an order and my boy will be healed. 9For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers. And if I say to one: ‘Go,’ he goes, and if I say to another: ‘Come,’ he comes, and to my servant: ‘Do this,’ he does it.

10When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those who were following him:

—I tell you, I have not found such faith in Israel. 11I say to you, many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of heaven; 12but the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness; there they will wail and grind their teeth.

13Then Jesus said to the captain:

—Go home now. As you believed, so let it be.

And at that moment his servant was healed.

Discipleship

19A teacher of the Law approached him and said:

—Master, I will follow you wherever you go.

20Jesus said to him:

—Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.

21Another disciple said to him:

—Lord, let me go and bury my father first.

22But Jesus answered him:

—Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.

Calming the tempest

23Jesus got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24Without warning a fierce storm hit the lake, with waves sweeping the boat. But Jesus was asleep.

25They woke him and cried:

—Lord save us! We are lost!

26But Jesus answered:

—Why are you so afraid, you of little faith?

Then he stood up and ordered the wind and sea; and it became completely calm. 27The people were astonished. They said:

—What kind of man is he? Even the winds and the sea obey him.

Calling of Matthew

9 9As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him:

—Follow me.

And Matthew got up and followed him. 10Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. 11When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples:

—Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?

12When Jesus heard this he said:

—Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. 13Go and find out what this means: *What I want is mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.

Two healings

18While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said:

—My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live.

19Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

20Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. 21For she thought:

—If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.

22Jesus turned, saw her and said:

—Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you.

And from that moment the woman was cured.

23When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said:

24—Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!

And they laughed at him. 25But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. 26The news of this spread through the whole area.

The Father and the Son

11 25On that occasion Jesus said:

—Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. 26Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

27—Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28—Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. 29Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. 30For my yoke is good and my burden is light.

12 15As Jesus was aware of the plot, he went away from that place. Many people followed him and he cured all who were sick. 16Then he gave them strict orders not to make him known. 17In this way Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled:

18Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, and with whom I am pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him and he will announce my judgment to the nations.

19He will not argue or shout, nor will his voice be heard in the streets. 20The bruised reed he will not crush, nor snuff out the smoldering wick. He will persist until justice is made victorious.

The mother and brothers of Jesus

46While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. 47So someone said to him:

—Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you.

48Jesus answered:

—Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?

49Then he pointed to his disciples and said:

—Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. 50Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother.

Parables

13 1That same day Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeside. 2As many people gathered around him, he got in a boat. There he sat while the whole crowd stood on the shore, 3and he spoke to them in parables about many things.

4Jesus said:

—The sower went out to sow and, as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path and the birds came and ate them up. 5Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was little soil, and the seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was not deep. 6But as soon as the sun rose the plants were scorched and withered because they had no roots. 7Again other seeds fell among thistles; and the thistles grew and choked the plants. 8Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop; some produced a hundredfold, others sixty and others thirty. 9If you have ears, then hear!

18—Now listen to the parable of the sower.

19When a person hears the message of the Kingdom but without taking it to himself, the devil comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed that fell along the footpath.

20—The seed that fell on rocky ground stands for the one who hears the word and accepts it at once with joy. 21But this fickle and has no roots. No sooner is he harassed or persecuted because of the word, than he gives up.

22—The seed that fell among the thistles is the one who hears the word, but then the worries of this life and the love of money choke the word, and it does not bear fruit.

23—As for the seed that fell on good soil it is the one who hears the word and understands it; this bears fruit and produces a hundred, or sixty, or thirty times more.

31Jesus put another parable before them:

—The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32It is smaller than all other seeds, but once it has fully grown, it is bigger than any garden plant; like a tree, the birds come and rest in its branches.

33He told them another parable:

—The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast that a woman took and buried in three measures of flour until the whole mass of dough began to rise.

34Jesus taught all this to the crowds by means of parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35So what the Prophet had said was fulfilled: *I will speak in parables. I will proclaim things kept secret since the beginning of the world.*

44—The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. The one who finds it buries it again; and so happy is he, that he goes and sells everything he has, in order to buy that field.

45—Again the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who is looking for fine pearls. 46Once he has found a pearl of exceptional quality, he goes away, sells everything he has and buys it.

Miracle of the loaves

14 14When Jesus went ashore, he saw the crowd gathered there and he had compassion on them. And he healed their sick. 15Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said:

—We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat.

16But Jesus replied:

—They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat.

17They answered:

—We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes. 18Jesus said to them:

—Bring them here to me.

19Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. 20And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. 21About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.

22Immediately Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

Walking on the water

23And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. 24Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

25At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. 26When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. 27But at once Jesus said to them:

—Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!

28Peter answered:

—Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water.

29Jesus said to him:

—Come.

And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. 30But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out:

—Lord, save me!

31Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying:

—Man of little faith, why did you doubt?

32As they got into the boat, the wind dropped.

Peter's confession

16 13After that Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples:

—Who do people say the Son of man is?

14They said:

—For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

15Jesus asked them:

—But you, who do you say I am?

16Peter answered:

—You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

17Jesus replied:

—It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18And now I say to you: You are Peter (or *Rock*) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven.

20Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

First announcement about the passion and resurrection

21From that day Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem; he would suffer many things from the Jewish authorities, the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. He would be killed and be raised on the third day.

22Then Peter took him aside and began to reproach him:

—Never, Lord! No, this must never happen to you.

23But Jesus turned to him and said:

—Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path. You are thinking not as God does, but as people do.

24Then Jesus said to his disciples:

—If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. 25For whoever chooses to save his life will lose it, but the one who loses his life for my sake will find it. 26What will one gain by winning the whole world if he destroys himself? There is nothing you can give to recover your own self.

Communitarian instruction

18 1At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him:

—Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, 3and said:

—I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, 5and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

19 1When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived at the border of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River. 2A great crowd was with him and there, too, he healed their sick.

The rich youth

16It was then that a young man approached him and asked:

—Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?

17Jesus answered:

—Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments.

18The young man said:

—Which commandments?

Jesus replied:

—*Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, 19honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.*

20The young man said to him:

—I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?

21Jesus answered:

—If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me.

22On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

23Then Jesus said to his disciples:

—Truly I say to you: it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24Yes, believe me: it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

25On hearing this the disciples were astonished and said:

—Who, then, can be saved?

26Jesus looked steadily at them and answered:

—For humans it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.

27Then Peter spoke up and said:

—You see we have given up everything to follow you: what will be our lot?

28Jesus answered:

—You who have followed me, listen to my words: on the Day of Renewal, when the Son of Man sits on his throne in glory, you, too, will sit on twelve thrones to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. 29As for those who have left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or property for my Name's sake, they will receive a hundredfold and be given eternal life. 30Many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first.

The workers in the vineyard

20 1—This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A landowner went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2He agreed to pay the workers a salary of a silver coin for the day, and sent them to his vineyard.

3—He went out again at about nine in the morning, and seeing others idle in the square, 4he said to them: 'You, too, go to my vineyard and I will pay you what is just.' So they went.

—The owner went out at midday and again at three in the afternoon, 5and he did the same. 6Finally he went out at the last working hour—it was the eleventh—and he saw others standing there. So he said to them: 'Why do you stay idle the whole day?' 7They answered: 'Because no one has hired us.' The master said: 'Go and work in my vineyard.'

8—When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager: 'Call the workers and pay them their wage, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' 9Those who had come to work at the eleventh hour turned up and were given a denarius each (a silver coin). 10When it was the turn of the first, they thought they would receive more. 11But they, too, received a denarius each. So, on receiving it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12—They said: 'These last hardly worked an hour, yet you have treated them the same as us who have endured the day's burden and heat.' 13The owner said to one of them: 'Friend, I have not been unjust to you. Did we not agree on a denarius a day? 14So take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last the same as I give to you. 15Don't I have the right to do as I please with my money? Why are you envious when I am kind?'

16—So will it be: the last will be first, the first will be last.

Triumphant entry in Jerusalem

21 1When they drew near Jerusalem and arrived at Bethphage, on the mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2saying:

—Go to the village in front of you, and there you will find a donkey tied up with its colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says something to you, say: The Lord needs them but he will send them back immediately.

4This happened in fulfillment of what the prophet said: 5*Say to the daughter of Zion: See, your king comes to you in all simplicity, riding on a donkey, a beast of burden, with its colt.*

6The disciples went as Jesus had instructed them, 7and they brought the donkey with its colt. Then they threw their cloaks on its back, and Jesus sat on them.

8Many people also spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The people who walked ahead of Jesus and those who followed him began to shout:

—*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, glory in the highest!*

10When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was disturbed. The people asked:

—Who is this man?

11And the crowd answered:

—This is the Prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.

The main commandment

22 34When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. 35One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question:

36—Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?

37Jesus answered:

—*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.* 38This is the first and the most important of the commandments. 39But after this there is another one very similar to it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* 40The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments.

25 14—Imagine someone who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. 15He gave five talents of silver to one, then two to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability; and he went away.

16—He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. 17The one who received two did the same and gained another two. 18But the one with one talent dug a hole and hid his master's money.

19—After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. 20The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.' 21The master answered: 'Very well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

22—Then the one who had two talents came and said: 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them.' 23The master said: 'Well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

24—Finally, the one who had received one talent came and said: ‘Master, I know that you are an exacting man. You reap what you have not sown and gather what you have not invested. 25I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.’ 26But his master replied: ‘Wicked and worthless servant, you know that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not invested. 27Then you should have deposited my money in the bank, and you would have given it back to me with interest on my return.’

28—Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. 30As for that useless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The judgment of nations

31—When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. 32All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34—The King will say to those on his right: ‘Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. 35For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. 36I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.’

37—Then the good people will ask him: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink, 38or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?’ 40The King will answer, ‘Truly, I say to you: whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.’

41—Then he will say to those on his left: ‘Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! 42For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

44—They, too, will ask: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45The King will answer them: ‘Truly, I say to you: whatever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.’

46—And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life.

Plot to kill Jesus

26 1When Jesus had finished all he wanted to say, he told his disciples:

2—You know that in two days’ time it will be the Passover and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

3Then the chief priests and the Jewish authorities gathered together at the palace of the High Priest whose name was Caiaphas, 4and they agreed to trap Jesus and kill him. 5But they said among themselves: ‘Not during the feast, lest there be an uprising among the people.’

Annoiting at Bethany

14Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went off to the chief priests and said:

15—How much will you give me if I hand him over to you? They promised to give him thirty pieces of silver,
16and from then on he kept looking for the best way to hand him over to them.

Passover and Eucharist

17On the first day of the Festival of the Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said to him:

—Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?

18Jesus answered:

—Go into the city, to the house of a certain man, and tell him: ‘The Master says: My hour is near, and I will celebrate the Passover with my disciples in your house.

19The disciples did as Jesus had ordered and prepared the Passover meal.

26While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said a blessing and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

—Take and eat; this is my body.

27Then he took a cup and gave thanks, and passed it to them saying:

—Drink this, all of you, 28for this is my blood, the blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

31Then Jesus said to them:

—You will falter tonight because of me, and all will fall. For the Scripture says: *I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.* 32But after my resurrection I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

33Peter responded:

—Even though all doubt you and fall, I will never fall. 34Jesus replied:

—Truly, I say to you: this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

35Peter said:

—Though I have to die with you, I will never deny you. And all the disciples said the same.

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

57Those who had arrested Jesus brought him to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas, where the teachers of the Law and the Jewish authorities were assembled.

58Peter followed him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the High Priest; he entered and sat with the guards, waiting to see the end. 59The chief priests and the whole Supreme Council needed some false evidence against Jesus, so that they might put him to death. 60But they were unable to find any, even though false witnesses came forward. 61At last, two men came up and declared, ‘This man said: I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’

62The High Priest then stood up and asked Jesus:

—Have you no answer at all? What is this evidence against you?

63But Jesus kept silent.

So the High Priest said to him:

—In the name of the living God, I command you to tell us: Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?

64 Jesus answered:

—It is just as you say. I tell you more: from now on, you will see *the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Most Powerful God and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

65 Then the High Priest tore his clothes, saying:

—He has blasphemed. What more evidence do we need? You have just heard these blasphemous words.

66 What is your decision?

They answered:

—He must die!

Jesus before Pilate

27 11 Jesus stood before the governor who questioned him:

—Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus answered:

—You say so.

12 The chief priests and the Elders accused him, but he made no answer. 13 Pilate said to him:

—Do you hear all the charges they bring against you? 14 But he did not answer even a single question, so that the governor wondered.

The scorn of soldiers

27 The Roman soldiers took Jesus into the palace of the governor and the whole troop gathered around him. 28 They stripped him and dressed him in a purple military cloak. 29 Then, twisting a crown of thorns, they forced it onto his head, and placed a reed in his right hand. They knelt before Jesus and mocked him, saying:

—Long life to the King of the Jews!

30 They spat on him, took the reed from his hand and struck him on the head with it.

31 When they had finished mocking him, they pulled off the purple cloak and dressed him in his own clothes again, and led him out to be crucified.

Death of Jesus

32 On the way they met a man from Cyrene called Simon, and forced him to carry the cross of Jesus. 33 When they reached the place called Golgotha (or Calvary) which means *the Skull*, 34 they offered him wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it but would not take it.

35 There they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, casting lots to decide what each should take. 36 Then they sat down to guard him. 37 The statement of his offense was displayed above his head and it read: ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’ 39 People passing by shook their heads and insulted him, 40 saying:

—Aha! So you will destroy the Temple and build it up again in three days. Now save yourself and come down from the cross, if you are Son of God.

41In the same way the chief priests, the Elders and the teachers of the Law mocked him. 42They said:

—The man who saved others cannot save himself. Let the King of Israel now come down from his cross and we will believe in him. 43He trusted in God; let God rescue him if God wants to, since he himself said: I am the Son of God.

44Even the robbers who were crucified with him insulted him.

45From midday darkness fell over the whole land until mid-afternoon. 46At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, '*Eloi, Eloi, lamma Sabbacthani?*' which means: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? 47As soon as they heard this, some of the bystanders said:

—He is calling for Elijah.

54The captain and the soldiers who guarded Jesus were greatly terrified when they saw the earthquake and all that had happened, and said:

—Truly, this man was a Son of God.

Burial of Jesus

57It was now evening and there arrived a wealthy man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. 58He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and the governor ordered that the body be given him. 59So Joseph took the body of Jesus, wrapped it in a clean linen sheet 60and laid it in his own new tomb which had been cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and left.

62On the following day (the day after the Preparation for the Passover), the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate 63and said to him:

—Sir, we remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said: I will rise after three days. 64Therefore, have his tomb secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal the body and say to the people: He was raised from the dead. This would be a worse lie than the first.

65Pilate answered them:

—You have soldiers, go and take all the necessary precautions.

66So they went to the tomb and secured it, sealing the stone and placing it under guard.

Resurrection

28 1After the Sabbath, at the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to visit the tomb. 5The angel said to the women:

—Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here, for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him; 7then go at once and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead and is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. This is my message for you.

8They left the tomb at once in holy fear, yet with great joy, and they ran to tell the news to the disciples.

9Suddenly, Jesus met them on the way and said:

—Peace.

The women approached him, embraced his feet and worshiped him. 10But Jesus said to them:

—Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to set out for Galilee; there they will see me.

Mission of the disciples

16As for the Eleven disciples, they went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw Jesus, they bowed before him, although some doubted.

18Then Jesus approached them and said:

—I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19Go, therefore, and make disciples from all nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teach them to fulfill all that I have commanded you. I am with you always until the end of this world.

The other gospels have their own interpretation of these events and have their own particularities as well. We have chosen the most representative of each one, and in the passages that are common we have chosen those that have a special characteristic.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Introduction

The theme of the gospel of Mark is the person of Jesus more than his teaching: the mystery of Jesus, the mysterious Jesus. A perspective that dims out leading to a dramatic confrontation. Jesus teaches but his followers do not understand him. Jesus is the Messiah that has to suffer. By the time of the final triumph, Mark is again bare: the confession of the centurion contrasting with the fearful silence of the women.

It seems that Mark writes for a pagan or mixed community; probably a poor and persecuted community. A very old tradition asserts that Mark writes his gospel in Rome, putting in writing the preaching of Peter.

Mark invites for an easy, superficial reading, but the challenge is to read Mark in depth.

1 21They went into the town of Capernaum and Jesus began to teach in the synagogue during the sabbath assemblies. 22The people were astonished at the way he taught, for he spoke as one having authority and not like the teachers of the Law.

23It happened that a man with an evil spirit was in their synagogue 24and he shouted:

—What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: You are the Holy One of God.

25Then Jesus faced him and said with authority:

—Be silent and come out of this man!

26The evil spirit shook the man violently and, with a loud shriek, came out of him.

27All the people were astonished and they wondered: ‘What is this? With what authority he preaches! He even orders evil spirits and they obey him!’ 28And Jesus’ fame spread throughout all the country of Galilee.

Healings

29On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to the home of Simon and Andrew with James and John. 30As Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever, they immediately told him about her. 31Jesus went to her and taking her by the hand, raised her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

Election of the Twelve

3 13Then Jesus went up into the hill country and called those he wanted and they came to him. 14So he appointed twelve to be with him; and he called them apostles. He wanted to send them out to preach, 15and he gave them authority to drive out demons.

16These are the Twelve: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; 17James, son of Zebedee, and John his brother, to whom he gave the name Boanerges, which means 'men of thunder;' 18Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alpheus, Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean 19and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

In the synagogue of Nazareth

6 1Leaving that place, Jesus returned to his own country, and his disciples followed him. 2When the Sabbath came, he began teaching in the synagogue, and most of those who heard him were astonished. They commented:

—How did this come to him? What kind of wisdom has been given to him that he also performs such miracles? 3Who is he but the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joset and Judas and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here among us?

So they took offense at him.

4And Jesus said to them:

—Prophets are despised only in their own country, among their relatives and in their own family.

5And he could work no miracles there, but only healed a few sick people by laying his hands on them. 6Jesus himself was astounded at their unbelief. Jesus then went around the villages teaching.

Against ambition

10 35James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him:

—Master, we want you to grant us what we are going to ask of you.

36And he said:

—What do you want me to do for you?

37They answered:

—Grant us to sit one at your right and one at your left when you come in your glory.

38But Jesus said to them:

—You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized in the way I am baptized? 39They answered:

—We can.

And Jesus told them:

—The cup that I drink you will drink, and you will be baptized in the way I am baptized. 40But to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to grant. It has been prepared for others.

41On hearing this, the other ten were angry with James and John; 42Jesus then called them to him and said:

—As you know, the so-called rulers of the nations act as tyrants and their great ones oppress them. 43But it shall not be so among you; whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44and whoever would be first among you shall make himself slave of all. 45Think of the Son of Man who has not come to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many.

The widow's offering

12 41Jesus sat down opposite the Temple treasury and watched the people dropping money into the treasury box; and many rich people put in large offerings. 42But a poor widow also came and dropped in two small coins.

43Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them:

—Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all those who gave offerings. 44For all of them gave from their plenty, but she gave from her poverty and put in everything she had, her very living.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Introduction

The book of Luke has many things in common with Mark and Matthew. He addresses his writing to a non-Jewish community; his message is more immediately accessible to pagan readers. He wants to write as a historian and presents himself as a historian in the Greek style.

His gospel is the first part of a more extended work that continues with the Acts of the Apostles. In this, his gospel is positioned between the announcement and preparation of the Old Testament, and the time of the Church, beginning at Pentecost.

Luke interweaves his writing with dates taken from the historical happening of the time. He retells the origins of Jesus, the life of Jesus starting with his infancy.

His gospel has a strong ethical and social agenda, in favor of the poor and oppressed. Of primary importance is his message on mercy and the teaching about prayer. He gives particular attention to the role of women.

The old tradition has identified the author with the medical doctor Luke of Colossians 4:14.

The announcement of the birth of John

1 5In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah, belonging to the priestly clan of Abiah. Elizabeth, Zechariah's wife, also belonged to a priestly family. 6Both of them were upright in the eyes of God and lived blamelessly in accordance with all the laws and commands of the Lord, 7but they had no child. Elizabeth could not have any and now they were both very old.

8Now, while Zechariah and those with him were fulfilling their office, 9it fell to him by lot, according to the custom of the priests, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. 10At the time of offering incense all the people were praying outside; 11it was then that an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12On seeing the angel, Zechariah was deeply troubled and fear took hold of him.

13But the angel said to him:

—Don't be afraid, Zechariah, be assured that your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall name him John. 14He will bring joy and gladness to you and many will rejoice at his birth. 15This son of yours will be great in the eyes of the Lord. Listen: he shall never drink wine or strong drink, but he will be filled with holy spirit even from his mother's womb. 16Through him many of the people of Israel will turn to the Lord their God. 17He himself will open the way to the Lord with the spirit and power of the prophet Elijah; he will reconcile fathers and children, and lead the disobedient to wisdom and righteousness, in order to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

18Zechariah said to the angel:

—How can I believe this? I am an old man and my wife is elderly, too.

19The angel replied:

—I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I am the one sent to speak to you and bring you this good news! My words will come true in their time. 20But you would not believe and now you will be silent and unable to speak until this has happened.

21Meanwhile the people waited for Zechariah, and they were surprised that he delayed so long in the sanctuary. 22When he finally appeared, he could not speak to them and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He remained dumb and made signs to them.

23When his time of service was completed, Zechariah returned home 24and some time later Elizabeth became pregnant. For five months she kept to herself, remaining at home, and thinking:

25—What is the Lord doing for me! This is his time for mercy and for taking away my public disgrace.

The announcement of the birth of Jesus

26In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent 27to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28The angel came to her and said:

—Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

29Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

30But the angel said:

—Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. 31You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. 32He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever 33and his reign shall have no end.

34Then Mary said to the angel:

—How can this be if I am a virgin?

35And the angel said to her:

—The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. 36Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. 37With God nothing is impossible.

38Then Mary said:

—I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said.

And the angel left her.

Mary visits Elizabeth

39Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. 40She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and 42giving a loud cry, said:

—You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. 45Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!

46And Mary said:

—My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

47my spirit exults in God my savior!

48He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness,
and people forever will call me blessed.

49The Mighty One has done great things for me,
Holy is his Name!

50From age to age his mercy extends
to those who live in his presence.

51He has acted with power and done wonders,
and scattered the proud with their plans.

52He has put down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up those who are downtrodden.

53He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

54He held out his hand to Israel, his servant,
for he remembered his mercy,

55even as he promised our fathers,

Abraham and his descendants forever.

56Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Birth of John

57When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. 58Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

59When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. 60But his mother said:

—Not so; he shall be called John.

61They said to her:

—No one in your family has that name.

62And they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. 63Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, 'His name is John,' and they were very surprised. 64Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

65A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. 66All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, 'What will this child be?' For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

67Zechariah, filled with holy spirit, sang this canticle:

68—Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has come and redeemed his people.

69He has raised up for us a victorious Savior
in the house of David his servant,

70as he promised through his prophets of old,
71salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of our foes.

72He has shown mercy to our fathers
and remembered his holy covenant,

73the oath he swore to Abraham, our father,

74to deliver us from the enemy,

75that we might serve him fearlessly

as a holy and righteous people

all the days of our lives.

76And you, my child,

shall be called prophet of the Most High,

for you shall go before the Lord

to prepare the way for him

77and enable his people to know of their salvation

when he comes to forgive their sins.

78This is the work of the mercy of our God,

who comes from on high as a rising sun

79shining on those who live in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

and guiding our feet into the way of peace.

80As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Birth of Jesus

2 1At that time the emperor issued a decree for a census of the whole empire to be taken. 2This first census was taken while Quirinus was governor of Syria. 3Everyone had to be registered in his own town. So everyone set out for his own city; 4Joseph too set out from Nazareth of Galilee. As he belonged to the family of David, being a descendant of his, he went to Judea to David's town of Bethlehem 5to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was with child. 6They were in Bethlehem when the time came for her to have her child, 7and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger, because there was no place for them in the living room.

8There were shepherds camping in the countryside, taking turns to watch over their flocks by night. 9Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, with the Glory of the Lord shining around them. As they were terrified, 10the angel said to them:

—Don't be afraid; I am here to give you good news, great joy for all the people. 11Today a Savior has been born to you in David's town; he is the Messiah and the Lord. 12Let this be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

13Suddenly the angel was surrounded by many more heavenly spirits, praising God and saying:

14—Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth for God is blessing humankind.

15When the angels had left them and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

—Let us go as far as Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us.

16So they came hurriedly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger. 17On seeing this they related what they had been told about the child, 18and all were astonished on hearing the shepherds. 19As for Mary, she treasured all these messages and continually pondered over them. 20The shepherds then returned giving glory and praise to God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angels had told them.

Circumcision and presentation

21On the eighth day the circumcision of the baby had to be performed; he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The boy Jesus at the Temple

41Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. 42And when Jesus was twelve years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. 43After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

44They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. 45As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, 46and on the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him:

—Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you.

49Then he said to them:

—Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

50But they did not understand this answer. 51Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart. 52And Jesus increased in wisdom and age, and in divine and human favor.

In the synagogue of Nazareth

4 14 Jesus acted with the power of the Spirit, and on his return to Galilee the news about him spread throughout all that territory. 15 He began teaching in the synagogues of the Jews and everyone praised him.

16 When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. 17 He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: 18 *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed 19 and announce the Lord's year of mercy.'*

20 Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he said to them:

—Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen.

22 All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked:

—Who is this but Joseph's son?

Calling of the first disciples

5 1 One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, 2 he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

4 When he had finished speaking he said to Simon:

—Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.

5 Simon replied:

—Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets.

6 This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking. 8 Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying:

—Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!

9 For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made 10 and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon:

—Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on.

11 So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Healing of a paralytic

17 One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. 18 Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to

place him before Jesus, 19but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

20When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man:

—My friend, your sins are forgiven.

21At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder:

—This man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God?

22But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them:

—Why are you reacting like this? 23Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or: 'Get up and walk?'

24Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

And Jesus said to the paralyzed man:

—Get up, take your mat and go home.

25At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God.

26Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said:

—What wonderful things we have seen today!

Forgives a woman sinner

7 36One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to share his meal, so he went to the Pharisee's home and as usual reclined on the sofa to eat. 37And it happened that a woman of this town, who was known as a sinner, heard that he was in the Pharisee's house. She brought a precious jar of perfume 38and stood behind him at his feet, weeping. She wet his feet with tears, she dried them with her hair and kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

39The Pharisee who had invited Jesus was watching and thought:

—If this man were a prophet, he would know what sort of person is touching him; isn't this woman a sinner?

40Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisee and said:

—Simon, I have something to ask you.

He answered:

—Speak, master.

And Jesus said:

41—Two people were in debt to the same creditor. One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. 42As they were unable to pay him back, he graciously canceled the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?

43Simon answered:

—The one, I suppose, who was forgiven more.

And Jesus said:

—You are right.

44And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon:

—Do you see this woman? 45You gave me no water for my feet when I entered your house, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she came in. 46You provided no oil for my head, but she has poured perfume on my

feet. 47This is why, I tell you, her sins, her many sins, are forgiven, because of her great love. But the one who is forgiven little, has little love.

48Then Jesus said to the woman:

—Your sins are forgiven.

49The others sitting with him at the table began to wonder:

—Now this man claims to forgive sins!

50But Jesus again spoke to the woman:

—Your faith has saved you, go in peace.

Transfiguration

9 28About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. 30Two men were talking with Jesus: Moses and Elijah. 31They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that had to take place in Jerusalem.

32Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they awoke suddenly and saw Jesus' Glory and the two men standing with him. 33As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him:

—Master, how good it is for us to be here for we can make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.

For Peter didn't know what to say. 34And no sooner had he spoken than a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35Then these words came from the cloud:

—This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him.

36And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of anything they had seen.

The Good Samaritan

10 25Then a teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said:

—Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life? 26Jesus replied:

—What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?

27The man answered:

—It is written: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

28Jesus replied:

—What a good answer! Do this and you shall live.

29The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied:

—Who is my neighbor?

30Jesus then said:

—“There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

31“It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. 32Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. 33But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. 34He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

35“The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: ‘Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.’”

36Jesus then asked:

—Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?

37The teacher of the Law answered:

—The one who had mercy on him.

And Jesus said:

—Go then and do the same.

Parable of the banquet’s guests

14 15Upon hearing these words, one of those at the table said to Jesus:

—Happy are those who eat at the banquet in the kingdom of God!

16Jesus replied:

—A man once gave a feast and invited many guests. 17When it was time for the feast he sent his servant to tell those he had invited to come, for everything was ready. 18But all alike began to make excuses. The first said: ‘Please excuse me. I must go and see the piece of land I have just bought.’ 19Another said: ‘I am sorry, but I am on my way to try out the five yoke of oxen I have just bought.’ 20Still another said, ‘How can I come when I have just married?’

21—The servant returned alone and reported this to his master. Upon hearing the account, the master of the house flew into a rage and ordered his servant: ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

22—The servant reported after a while: ‘Sir, your orders have been carried out, but there is still room.’ 23The master said: ‘Go out to the highways and country lanes and force people to come in, to make sure my house is full. 24I tell you, none of those invited will have a morsel of my feast.’

The lost sheep and the lost coin

15 1Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. 2But the Pharisees and the scribes frowned at this, muttering:

—This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.

3So Jesus told them this parable:

4—Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? 5And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his

shoulders? 6Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' 7I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent.

The prodigal son

11Jesus continued:

—There was a man with two sons. 12The younger said to his father: 'Give me my share of the estate.' So the father divided his property between them.

13—Some days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings and started off for a distant land where he squandered his wealth in loose living. 14Having spent everything, he was hard pressed when a severe famine broke out in that land. 15So he hired himself out to a well-to-do citizen of that place and was sent to work on a pig farm. 16So famished was he that he longed to fill his stomach even with the food given to the pigs, but no one offered him anything.

17—Finally coming to his senses, he said: 'How many of my father's hired workers have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will get up and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and before you. 19I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me then as one of your hired servants.' With that thought in mind he set off for his father's house.

20—He was still a long way off when his father caught sight of him. His father was so deeply moved with compassion that he ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. 21The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

22—But the father turned to his servants: 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Take the fattened calf and kill it. We shall celebrate and have a feast, 24for this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.' And the celebration began.

25—Meanwhile, the elder son had been working in the fields. As he returned and was near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. 26He called one of the servants and asked what it was all about. 27The servant answered: 'Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father is so happy about it that he has ordered this celebration and killed the fattened calf.'

28—The elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and pleaded with him. 29The indignant son said: 'Look, I have slaved for you all these years. Never have I disobeyed your orders. Yet you have never given me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends. 30Then when this son of yours returns after squandering your property with loose women, you kill the fattened calf for him.'

31—The father said: 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But this brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and is found. And for that we had to rejoice and be glad.'

The coming of the kingdom of God

17 20The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered:

—The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe 21and say of it: 'Look, here it is! There it is!' See, the kingdom of God is among you.

The Pharisee and the tax collector

18 ⁹Jesus told another parable to some persons fully convinced of their own righteousness, who looked down on others:

10—Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood by himself and said: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people, grasping, crooked, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week and give the tenth of all my income to the Temple.’

13—In the meantime the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying: ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’

14—I tell you, when this man went down to his house, he had been set right with God, but not the other. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised.

Jesus and Zaccheus

19 ¹When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, ²a man named Zaccheus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. ³He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him:

—Zaccheus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today.

⁶So Zaccheus hurried down and received him joyfully.

⁷All the people who saw it began to grumble and said:

—He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest.

⁸But Zaccheus spoke to Jesus:

—The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much.

⁹Looking at him Jesus said:

—Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.

Prayer in the garden

22 ³⁹After this Jesus left to go as usual to Mount Olives and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he came to the place, he told them:

—Pray that you may not be put to the test.

⁴¹Then he went a little further, about a stone’s throw, and kneeling down he prayed:

⁴²—Father, if it is your will, remove this cup from me; still not my will but yours be done.

⁴³And an angel from heaven appeared to give him strength.

⁴⁴As he was in agony, he prayed even more earnestly and great drops of blood formed like sweat and fell to the ground. ⁴⁵When he rose from prayer, he went to his disciples but found them worn out with grief, and asleep. ⁴⁶And he said to them:

—Why do you sleep? Get up and pray, so that you may not be put to the test.

The seize

47 Jesus was still speaking when a group appeared and the man named Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 and Jesus said to him:

—Did you need this kiss to betray the Son of Man?

49 Those with Jesus seeing what would happen, said to him:

—Master, shall we use the sword?

50 And one of them struck the High Priest's servant and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus stopped him:

—No more of this.

He touched the man's ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus spoke to those coming against him, the chief priests, officers of the Temple and elders and he said to them:

—Did you really set out against a robber? Do you need swords and clubs to arrest me? 53 Day after day I was among you teaching in the Temple and you did not arrest me. But this is the hour of the power of darkness; this is your hour.

Peter's denial

54 Then they seized him and took him away, bringing him to the High Priest's house. Peter followed at a distance.

55 A fire was kindled in the middle of the courtyard where people gathered, and Peter sat among them. 56 A maidservant noticed him. Looking at him intently in the light of the fire, she exclaimed:

—This man also was with him!

57 But he denied it, saying:

—Woman, I do not know him.

58 A little later someone who saw him said:

—You are also one of them!

Peter replied:

—My friend, I am not!

59 After about an hour another asserted:

—Surely this man was with him, for he is a Galilean.

60 Again Peter denied:

—My friend, I don't know what you are talking about.

He had not finished saying this when a cock crowed. 61 The Lord turned around and looked at Peter and he remembered the word that the Lord had spoken: 'Before the cock crows today you will have denied me three times.' 62 Peter went outside, weeping bitterly.

Crucifixion

23 33There at the place called The Skull he was crucified together with the criminals—one on his right and another on his left. 34Jesus said:

—Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.

39One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him:

—So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well! 40But the other rebuked him, saying:

—Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? 41For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong.

42And he said:

—Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. 43Jesus replied:

—Truly, you will be with me today in paradise.

Death of Jesus

44It was now about noon. 45The sun was hidden and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon; and at that time the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in two. 46Then Jesus gave a loud cry:

—Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

And saying that, he gave up his spirit.

The road to Emmaus

24 13That same day, two of them were going to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, 14and they talked about what had happened. 15While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, 16but their eyes were held and they did not recognize him.

17He asked:

—What is this you are talking about?

The two stood still, looking sad. 18Then one named Cleophas answered:

—Why, it seems you are the only traveler in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there these past few days.

19And he asked:

—What is it?

They replied:

—It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. 20But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. 21We had hoped that he would redeem Israel. It is now the third day since all this took place. 22It is true that some women of our group have disturbed us. When they went to the tomb at dawn, 23they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. 24Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see him.

25He said to them:

—How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. 26Is it not written that the Christ should suffer all this and then enter his glory?

27Then, starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in the Scriptures concerning himself.

28As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. 29But they prevailed upon him:

—Stay with us, for night comes quickly. The day is now almost over.

So he went in to stay with them. 30When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece.

31Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he vanished out of their sight. 32And they said to each other:

—Were not our hearts filled with ardent yearning when he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures?

33They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and their companions gathered together. 34They were greeted by these words:

—Yes, it is true, the Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon!

35Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

Apparition to the disciples

50Jesus led them almost as far as Bethany; then he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51And as he blessed them, he withdrew (and was taken to heaven. They worshiped him). 52They returned to Jerusalem full of joy and 53were continually in the Temple praising God.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Introduction

The book of John is very original; it is also a gospel but very different from the other three. It is written quite late, at the end of the Century: the Christian communities most probably already knew the other gospels. The author does not want to repeat them, instead he makes a profound theological reflection about Jesus, although without completely abandoning the aspect of “retelling the sayings and deeds of the Master.” But the deeds are very few, just enough to give support to doctrine. And the doctrine is not the original one of Jesus, the parables, but long discourses where this doctrine is explained as a theological reflection.

The author presents himself as witness, and many events present in his gospel appear as told by a “personal witness”. But most of what is being said is full of symbolisms, many of them taken from the Old Testament. The sacraments of the first Christian communities also appear here, baptism and the eucharist, being Jesus himself the one who makes reference to them.

We feel transported to another world while reading this gospel: the direct, simple style of the Synoptic gospels allowing us to understand them as a chronicle of Jesus’ life, here becomes solemn, theological, and symbolic.

A very old tradition identifies the author with the apostle John, son of Zebedee. It is very possible that John’s preaching be at the origin of this gospel. But its writing, as we have it today, is without doubt work of his disciples, some of whom were also called John.

Among the many famous fragments of this gospel we single out the splendid Prologue, being the proclamation and announcement of the whole message: Who is Jesus, the incarnate Word; and what is the human drama: to accept Jesus or to take refuge in darkness.

1 In the beginning was the Word.
And the Word was with God
and the Word was God;
2he was in the beginning with God.
3All things were made through him
and without him nothing came to be.
Whatever has come to be, 4found life in him,
life which for humans was also light.
5Light that shines in the dark:
light that darkness could not overcome.
9For the Light was coming into the world,
the true Light that enlightens everyone.
10He was already in the world
and through him the world was made,
the very world that did not know him.
11He came to his own,
yet his own people did not receive him;
12but all who have received him
he empowers to become children of God
for they believe in his Name.
13These are born, but without seed
or carnal desire or will of man:
they are born of God.
14And the Word was made flesh;
he had his tent pitched among us,
and we have seen his Glory,
the Glory of the only Son
coming from the Father:
fullness of truth and loving-kindness.

The first disciples

35On the following day John was standing there again with two of his disciples. 36As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and said:

—There is the Lamb of God.

37On hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. 38He turned and saw them following, and he said to them:

—What are you looking for?

They answered:

—Rabbi (which means *Master*), where are you staying?

39Jesus said:

—Come and see.

So they went and saw where he stayed and spent the rest of that day with him. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

40Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard what John had said and followed Jesus.
41Early the next morning he found his brother Simon and said to him:

—We have found the Messiah (which means *the Christ*).

42And he brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said:

—You are Simon, son of John, but you shall be called Cephas (which means *Rock*).

43The next day, Jesus decided to set off for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him:

—Follow me.

44Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him:

—We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law, and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.

46Nathanael replied:

—Can anything good come from Nazareth?

Philip said to him:

—Come and see.

47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him:

—Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him.

48Nathanael asked him:

—How do you know me?

And Jesus said to him:

—Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you.

49Nathanael answered:

—Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!

50But Jesus replied:

—You believe because I said: ‘I saw you under the fig tree.’ But you will see greater things than that. 51Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

The wedding at Cana

2 1Three days later there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus was also invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3When all the wine provided for the celebration had been served and they had run out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him:

—They have no wine.

4Jesus replied:

—Woman, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come.

5However his mother said to the servants:

—Do whatever he tells you.

6Nearby were six stone water jars meant for the ritual washing as practiced by the Jews; each jar could hold twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to the servants:

—Fill the jars with water.

And they filled them to the brim. 8Then Jesus said:

—Now draw some out and take it to the steward.

So they did. 9The steward tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing from where it had come; for only the servants who had drawn the water knew. So, he called the bridegroom 10to tell him:

—Everyone serves the best wine first and when people have drunk enough, he serves that which is ordinary. Instead you have kept the best wine until the end.

11This miraculous sign was the first, and Jesus performed it at Cana in Galilee. In this way he let his Glory appear and his disciples believed in him.

12After this, Jesus went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers and his disciples; and they stayed there for a few days.

Jesus and the Samaritan woman

4 Jesus 4had to cross Samaria.

5He came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob's well is there. Tired from his journey, Jesus sat down by the well; it was about noon. 7Now a Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus said to her:

—Give me a drink.

8His disciples had just gone into town to buy some food.

9The Samaritan woman said to him:

—How is it that you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink? (For Jews, in fact, have no dealings with Samaritans)

10Jesus replied:

—If you only knew the Gift of God! If you knew who it is that asks you for a drink, you yourself would have asked me and I would have given you living water.

11The woman answered:

—Sir, you have no bucket and this well is deep; where is your living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well after he drank from it himself, together with his sons and his cattle?

13Jesus said to her:

—Those who drink of this water will be thirsty again; 14but those who drink of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty; for the water that I shall give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

15The woman said to him:

—Give me this water, that I may never be thirsty and never have to come here to draw water.

25The woman said to him:

—I know that the Messiah, that is the Christ, is coming; when he comes, he will tell us everything.

26And Jesus said:

—I who am talking to you, I am he.

27At this point the disciples returned and were surprised that Jesus was speaking with a woman; however, no one said, 'What do you want?' or: 'Why are you talking with her?'

31In the meantime the disciples urged Jesus:

—Master, eat.

32But he said to them:

—I have food to eat that you don't know about.

33And the disciples wondered:

—Has anyone brought him food?

34Jesus said to them:

—My food is to do the will of the One who sent me and to carry out his work. 35You say that in four more months it will be the harvest; now, I say to you, look up and see the fields white and ready for harvesting. 36People who reap the harvest are paid for their work, and the fruit is gathered for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37Indeed the saying holds true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38I sent you to reap where you didn't work or suffer; others have worked and you are now sharing in their labors.

39In that town many Samaritans believed in him when they heard the woman who declared:

—He told me everything I did.

40So, when they came to him, they asked him to stay with them and Jesus stayed there two days. 41After that many more believed because of his own words 42and they said to the woman:

—We no longer believe because of what you told us; for we have heard for ourselves and we know that this is the Savior of the world.

43When the two days were over, Jesus left for Galilee.

The bread of life

6 22Next day the people who had stayed on the other side realized that only one boat had been there and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples; rather, the disciples had gone away alone. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, 30They then said:

—Show us miraculous signs, that we may see and believe you. What sign do you perform? 31Our ancestors ate manna in the desert; as Scripture says: *They were given bread from heaven to eat.*

32Jesus then said to them:

—Truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the *bread from heaven*. My Father gives you the true *bread from heaven*. 33The bread God gives is the One who comes from heaven and gives life to the world.

34And they said to him:

—Give us this bread always.

35Jesus said to them:

—I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty. 50But here you have the *bread which comes from heaven* so that you may eat of it and not die. 51I am the living *bread which has come from heaven*; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world.

54The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

55My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. 56Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them.

66After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. 67Jesus asked the Twelve:

—Will you also go away?

68Peter answered him:

—Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

Forgives the adulteress

8 1As for Jesus, he went to the Mount of Olives. 2At daybreak Jesus appeared in the Temple again. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them.

3Then the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They made her stand in front of everyone.

4They said:

—Master, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5Now the Law of Moses orders that such women be stoned to death; but you, what do you say?

6They said this to test Jesus, in order to have some charge against him.

Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. 7And as they continued to ask him, he straightened up and said to them:

—Let anyone among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her.

8And he bent down again, writing on the ground.

9As a result of these words, they went away, one by one, starting with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10Then Jesus stood up and said to her:

—Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?

11She replied:

—No one.

And Jesus said:

—Neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin again.

Healing a blind man

9 1As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him:

—Master, was he born blind because of a sin of his, or of his parents?

3Jesus answered:

—Neither was it for his own sin nor for his parents'. He was born blind so that God's power might be shown in him. 4While it is day we must do the work of the One who sent me; for the night will come when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6As Jesus said this, he made paste with spittle and clay and rubbed it on the eyes of the blind man. 7Then he said:

—Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. (This name means *sent*)

So he went and washed and came back able to see. 8His neighbors and all the people who used to see him begging, wondered. They said:

—Isn't this the beggar who used to sit here?

9Some said:

—It's the one.

Others said:

—No, but he looks like him.

But the man himself said:

—I am the one.

10Then they asked:

—How is it that your eyes were opened?

11And he answered:

—The man called Jesus made a mud paste, put it on my eyes and said to me: 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went, and washed, and I could see.

12They asked:

—Where is he?

And the man answered:

—I don't know.

13The people brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. 14Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made mud paste and opened his eyes. 15The Pharisees asked him again:

—How did you recover your sight?

And he said:

—He put paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see. 16Some of the Pharisees said:

—This man is not from God, for he works on the Sabbath. But others wondered:

—How can a sinner perform such miraculous signs?

They were divided 17and they questioned the blind man again:

—What do you think of this man who opened your eyes? And he answered:

—He is a prophet.

18After all this, the Jews refused to believe that the man had been blind and had recovered his sight; so they called his parents 19and asked them:

—Is this your son? You say that he was born blind, how is it that he now sees?

20The parents answered:

—He really is our son and he was born blind; 21but how it is that he now sees, we don't know, neither do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is old enough. Let him speak for himself.

22The parents said this because they feared the Jews who had already agreed that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ was to be expelled. 23Because of this his parents said: 'He is old enough, ask him.'

24So a second time the Pharisees called the man who had been blind, and they said to him:

—Tell us the truth; we know that this man is a sinner. 25He replied:

—I don't know whether he is a sinner or not; I only know that I was blind and now I see.

26They said to him:

—What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

27He replied:

—I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

28Then they started to insult him.

—Become his disciple yourself! We are disciples of Moses. 29We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man we don't know where he comes from.

30The man replied:

—It is amazing that you don't know where the man comes from, and yet he opened my eyes! 31We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone honors God and does his will, God listens to him. 32Never, since the world began, has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person who was born blind. 33If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

34They answered him:

—You were born a sinner and now you teach us!

And they expelled him.

35Jesus heard that they had expelled him. He found him and said:

—Do you believe in the Son of Man?

36He answered:

—Who is he, that I may believe in him?

37Jesus said:

—You have seen him and he is speaking to you.

38He said:

—Lord, I believe.

And he worshiped him.

39Jesus said:

—I came into this world to carry out a judgment: Those who do not see shall see, and those who see shall become blind.

40Some Pharisees stood by and asked him:

—So we are blind?

41And Jesus answered:

—If you were blind, you would not be guilty. Now you say: 'We see'; this is the proof of your sin.

The good shepherd

10 11—I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. 12Not so the hired hand or any other person who is not the shepherd and to whom the sheep do not belong. They abandon the sheep as soon as they see the wolf coming; then the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep. 13This is because the hired hand works for pay and cares nothing for the sheep.

14—I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

Resurrects Lazarus

11 1There was a sick man named Lazarus who was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

17When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. 21And she said to Jesus:

—If you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.

23Jesus said:

—Your brother will rise again.

24Martha replied:

—I know that he will rise in the resurrection, at the last day.

25But Jesus said to her:

—I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. 26Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

27Martha then answered:

—Yes, *Lord*, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.

28After that Martha went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying:

—The Master is here and is calling for you.

29As soon as Mary heard this, she rose and went to him. 30Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 32As for Mary, when she came to the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said:

—*Lord*, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

33When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews also who had come with her, he was moved in the depths of his spirit and troubled. 34Then he asked:

—Where have you laid him?

They answered:

—*Lord*, come and see.

39Jesus ordered:

—Take the stone away.

Martha said to him:

—*Lord*, by now he will smell, for this is the fourth day.

40Jesus replied:

—Have I not told you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?

41So they removed the stone.

Jesus lifted up his eyes and 43cried out in a loud voice:

—Lazarus, come out!

44The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips and his face wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them:

—Untie him and let him go.

47So the chief priests and the Pharisees called the Sanhedrin Council. They said:

—What are we to do? For this man keeps on giving miraculous signs.

54Because of this, Jesus no longer moved about freely among the Jews. He withdrew instead to the country near the wilderness and stayed with his disciples in a town called Ephraim.

Washes the disciple's feet

13 It was before the feast of the Passover. Jesus realized that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father, and as he had loved those who were his own in the world, he would love them with perfect love.

2 They were at supper and the devil had already put into the mind of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had entrusted all things to him, and as he had come from God, he was going to God. 4 So he got up from table, removed his garment and taking a towel, wrapped it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

6 When he came to Simon Peter, Simon said to him:

—Why, *Lord*, you want to wash my feet!

7 Jesus said:

—What I am doing you cannot understand now, but afterwards you will understand it.

8 Peter replied:

—You shall never wash my feet.

Jesus answered him:

—If I do not wash you, you can have no part with me. 9 Then Simon Peter said:

—*Lord*, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!

10 Jesus replied:

—Whoever has taken a bath does not need to wash (except the feet), for he is clean all over. You are clean, though not all of you.

11 Jesus knew who was to betray him; because of this he said, “Not all of you are clean. 12 When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his garment again, went back to the table and said to them:

—Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Master and *Lord*, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I, then, your *Lord* and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. 15 I have just given you an example that as I have done, you also may do. 16 Truly, I say to you, the servant is not greater than his master, nor is the messenger greater than he who sent him.

17 Understand this, and blessed are you if you put it into practice.

Announces the treason

21 After saying this, Jesus was distressed in spirit and said plainly:

—Truly, one of you will betray me.

22 The disciples then looked at one another, wondering who he meant. 23 One of the disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining near Jesus; 24 so Simon Peter signaled him to ask Jesus whom he meant. 25 And the disciple who was reclining near Jesus asked him:

—*Lord*, who is it?

26 Jesus answered:

—I shall dip a piece of bread in the dish, and he to whom I give it, is the one.

So Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 And as Judas took the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus then said to him:

—What you are going to do, do quickly.

31When Judas had gone out, Jesus said:

—Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. 34Now I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Promise of the Spirit

14 25—I told you all this while I was still with you. 26From now on the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you.

27Peace be with you; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives peace do I give it to you. Do not be troubled; do not be afraid.

15 12This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. 13There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; 14and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

15I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

16You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and *bear fruit*, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

17This is my command, that you love one another.

The work of the Spirit

16 13—When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into the whole truth.

Condemned to death

19 1Pilate had Jesus taken away and scourged. 2The soldiers also twisted thorns into a crown and put it on his head. They threw a cloak of royal purple around his shoulders 3and began coming up to him and saluting him:

—Hail, king of the Jews.

And they struck him on the face.

Crucifixion

25Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. 26When Jesus saw the Mother, and the disciple whom he loved, he said to the Mother:

—Woman, this is your son.

27Then he said to the disciple:

—There is your mother.

And from that moment the disciple took her to his own home.

Death of Jesus

28With that Jesus knew all was now finished and he said:

—*I am thirsty*

29A jar full of bitter wine stood there; so, putting a sponge soaked in the wine on a twig of hyssop, they raised it to his lips. 30Jesus took the wine and said:

—It is accomplished.

Then he bowed his head and gave up the spirit.

31As it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross during the Sabbath, for this Sabbath was a very solemn day. They asked Pilate to have the legs of the condemned men broken, so they might take away the bodies. 32The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who had been crucified with Jesus. 33When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead; so they did not break his legs. 34One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water.

35The one who has seen here gives his witness so that you may believe: his witness is true and He knows that he speaks the truth. 36All this happened to fulfill the words of Scripture, *Not one of his bones shall be broken*. 37Another text says: *They shall look on him whom they have pierced*.

Appearance to Mary Magdalene

20 11Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; 12she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and the other at the feet. 13They said:

—Woman, why are you weeping?

She answered:

—Because they have taken my *Lord* and I don't know where they have put him.

14As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. 15Jesus said to her:

—Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for? She thought it was the gardener and answered him:

—*Lord*, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.

16Jesus said to her:

—Mary!

She turned and said to him:

—Rabboni (which means, *Master*).

17Jesus said to her:

—Do not cling to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Father, to my God, who is your God.

18So Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples:

—I have seen the *Lord*, and this is what he said to me.

Appearance to the disciples

19On the evening of that day, the first day after the Sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them:

—Peace be with you.

20Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the *Lord* and were full of joy.

21Again Jesus said to them:

—Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

22After saying this he breathed on them and said to them:

—Receive the Holy Spirit; 23for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.

24Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25The other disciples told him:

—We have seen the *Lord*.

But he replied:

—Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.

26Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said:

—Peace be with you.

27Then he said to Thomas:

—Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer.

28Thomas then said:

—You are my *Lord* and my God.

29Jesus replied:

—You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe.

30There were many other signs that Jesus gave in the presence of his disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. 31These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; believe and you will have life through his Name.

Appearance by the lake

21 1After this Jesus revealed himself to the disciples by the Lake of Tiberias. He appeared to them in this way. 2Simon Peter, Thomas who was called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples were together; 3and Simon Peter said to them:

—I'm going fishing.

They replied:

—We will come with you.

And they went out and got into the boat, but they caught nothing that night. 4When day had already broken, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5Jesus called them:

—Children, have you anything to eat?

They answered:

—Nothing.

6Then he said to them:

—Throw the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.

When they had lowered the net, they were not able to pull it in because of the great number of fish.

7Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter:

—It's the Lord!

At these words, 'It's the Lord,' Simon Peter put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and jumped into the water. 8The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish; they were not far from land, about a hundred meters.

9When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it, and some bread. 10Jesus said to them:

—Bring some of the fish you've just caught.

11So Simon Peter climbed into the boat and pulled the net to shore. It was full of big fish—one hundred and fifty-three—but, in spite of this, the net was not torn.

12Jesus said to them:

—Come and have breakfast.

And not one of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' for they knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and he did the same with the fish.

14This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after rising from the dead.

15After they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter:

—Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

He answered:

—Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

And Jesus said:

—Feed my lambs.

16A second time Jesus said to him:

—Simon, son of John, do you love me?

And Peter answered:

—Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

Jesus said to him:

—Look after my sheep.

17And a third time he said to him:

—Simon, son of John, do you love me?

Peter was saddened because Jesus asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said:

—Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.

Jesus then said:

—Feed my sheep. 18Truly, I say to you, when you were young you put on your belt and walked where you liked. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will put a belt around you and lead you where you do not wish to go.

19Jesus said this to make known the kind of death by which Peter was to glorify God. And he added:

—Follow me.

20Peter looked back and saw that the disciple Jesus loved was following as well, the one who had reclined close to Jesus at the supper and had asked him, ‘Lord, who is to betray you?’ 21On seeing him Peter asked Jesus:

—Lord, what about him?

22Jesus answered:

—If I want him to remain until I come, does that concern you? Follow me.

23Because of this the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus had not said to Peter, ‘He will not die,’ but ‘suppose I want him to remain until I come.’

24It is this disciple who testifies about the things he has recorded here and we know that his testimony is true.